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Subject: IDL HDF interface is quite brittle-- how to reset after error?

Posted by [Mariolncandenza](#) on Tue, 08 Jun 2010 19:21:24 GMT

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So, I've been browsing the pages here and at Coyote's and I think most people are aware of the issues with HDF in IDL, but for me it largely boils down to: "it works, when everything is done exactly right and nothing unexpected occurs."

Thing is, when something does go wrong, the HDF interface gets into an inconsistent state, and the only way to fix it, as far as I can tell, is to exit IDL completely (I didn't try the '.RESET' commands, but you can't script those so it doesn't really apply anyway). So, even though I've embedded my HDF access in functions, if something goes wrong writing an HDF file, the process grinds to a halt and the next file will never be processed.

Has anyone figured out a trick to fully reset the HDF interface so that a routine can move on to the next file?

--Edward H.

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