
Subject: Funny thing - HDF_DFSD_GETINFO

Posted by [David.Adair](#) on Thu, 03 Apr 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Hello All,

We've run into a very odd thing happening and I want to pass it by you to see if you can explain it. I have simplified the program to display only the error we are getting.

Here is the code....

```
pro test
    on_error,2

    cd, current=current

    file = pickfile(title='Select HDF file', filter = '*.hdf',
path=current)
    print, file
    help, file

    HDF_DFSD_GETINFO, file, dims=dims
;    HDF_DFSD_GETINFO, file    <---THIS WORKS

end
```

The program works fine the first time you run but subsequent runs cause an error that reads.....

```
IDL> test
D:\users\n3amask.hdf
FILE      STRING  = 'D:\users\n3amask.hdf'
% HDF_DFSD_GETINFO: Could not read dimensions from file: FILE
% Error occurred at: TEST      13 D:\its\idl_pro\test.pro
%      $MAIN$
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

It seems to be trying to read from a file called "FILE" rather than from the filename pointed to by the variable FILE.

Another thing is the if you take the DIMS keyword off, as is shown in the commented line below it works fine.

We've recreated this on both an NT machine and our Sun.

I've attached an HDF file in case you don't have any lying around.

Any ideas as to what going on???

Thanks in advance.

DAVE

Subject: Re: Funny thing - HDF_DFSD_GETINFO
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Sat, 05 Apr 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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David Adair wrote:

[stuff deleted]

```
> HDF_DFSD_GETINFO, file, dims=dims
> ; HDF_DFSD_GETINFO, file <---THIS WORKS
>
> The program works fine the first time you run but subsequent runs cause an
> error that reads.....
>
> IDL> test
> D:\users\n3amask.hdf
> FILE STRING = 'D:\users\n3amask.hdf'
> % HDF_DFSD_GETINFO: Could not read dimensions from file: FILE
> % Error occurred at: TEST 13 D:\its\idl_pro\test.pro
> % $MAIN$
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> It seems to be trying to read from a file called "FILE" rather than from the
> filename pointed to by the variable FILE.
```

I'll give you some hints.

(1) Make sure you are using IDL 4.0.1b - earlier versions had bugs in the HDF library.

(2) Unless you absolutely **have** to, don't use the HDF_DFSD interface. It is obsolete, and very difficult to use. The HDF_SD interface is current, somewhat easier to use, and more reliable.

(3) Check out David Fanning's HDF information at http://www.dfanning.com/tips/hdf_documentation.html

(4) Check out my resources for doing HDF in IDL at http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/sds_read.html
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/idltips.html>

Cheers,
Liam.
