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Subject: RSI Announces HDF5 Support -- Free IDL 5.5 Plug-in Available  
Posted by [Research Systems Inc.](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 2002 17:54:11 GMT

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RSI is pleased to announce new support for the Hierarchical Data Format version 5 (HDF5) in IDL. IDL 5.5 customers can visit the RSI Web site to download a free plug-in. The plug-in can be easily dropped into existing IDL 5.5 installations to enable reading and querying HDF5 files.

The HDF5 file format was developed by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and is designed for scientific data consisting of a hierarchy of datasets and attributes. The IDL HDF5 interface consists of a dynamically loadable module (DLM) that provides a set of IDL routines to directly access the NCSA HDF5 C library. It is available for Windows, HP-UX, Compaq Tru64 Unix, IBM AIX, Linux Red Hat, SGI IRIX, and Solaris/Sparc. IDL 5.6, to be released later this year, will include the new HDF5 support as well.

HDF5 represents a complete redesign of the format by the NCSA. The new version is intended to address limitations in earlier versions of HDF. Installing the HDF5 plug-in will not replace the existing HDF functionality in IDL. Rather, IDL will now support both HDF version 4 and HDF5.

For more information and to download the HDF5 plug-in for IDL 5.5, please visit [http://www.rsinc.com/services/output.cfm?tip\\_id=3349](http://www.rsinc.com/services/output.cfm?tip_id=3349).

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