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Subject: Re: NetCDF support within IDL  
Posted by [rivers](#) on Wed, 09 Sep 1992 02:45:03 GMT  
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I have just finished implementing the complete netCDF library from within IDL on VAX/VMS systems. I used the call\_external routine to call the C netCDF library which I linked as a shareable image. This could be done quite simply for many Unix systems (SunOS, AIX, HP, etc.), although one additional layer of C interface routines is needed under Unix.

I wrote IDL "wrapper" procedures with the same names as the netCDF C routines, so the calling interface is almost identical to that documented in the NetCDF User's Guide. The IDL routines do a lot of bookkeeping, type conversions, etc. which considerably ease the programmers task compared to writing in C.

Anyone interested in getting what I have done let me know. I am aware that netCDF is going to be added to IDL directly soon, but I wanted to get started now. My routines should also work fine from PV-WAVE whereas PV-WAVE may never have direct support for netCDF.

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