
Subject: Problem with ".cdf" files on Windows

Posted by [Mark Rivers](#) on Mon, 09 Apr 2001 15:46:03 GMT

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Folks,

I just ran into a strange and troubling problem using netCDF on from IDL on Windows (NT 4.0). I created a large, 430MB netCDF file called "test.cdf". As soon as I point Windows Explorer to the directory containing that file I observe "explorer.exe" consuming 100% of the CPU and up to 900MB of RAM (on a workstation with 1GB of RAM). The workstation is essentially locked up. It is not possible to delete or rename the file for many minutes, even from another workstation, because Windows claims there has been a "sharing violation".

Here is what I believe is happening: Windows thinks that files with a ".cdf" extension are "Channel files", which are used to display Web channels. As soon as Explorer opens a directory containing a ".cdf" file it scans that file, even without the file itself being selected. If the file is huge it consumes the entire resources of the workstation for many minutes.

If I create a file called "test.ncd" rather than "test.cdf" things work fine. If I use Explorer to rename "test.ncd" to "test.cdf" the problem immediately recurs.

Moral of the story: don't use the extension ".cdf" for netCDF files on Windows.

Is this a commonly known problem? Is there a FAQ for netCDF where this is documented?

Cheers,

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