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Subject: CDF vs. netCDF

Posted by [Michael Ochs](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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We are converting a moderately large set of programs to IDL for distribution. I am reviewing options for the data format to use and downloaded the CDF and netCDF user's guides. What is not clear from what I have seen are the advantages and disadvantages to the two formats.

Any comments on this would be useful. Our software handles large MRI images and spectra (thus IDL) and is going to be designed to run on many platforms (thus IDL again). One thing I would like to know is whether netCDF adds significantly to file size and how both compare to using IDL's unformatted routines like ASSOC.

-- Mike

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