
Subject: Re: HDF5 and IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Mar 2004 02:17:01 GMT

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opa_rumple writes:

- > Currently I am working on a postprocessor program in IDL reading HDF5
- > files. Everything was alright when I was using version 1.4.5 of the
- > HDF5 to link against my program, which is producing the HDF5 file.
- > However I recently upgraded to 1.6.2. Since then the IDL routines do
- > not recognize any datasets anymore (it still does groups and the file
- > itself). The version of the HDF in IDL is 1.4.3.
- >
- > Is there a way to fix this problem, e.g. but upgrading IDL's HDF5
- > libraries or in creating the file in the other program, using the
- > latest version.

Organizations that write software for free spend even less money and resources (is it possible!?) on technical writers than reputable gouge-the-public software companies. So even though there is an "official" release of new software, that doesn't mean anyone can use it. Typically there are bugs, the documentation appears to have been out-sourced to a small African country, and sometimes you just run into unexpected "features" that leave you utterly perplexed for days. When you know no one is getting rich, you are more tolerant. ("Harry probably knocked this out over his corned beef sandwich the other day. Let's cut him some slack.")

I'm telling you this not to enlighten you to the real world, but to point out why you are not likely to find the latest up-to-date version of a library in commercial software. Not enough hours in the day, mostly. And let'em fix their own damn bugs. Why should I be doing it for them! :-)

Not to mention when paying customers find things don't work they, uh, complain a bit more vociferously.

HDF5 is important to RSI. They will get the latest libraries built into IDL as soon as they can. I wouldn't look for "updates". Rather, I would wait (and pray) for the regular releases to feature it. (Sometime this summer, is what I hear for the next IDL release. I've no idea about HDF5 1.6.2.)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say if I were going to be cutting edge,
I'd be getting on the Mac bandwagon. But I have enough
problems as it is, so....

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
