
Subject: Re: Funny thing - HDF_DFSD_GETINFO
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Sat, 05 Apr 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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David Adair wrote:

[stuff deleted]

```
> HDF_DFSD_GETINFO, file, dims=dims
> ; HDF_DFSD_GETINFO, file <---THIS WORKS
>
> The program works fine the first time you run but subsequent runs cause an
> error that reads....
>
> IDL> test
> D:\users\n3amask.hdf
> FILE STRING = 'D:\users\n3amask.hdf'
> % HDF_DFSD_GETINFO: Could not read dimensions from file: FILE
> % Error occurred at: TEST 13 D:\its\idl_pro\test.pro
> % $MAIN$
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> It seems to be trying to read from a file called "FILE" rather than from the
> filename pointed to by the variable FILE.
```

I'll give you some hints.

(1) Make sure you are using IDL 4.0.1b - earlier versions had bugs in the HDF library.

(2) Unless you absolutely **have** to, don't use the HDF_DFSD interface. It is obsolete, and very difficult to use. The HDF_SD interface is current, somewhat easier to use, and more reliable.

(3) Check out David Fanning's HDF information at http://www.dfanning.com/tips/hdf_documentation.html

(4) Check out my resources for doing HDF in IDL at http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/sds_read.html
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/idltips.html>

Cheers,
Liam.
