
Subject: Re: IDL & reading headers of netCDF files
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2008 14:50:48 GMT
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In article

<cc297bed-4383-4a60-8924-697ebdddb75@s19g2000prg.googlegroups.com>,
chloesharrocks@gmail.com wrote:

- > 1. I'm a Mac OS X user so have tried during the ncdump - h command in
- > my terminal but it fails. I understand this is because I need some
- > netCDF software on my computer. I tried to download this but got
- > completely lost in the detailed instructions relating to Unix - it
- > seemed to imply that I required a C-compiler on my computer for the
- > installation to work (I don't have a C-compiler) and the files it told
- > me to use did not exist in the folder I had just downloaded.

The netCDF install is a little hard to find on the Unidata web site, but once you download it, it is relatively easy to install.

Before doing so, you need to install the XCode development tools from Apple, because you do need the C compiler.

You can find the install files here

<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>

There is a README file in the installation that gives the necessary commands.

You need to be an administrator to install the library.

- > 2. Is there any way of avoiding UNIX and being able to read the
- > contents of the header directly in IDL's Development Environment?

You don't really need to install the netCDF library to use netCDF in IDL, but the ncdump routine is extremely handy for viewing the contents of a file before writing the IDL code to read it.

Ken Bowman
