



Status Update on OGC Standards for CF-netCDF

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On January 4, 2011, the Technical Committee (TC) of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) concluded its 60-day voting period on two new OGC standards: "OGC Network Common Data Form (NetCDF) Core Encoding Standard version 1.0" and "NetCDF Binary Encoding Extension Standard: NetCDF Classic and 64-bit Offset Format." In keeping with the OGC modular specification approach, this establishes the core standard (the netCDF classic data model) and the first extension (for binary encoding) which comprise the initial phase of a series of planned OGC standards related to the Unidata Network Common Data Form (NetCDF) and the related Climate and Forecast (CF) Conventions. The long term plan includes placeholders for additions to the abstract data model (e.g., enhanced, CF), conventions, encodings (binary, xml, text) and possibly even Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). Most of these extensions will be undertaken by the existing OGC CF-netCDF Standards Working Group (SWG). In addition, the resulting CF-netCDF specifications will be proposed as possible encoding payloads for OGC data access protocol specifications such as the Web Coverage Service (WCS), Web Feature Service (WFS), and Sensor Observation Service (SOS). At present, a specification has been drafted for the CF conventions extension to the netCDF core for consideration by the CF-netCDF SWG. Another draft has been created for a CF-netCDF encoding extension to the WCS core. The latter is for consideration by the OGC WCS SWG. This presentation provides an update on the status of these standardization initiatives.