Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

Decision-making frameworks incorporate the large amounts of data from a variety of sources on which avalanche professionals base their decisions. In the daily operations, new software tools aid with the collection and interpretation of relevant information. We present a platform (WAC.3®) that digitalizes a hazard or risk-based decision workflow with the goal of optimizing the time and resources needed in the operational phase of avalanche safety projects.

After three operational winters with several partners in Switzerland (avalanche services of municipalities as well as ski resorts), the integration of a variety of input data and sensors into a single platform has proven to be accepted very well amongst practitioners. The software tool allows for better documentation and reporting as a key element for liability issues. Moreover, the platform allows to bring the local knowledge of individual people into the organization and preserves it in an easily accessible way for the next work shift or the next generation.

Today's immense availability of data is a challenge to any information platform. Novel automatic methods of merging the critical information situationally and smart can further support the operational workflow of avalanche professionals by generating an added value.