

Paul van Delst writes:

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> FÖLDY Lajos came up with a solution,  
>  
>  
>> I have found the solution: _FillValue needs to be the same type as the  
>> variable. ' ' is an IDL string, which is converted to something, probably  
>> BYTE. So let's add an explicite /CHAR to ncdf_attput:  
>>  
>> ncid=ncdf_create('test.nc', /clobber)  
>> dim32=ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'dim1', 32)  
>> n_absorbers_dimid=ncdf_dimdef(ncid, 'dim2', 9)  
>> varid = ncdf_vardef( ncid, 'absorber_units_name', [dim32,n_absorbers_dimid], /char)  
>> ncdf_attput, ncid, varid, '_FillValue', ' ', /CHAR  
>> ncdf_control, ncid, /endef  
>> ncdf_close, ncid  
>>  
>> It works now! :-)  
>>  
>> regards,  
>> lajos  
>  
> Does that help?
```

Ah! Yes, I remember reading that and thinking it was too esoteric for an article on my web page. I should have known better. I won't make that mistake again!

Where is it written, though, that the _FillValue attribute has to be the same data type as the variable it is an attribute of? And why doesn't *that* cause an error, instead of this action at a distance thing?

I'm not sure this was worth three hours of effort, not counting the time it will take to write the damn article. :-(

Thanks for the help.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
