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Subject: Re: Create a .dbd file

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Sat, 12 Apr 2008 02:57:02 GMT

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>>>> > On Apr 10, 11:38 am, vino <astrocr...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> i am sure i am talking about a .dbd (database definition) file rather

> than a .dbf file. Only if .dbd file exists can i create a .dbf file..:(

> thanks and regards,

> vino

You are almost certainly referring to the IDL database format designed by Don Lindler more than 20 years ago, mainly for astronomy. This is a simple, flat database format but I still find it useful for small (< 3 million entries) databases, when one does not need to often add new columns or perform exotic searches. The main advantage is that the database entries map easily into IDL vectors and arrays, so it is easy to plot or process the data. The procedures and a README file located at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/database/> and a LaTeX file database.tex located at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/text>. The LaTeX file gives a description of how to create the .dbd file, which is an ASCII file made with an ordinary editor, which describes the data type and other information about the database columns. It would probably be useful to examine one of the .dbd files for some of the astronomy databases stored at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/zdbase>.

For a completely different approach, you might look at Marc Buie's IDL interface to a MYSQL database at <http://www.lowell.edu/users/buie/idl/#categ9>

--Wayne

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