
Subject: Re: dlm returning ptr array and string array
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Mon, 03 Mar 2003 20:22:37 GMT
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"Reimar Bauer" <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote in message
news:b408sr\$4dlp\$1@zam602.zam.kfa-juelich.de...

>
> [In response to a request for details of netCDF bugs in IDL]
>
> On unix systems if you do an inquire of an attribute which isn't
> defined you got in the past versions the type as UNKNOWN
> returned. Then you know it isn't there. Now you get a valid type
> mostly LONG back.
>
> ...
>
> The other problem we will get in the future if unidata did not set
> up a mask character for special signs for the definition of
> parameter names. Because now in idl is 2.4 included. This allows
> you to define ()@:. and some other signs in the parameter
> names. There was a change about this in 3.0 because of preventing
> ncgen to get trouble by some special signs. Russ Rew gives as
> always a patch to get the old convention back. Actual version is now
> 3.5

Thanks for the details. Another "feature" of IDL's netCDF library is
that it silently adds trailing null characters to strings when they
are stored as netCDF attributes. According to the netCDF gurus this
was a netCDF convention early in netCDF history, but is now
deprecated. When I reported this to RSI their response, as of
September 2001, was that they "have an open feature request for IDL to
include support for the netCDF 3.5 library". I guess the level of
interest shown by customers is not yet sufficient for this feature
request to be acted on.

Sorry I can't help with the DLM, Reimar, but I'd love to use it when
you've written it!

--

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