
Subject: Re: HDF, netCDF, etc question
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 19 Jul 2001 06:20:50 GMT
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Aaron Birenboim wrote:

>
> Randall Skelton <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk> wrote:
> : I suggest the use of an SQL database :-)
>
> Frankly, I agree.
>
> I have used many formats, including a customer that
> demanded a customized HDF based representation.
>
> All a big mess.
>
> I highly recommend storing all your meta-data in an SQL database.
> If you do not want to use BLOB's, store path names to the raw binary data.
> Store data type, size, etc in the DB.
>
> HDF is very flexible. So flexible that its not very useful
> as a standard.

I agree HDF or netCDF is very flexible. And if you don't give rules to the people using it you get very different files for the same data by each people.

How to give rules?

Our routines are using definition files e.g.

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_work/rb_lib/def_icg.pro
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_work/rb_lib/def_nilu.pro

Only attributes which are defined will be read or written. (case sensitive)

If they are global or parameter attributes is defined and the resulting structure is defined by this rules too.

David Stern told me last year that they don't upgrade HDF till the problem of the versions by HDF is fixed. So idl user should not get into this problems.

> In fact, we implemented on HDF 4, then HDF 5 came out,
> and its not backward compatible. So this major customer
> is sitting on top of TONS of data stored in an OBSOLETE format.
> --
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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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read something about linux / windows

<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>
