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Subject: CDF vs HDF

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 2004 20:45:13 GMT

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This isn't an IDL question exactly, but I figured that there are several here who have to deal with these file types. Is there any real difference between CDF and HDF? I have looked at some web pages that describe the differences, but it doesn't mean much to me since I've never delved into either one. The only reason I'm even looking at these file types is that these seem to be the types preferred by the data center we will be working with later on for long-term archival of our data. If it means anything, my core data sets are nothing more than really big arrays. Later on, other data like PNG images may be included.

Unless there's some big difference between the two, I'm going to go with the one that's easier to work with in IDL. So, that brings me to the question, is one easier to work with than the other? Or do I flip a coin to determine which one to use?

-Mike

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