
Subject: Re: netCDf problem in IDL 6.0
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 10 Oct 2003 18:41:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Mark Hadfield wrote:

```
> Bruce A. Toth wrote:
>
>> The following netcdf call worked fine under IDL 5.6, but I get an error
>> under IDL 6.0.
>>
>> ncd_f_attput,id,'BAT file: ',/GLOBAL,file
>>
>> The error produced:
>> % NCDF_ATTPUT: Attribute write failed. (NC_ERROR=-59)
>>
>> After this error, the rest of the file gets written just fine.
>>
>> Any ideas?
>
> Well, netCDF error -59 is defined in ndetcd.h thus:
>
> #define NC_EBADNAME (-59) /* Attribute or variable name
>                             contains illegal characters */
>
> The string 'BAT file: ' is an illegal netCDF attribute name for two
> reasons: 1) it includes spaces; 2) it includes a colon. (Not that I have
> bothered to look up the netCDF reference.)
>
> The puzzle is why it worked in IDL 5.6.
```

Dear all!

A hint for the puzzle from me.

A long time ago before netCDF3.0 this was defined in a different way. You could use every character you want in the name. But sometimes it was impossible to use ncgen with a dumped nc file. This comes from some signs which wasn't set up by the yacc to recompile the dump ascii file into a netCDF binary, e.g. '<','>',''

By version 3.0 there was a large beta phase where these rules were changed. (We missed this too). We recognized it a bit later I can't remember at the moment (it was the time where we started to use it on cray).

We asked unidata for help. Since this time they always provided a patch so we could compile a netCDF3.x with the rules for the names before Version 3.0. This was only necessary for the models we have written because idl

uses the old netCDF2.4 version.

There will be a change in the rule for signs in 3.5.1 again.

It is planned for netCDF3.5.1 to add signs to the allowed which does not go wrong with the ncgen.

If it is important for you to get these signs working you should ask rsi for help!

regards

Reimar

--

Forschungszentrum Juelich

email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

=====

a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich

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