
Subject: Re: netCDF-4 support in IDL?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Apr 2009 16:43:51 GMT

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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*.

cheers,

paulv
