
Subject: Re: will RSI support HDF5?

Posted by [hcp](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 09:34:26 GMT

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Some while ago, "Richard W. Cooke" wrote:

|> > RSI will indeed support HDF 5, but it will not be until the release
|> > after the one just now coming out. Part of the reason for this is that
|> > there are still many customers using various version 4 libraries. I
|> > would expect something in the summer of 2002.

Rather sloppily, I didn't pick up the importance of this remark until...

In article <3BD48D50.21C4D907@xontech.com>, Phillip David wrote:

|> Apparently, RSI hasn't heard that HDF5 and HDF4 are DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT
|> programs.

Let's just spell that out again in words of one syllable:

HDF5 is NOT the next version of HDF4.[1] Apart from the facts that they are
both file formats for storing large wads of scientific data, and
that they both come from NCSA, they are totally and utterly different things.

|> Anyone using HDF4 will have to rewrite their programs to use
|> HDF5. But we can't do that until RSI SUPPORTS HDF5. So we can't even
|> begin to tackle that issue. [snip]
|> as long as RSI
|> doesn't provide HDF5 support, users will continue to use HDF4. The only
|> way for RSI to get customers to stop using HDF4 libraries is to wait for
|> people to get so fed up with the lack of HDF5 support that they leave
|> IDL entirely in favor of some other product with HDF5 support.

And he is 100% correct. Not a lot I can add to that, except to note that
over in the thread "Message From RSI VP of Engineering", Struan Gray
spoke thusly:

> My impression is that RSI is more interested in servicing its few
> large customers than using people like me to kick-start interest in
> IDL among new users. So be it.

Now, NASA's EOS program is (a) a Large IDL customer, and (b) is actively
switching from HDF4 to HDF5. Do I have to go on?

Hugh

P.S. Huge extra OBDDisclaimer. I certainly do not speak for any part
of NASA in any capacity whatsoever and any views in this article are
entirely my own personal opinions. This article may also have been

manufactured in a facility that processes nuts.

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Hugh C. Pumphrey | Telephone 0131-650-6026
Department of Meteorology | FAX 0131-650-5780
The University of Edinburgh | Replace 0131 with +44-131 if outside U.K.
EDINBURGH EH9 3JZ, Scotland | Email hcp@met.ed.ac.uk
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