Subject: Re: netCDf problem in IDI 6.0

Posted by R.Bauer on Fri, 10 Oct 2003 18:41:19 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

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> Bruce A. Toth wrote:
>> The following netcdf call worked fine inder IDL 5.6, but I get an error
>> under IDL 6.0.
>>
>> ncdf 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 ndetcdf.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 uncludes 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 unpossible 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 this 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 aked 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

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro. html