Subject: Re: IDL and OPENDAP
Posted by Kenneth P. Bowman on Fri, 09 Jul 2010 20:13:16 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In article <i17t9t$79p$1@news.eternal-september.org>,
 mgalloy <mgalloy@gmail.com> wrote:

> On 7/9/10 12:48 PM, Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:
>> Is anyone using IDL and OPENDAP to access netCDF and HDF files?
>> Can you write as well as read files?
>>
>> I see that there is an OPENDAP IDL client, but I can't find any
>> actual examples of how it is used. I am concerned that server
>> installation and configuration may be complex. It appears
>> that the server software might have complex dependencies.
>
> There is an DAP IDL client from OPeNDAP which is a DLM around a C
> OPeNDAP implementation. It requires building both the C code and the
> DLM. Alternatively, I have a pure IDL DAP client that does not require
> anything else (its just a .sav file to drop into your IDL_PATH). It
> comes with IDLdoc documentation with examples. Let me know if you are
> interested in trying this.
>
> Clients can not write files, only read them.
>
> The server is another story: there are many servers available. Because
> the clients and servers agree on a common standard (DAP), you should be
> able to pick your clients and servers independently. Some of the servers
> are (fairly) easy to install and configure, some more difficult. The
> PyDAP server (pydap.org) is well supported and fairly easy to install
> (it helps if you have some experience installing Python packages). It is
> written in Python, but that only matters when installing, modifying, or
> creating a plugin for it. OPeNDAP has their own server, Hyrax, which
> runs under Tomcat. It is written in Java, but has dependencies written
> in C++ and C.
>
> Mike

Thanks, Mike. That is very helpful.

The OPENDAP web site seems to be by programmers and for
programmers, which leaves scientists like me (who happen to
program a lot) at a loss.

OPENDAP functionality would be useful, but it does seem to
me to be rather complex for something that only does half
of what I need to do. (We also write a lot of netCDF files.)

I thought that it might be a way to simplify some of our NFS filesystem cross-mounting complexity, but I see that is not the case.

To be more political about this, OPENDAP sounds like a good way for the data aristocrats to distribute data to the yearning masses.

Ken
