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Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 16 Aug 2001 08:40:10 GMT

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Bob Fugate wrote:

> I am batch processing a number of HDF files, saving output to results files.  
> I have a short procedure that first checks the validity of the files using  
> HDF\_ISHDF -- just to avoid file access problems during the main processing  
> routines. The files are located on a server, or if old enough, on a tape  
> library, with only a stub left on the server. A file on tape opened by  
> HDF\_ISHDF (or any other routine) is automatically restored from tape to the  
> server. The problem is, if the file is on tape, HDF\_ISHDF times out before  
> the file gets reloaded. HDF\_ISHDF fails. I could modify the check routine to  
> put these files in a separate list to process on the second pass once the  
> files are restored. I don't have a simple way (and apparently not even a  
> complicated way) to check on the status of these files to know whether they  
> are on the server or in the library.  
>  
> Question: Is there a better way to handle this? For instance, is there a way  
> to extend the time-out period to allow the file to be restored so it can be  
> checked and subsequently processed? Is there a way to terminate the  
> HDF\_ISHDF query before it times out and put this file on a list to process  
> in a second batch? Any suggestions greatly appreciated.  
>

Is there some feature of the stub files which you could test before calling HDF\_ISHDF? Perhaps the length, or the first few bytes of the contents.

Then you could use logic like:

```
for each file
  test file
  if stub
    add file to list of deferred files
  else
    HDF_ISHDF file
```

This way you avoid calling HDF\_ISHDF for the stub files.

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Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,  
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK  
E-mail : [nmw@ion.le.ac.uk](mailto:nmw@ion.le.ac.uk)

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Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Thu, 16 Aug 2001 11:24:25 GMT

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Bob Fugate wrote:

> Question 2: I am using IDL on 2 platforms: MacOS and Windows NT, both  
> versions 5.4. On the Mac, there is a feature that lets one select any number  
> of lines in the editor and comment them all out in one command (and  
> subsequently uncomment them when needed)--- a very valuable feature for  
> someone like me who is not proficient at programming. I can't find this  
> feature in the Windows version. Am I missing it somehow? Any suggested  
> approaches short of saving the file under a new name and deleting lines in  
> that file?

Instead of using comments like here:

```
bla  
; bla  
; blabla  
; blablaba  
blalalla
```

you could use the GOTO statement:

```
bla  
GOTO, LABEL  
bla  
blabla  
blablaba  
LABEL:  
blalalla
```

Alex

--

Alex Schuster    Wonko@planet-interkom.de  
alex@pet.mpin-koeln.mpg.de

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Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [Richard French](#) on Thu, 16 Aug 2001 12:24:21 GMT

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Bob Fugate wrote:

- > Question: Is there a better way to handle this? For instance, is there a way
- > to extend the time-out period to allow the file to be restored so it can be
- > checked and subsequently processed? Is there a way to terminate the
- > HDF\_ISHDF query before it times out and put this file on a list to process
- > in a second batch? Any suggestions greatly appreciated.
- >

Another possibility is not to use HDF\_ISHDF as the first line of defense

-

I am not familiar with the formats of HDF files, but if there is a unique set of bits or bytes at the start of the file that clearly designates that it is supposed to be an HDF file, then you can write your own very simple check program to read the start of the file and see if it is in that format. Reading the file will trigger the restore command from tape, as you describe it. Perhaps instead of checking to see if it is an HDF file, you can check to see if it is a stub file, either by determining the size of the file or, if there is a unique format to the stub file, seeing if the contents of the file match that pattern instead of the HDF format.

Dick French

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Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 16 Aug 2001 16:16:36 GMT

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Alex Schuster wrote:

- >
- > bla
- > GOTO, LABEL
- > bla
- > blabla
- > blablaba
- > LABEL:
- > blalalla

Hey! This is copyright infringement. Only my code is allowed to look like this!

Cheers,  
Pavel

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Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [Jeff Guerber](#) on Thu, 16 Aug 2001 19:27:15 GMT

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On Wed, 15 Aug 2001, Bob Fugate wrote:

> I am batch processing a number of HDF files, saving output to results files.  
> I have a short procedure that first checks the validity of the files using  
> HDF\_ISHDF -- just to avoid file access problems during the main processing  
> routines. The files are located on a server, or if old enough, on a tape  
> library, with only a stub left on the server. A file on tape opened by  
> HDF\_ISHDF (or any other routine) is automatically restored from tape to the  
> server. The problem is, if the file is on tape, HDF\_ISHDF times out before  
> the file gets reloaded. HDF\_ISHDF fails. I could modify the check routine to  
> put these files in a separate list to process on the second pass once the  
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> complicated way) to check on the status of these files to know whether they  
> are on the server or in the library.  
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> Question: Is there a better way to handle this? For instance, is there a way  
> to extend the time-out period to allow the file to be restored so it can be  
> checked and subsequently processed? Is there a way to terminate the  
> HDF\_ISHDF query before it times out and put this file on a list to process  
> in a second batch? Any suggestions greatly appreciated.

I don't know anything about HDF\_ISHDF, but perhaps you could do a simple OPENR, and if it fails (is there a specific error for the timeout?), wait a while, and keep doing this until it succeeds. Then you know the file is restored, so close it and do your HDF\_ISHDF. Something like this:

```
openr, lun, 'filename', /get_lun, error=openerr
while (openerr ne 0) do begin
    wait, 10
    openr, lun, 'filename', error=openerr
endwhile
;; Now we know the file is on the server
free_lun, lun
result=hdf_ishdf('filename')
```

(Actually, you'll probably want to limit the number of iterations, in case the file doesn't exist at all, etc.) Hope this helps.

Jeff Guerber  
Raytheon ITSS  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
Oceans & Ice Branch, code 971

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Subject: Re: 2 questions

Posted by [Bob Fugate](#) on Sat, 18 Aug 2001 02:33:37 GMT

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I have solved my problem with archived files. My administrator changed an option on the server that makes the size of the files 0KB if they are on the tape library. I can now request file size using FILE\_TEST without opening the file (thus not disturbing it if on tape) and easily make a list of files to defer for later processing.

Alex, Thanks for the suggestion of using GOTO. I have been told for years by professional programmers to avoid using a GOTO statement with the utmost resolve. So naturally, your suggestion never occurred to me. Of course, it would not have occurred to me even if I had not been told GOTO is bad practice.

Bob Fugate

> From: "Pavel A. Romashkin" <pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov>

> Organization: NOAA-CMDL-CIRES

> Newsgroups: comp.lang.idl-pvwave

> Date: Thu, 16 Aug 2001 10:16:36 -0600

> Subject: Re: 2 questions

>

> Alex Schuster wrote:

>>

>> bla

>> GOTO, LABEL

>> bla

>> blabla

>> blablaba

>> LABEL:

>> blalalla

>

> Hey! This is copyright infringement. Only my code is allowed to look

> like this!

>

> Cheers,

> Pavel

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