
Subject: New Tools for Creating, Browsing, and Reading netCDF Files
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 17 Feb 2010 15:48:18 GMT

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Folks,

I have a general need to be able to create, browse, and write netCDF files in an extremely flexible way. In particular, I want to be able to copy variables and attributes from one file to another without thinking too much about it.

To this end, I have borrowed heavily (well, I stole most of the good ideas, really) from Mark Hadfield's Motley Library and its wonderful netCDF routines.

<http://www.dfanning.com/hadfield/IDL/README.html>

When I started this project, I thought Mark's routines could use more documentation and error handling. When I finished, I realized I hadn't added much value to what Mark had already provided. But, of course, hindsight is 20-20. I have learned a lot about netCDF files in the past month or so, and certainly enough to know I am probably going to be surprised in the future by how little I know.

In any case, the new programs I have written have provided me with some new tools for working with netCDF files and I thought they might be of interest to a wider audience.

http://www.dfanning.com/progrms/ncdf_tools.zip

Because most of these tools are written as objects, and because that scares the bejesus out of many IDL users, I have provided an example file, `NCDF_File_Examples`, that shows you exactly how to create a netCDF file, copy some of the contents to another netCDF file, and then read the netCDF file to do something useful in IDL.

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ncdf_file_examples.pro

I have been particularly careful to document these routines so they can be used by a wider audience.

In addition to Mark, I have been greatly enlightened in my netCDF studies by IDL newsgroup regulars Paul van Delst and Ken Bowman. I am exceedingly grateful to them and to all of you who pester me with questions and suggestions for improvement. Even though I already have a wife, I appreciate

you, too. :-)

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.")
