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Subject: Re: netCDF-4 support in IDL?

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 06 Apr 2009 09:09:22 GMT

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George White schrieb:

> On Fri, 3 Apr 2009, Paul van Delst wrote:

>

>> Do any insiders out there know about the status of future support for  
>> netCDF-4 in IDL? I received third/fourth-hand news yesterday that  
>> there are no plans for IDL to support netCDF-4 and I wanted to get  
>> some more scoop before contacting ITTVIS directly. I searched the ng  
>> on google but didn't find anything.

>

> I'm not an insider, but I was at the HDF meeting in Denver last fall  
> where there was considerable discussion about support for HDF-5 and  
> netCDF-4 support in commercial packages (IDL, Matlab, etc.). The  
> problem is that netCDF-4 depends on HDF-5, which has a very  
> big API that so far defies attempts to automate the task of writing  
> wrappers for other languages.

>

> Commercial developers have no way to predict which parts of the API are  
> needed by user A, so they have no choice but to implement most of the  
> API. Meanwhile, open source (R, octave, gdl, ...) users have been  
> writing wrappers for the parts of the API needed for their work. So at  
> present, octave allows you to save vars to hdf5, but R won't read the  
> file if one of the variables is a range/sequence.

>

> Add to this the issues that some hdf5 users are writing 64-bit programs,  
> so we have a 64-bit hdf5 library that lets us build program X, but need  
> to use the data in a program that uses a different library for which we  
> don't have the 64-bit version, so in the end one has to dump data in  
> some binary file using the 64-bit library and then read it into your  
> 32-bit application.

>

> I recommend that people start playing with hdf-5 and then netCDF-4 using  
> gdl with the goal of working out the subsets of the API's needed to use  
> some important data sets. Then, rather than asking ITTVIS to implement  
> all of hdf-5+netCDF-4, just ask for the parts of the API's you need now.

>

> --

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I can't resist to say

commercial developers are paid for that kind of job.

It has ever worked to read XDR files on different architectures and it does not matter to read XDR files on 32bit and 64bit. Please clarify

"> Add to this the issues that some hdf5 users are writing 64-bit programs,"

cheers

Reimar

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