
Subject: Re: netCDf problem in IDL 6.0

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 10 Oct 2003 01:04:58 GMT

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Bruce A. Toth wrote:

> The following netcdf call worked fine inder IDL 5.6, but I get an error
> under IDL 6.0.
>
> ncd_f_attput,id,'BAT file: ',/GLOBAL,file
>
> The error produced:
> % NCDF_ATTPUT: Attribute write failed. (NC_ERROR=-59)
>
> After this error, the rest of the file gets written just fine.
>
> Any ideas?

Well, netCDF error -59 is defined in ndetcdf.h thus:

```
#define NC_EBADNAME (-59) /* Attribute or variable name  
                           contains illegal characters */
```

The string 'BAT file: ' is an illegal netCDF attribute name for two reasons: 1) it includes spaces; 2) it uncludes a colon. (Not that I have bothered to look up the netCDF reference.)

The puzzle is why it worked in IDL 5.6.

--

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Subject: Re: netCDf problem in IDL 6.0

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 10 Oct 2003 01:40:45 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> The string 'BAT file: ' is an illegal netCDF attribute name for two
> reasons: 1) it includes spaces; 2) it uncludes a colon. (Not that I have
> bothered to look up the netCDF reference.)

Nor run my spelling checker.

--

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Subject: Re: netCDF problem in IDL 6.0
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 10 Oct 2003 18:41:19 GMT
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

```
> Bruce A. Toth wrote:
>
>> The following netcdf call worked fine under IDL 5.6, but I get an error
>> under IDL 6.0.
>>
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>>
>> The error produced:
>> % NCDF_ATTPUT: Attribute write failed. (NC_ERROR=-59)
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>> After this error, the rest of the file gets written just fine.
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>
> Well, netCDF error -59 is defined in netcdf.h thus:
>
> #define NC_EBADNAME  (-59) /* Attribute or variable name
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>
> The string 'BAT file: ' is an illegal netCDF attribute name for two
> reasons: 1) it includes spaces; 2) it includes a colon. (Not that I have
> bothered to look up the netCDF reference.)
>
> The puzzle is why it worked in IDL 5.6.
```

Dear all!

A hint for the puzzle from me.

A long time ago before netCDF3.0 this was defined in a different way. You could use every character you want in the name. But sometimes it was impossible to use ncgen with a dumped nc file. This comes from some signs which weren't set up by the yacc to recompile the dump ascii file into a netCDF binary, e.g. '<','>',''

By version 3.0 there was a large beta phase where this rules were changed.
(We missed this too). We recognized it a bit later I can't remember at the
moment (it was the time where we started to use it on cray).

We asked unidata for help. Since this time they always provided a patch so
we could compile a netCDF3.x with the rules for the names before Version
3.0. This was only necessary for the models we have written because idl
uses the old netCDF2.4 version.

There will be a change in the rule for signs in 3.5.1 again.
It is planned for netCDF3.5.1 to add signs to the allowed which does not go
wrong with the ncgen.

If it is important for you to get these signs working you should ask rsi for
help!

regards

Reimar

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Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
