
Subject: FTP downloading in IDL
Posted by [Jianbao](#) on Sat, 21 Jul 2012 20:50:05 GMT
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Dear all,

I am recently interested in network programming in IDL because I want to download geomagnetic Kp indices from a NOAA FTP server. The data files are under:

`ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/GEOMAGNETIC_DATA/INDICES/KP_AP`

I tried both SOCKET and IDLnetURL, but didn't get much of luck in either case. The platforms I used include 1) OS X Lion + IDL 8.2 and 2) Snow Leopard + IDL 7.1/8.1.

First, for socket, I used a solution, `*read_ftp*`, from the IDL official website:

`http://www.exelisvis.com/language/en-US/Support/HelpArticleDetail/articleid/3537.aspx?dnnprintmode=true&mid=6229&SkinSrc=%5BG%5DSkins%2F_default%2FNo+Skin&ContainerSrc=%5BG%5DContainers%2F_default%2FNo+Container`

Here is my code:

```
.....  
url = 'ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/GEOMAGNETIC_DATA/INDICES/KP_AP/2 008'  
read_ftp, url, file = '2008'
```

Below between the two star lines is what happened in IDL:

```
*****  
IDL> url = 'ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/GEOMAGNETIC_DATA/INDICES/KP_AP/2 008'  
IDL> read_ftp, url, file = '2008'
```

```
<220-          ----- Notice -----  
<220-  
<220- This is a United States Department of Commerce computer system, which  
<220- may be accessed and used only for official Government business by  
<220- authorized personnel. Unauthorized access or use of this computer  
<220- system may subject violators to criminal, civil, and/or administrative  
<220- action.  
<220-  
<220- All information on this computer system may be intercepted, recorded,  
<220- read, copied, and disclosed by and to authorized personnel for  
<220- official purposes, including criminal investigations. Access or use of  
<220- this computer system by any person whether authorized or unauthorized,  
<220- constitutes consent to these terms.  
<220-  
<220-          ----- Notice -----  
<220-  
<220- Questions/Problems should be directed to ngdc.linux-admin@noaa.gov  
<220  
> USER anonymous
```

IDL became frozen after I got above output.

Second, for IDLnetURL, I used a solution described in this article:
<http://www.exelisvis.com/Support/HelpArticleDetail/ArticleId /4246.aspx>

Here is my code:

```
.....  
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,  
oUrl = OBJ_NEW('IDLnetUrl', URL_SCHEME='ftp', $  
    URL_HOST='ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov', $  
    URL_Port=21, $  
    URL_USERNAME='anonymous', URL_PASSWORD='', $  
    URL_PATH='STP/GEOMAGNETIC_DATA/INDICES/KP_AP/2008')  
downloadLoc = oURL->Get(FILENAME='2008')  
.....  
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
```

I got this output, after I waited more than 10 minutes:

```
*****  
% IDLNETURL::GET: CCurlException: Error: Ftp Get Request Failed. Error = select/poll error,  
Curl  
    Error Code = 27. Last Ftp Response = 250 Directory successfully changed.  
*****
```

So, does anyone know a working solution to download a file from an FTP server, please? Your help is much appreciated!

Best regards,
JBT
