Subject: Re: IDL and OPENDAP
Posted by Michael Galloy on Fri, 09 Jul 2010 21:04:01 GMT
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On 7/9/10 2:37 PM, David Fanning wrote:
> Kenneth P. Bowman writes:
>
>> To be more political about this, OPENDAP sounds like a good
>> way for the data aristocrats to distribute data to the
>> yearning masses.
>
> I think this is *exactly* the point of it. But, and I
> think this is the best part (at least as it was described
> to me a couple of days ago), the data user doesn't have to
> download the entire netCDF file. They can actually go into
> a file and get just that portion of the file they are
> particularly interested in. For example, you could get
> just a particular time slice in an image cube.

Exactly, a file may have many variables, each of which could be quite
large. Clients can grab individual variables or even slice a given
variable with IDL-like array notation of the type start:stop:stride.

This is geared towards a scenario where a data distribution center is
providing data to many users, but I have seen locations which provide
many users a staging area which they can copy files over to and then the
users have access to this data via DAP from anywhere inside that network
(of course this could be made available to the Internet at large, if you
were OK with that).

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