Subject: Re: netCDF-4 support in IDL? Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Fri, 03 Apr 2009 16:43:51 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

David Fanning wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:

- >> 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 have absolutely *no* inside information about ITTVIS's
- > plans, but from the perspective of someone on the periphery
- > of a project (not using IDL) that is thinking about supporting
- > netCDF-4, I can certainly understand why they would have no
- > current plans to do so. The lack of tools and good documentation
- > make this a constant frustration to deal with. Not to mention,
- > in our case, a cumbersome scheme for including map information
- > in the file. I think everyone is probably holding their breath,
- > hoping (against reason, I'm sure) that no one wants to use
- > this format. :-)

>

- > At the very least, I think most companies will wait for things
- > to settle down a bit before tackling the project. This seems
- > reasonable to me.

Hmm.. interesting. The issue here is that, in some cases, netCDF-4 has been adopted as a standard for product output. No IDL netCDF-4 support, means no IDL usage. At the very least, it means a whole of more make-work to visualise the data (e.g. convert from netCDFv4 to v3.6) and some prayers to hope that the data conversion didn't introduce any artifacts.

Sigh. I thought common data formats (like netCDF) and tools (like IDL) were supposed to make out lives *easier*.

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