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Subject: Any way to initialize mapping in IDL with WKT or a Proj.4 string?

Posted by [Gordon Farquharson](#) on Thu, 29 Sep 2016 22:20:42 GMT

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Hi All

Can anybody think of a way that will allow me to initialize the IDL mapping routines with a Coordinate Reference System Well Known Text string [1] or a Proj.4 parameter string [2]. Examples include:

```
PROJCS["UTM Zone 10, Northern Hemisphere",GEOGCS["WGS
84",DATUM["WGS_1984",SPHEROID["WGS
84",6378137,298.257223563,AUTHORITY["EPSG","7030"]],TOWGS84[0,0,0,0,0,0,0],AUTHORIT
Y["EPSG","6326"]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0,AUTHORITY["EPSG",
"8901"]],UNIT["degree",0.0174532925199433,AUTHORITY["EPSG
","9108"]],AUTHORITY["EPSG","4326"]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator
"],PARAMETER["latitude_of_origin",0],PARAMETER["central_meridian
",-123],PARAMETER["scale_factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["false_easting
",500000],PARAMETER["false_northing",0],UNIT["Meter",1]]
```

and

```
+proj=utm +zone=10 +ellps=WGS84 +datum=WGS84 +units=m +no_defs
```

I want this process to work for any projections, i.e., not just UTM. I think the answer to my question lies in this last statement, namely that it is not possible, because the GCTP library does not implement all possible projections.

Sigh. Why didn't Harris/Exelis just listen to the god David Fanning, and convert IDL to use Proj.4 [3].

Probably time to write a script to parse Proj.4 strings for a few well-loved projections.

Gordon

[1] <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/is/12-063r5/12-063r5.html>

[2] <https://trac.osgeo.org/proj/wiki/GenParms>

[3] <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/JrJMVhsYB8M>

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