

Review of HDF5 operational readiness:

NASA's Earth Science Data Systems Standards Process Group (SPG) is considering the HDF5 for adoption as a community standard. This is the second review of HDF5, this one focusing on its readiness for operational use. The questions below are provided to guide feedback from data systems, application providers, instrument teams and others. You only need to answer questions applicable to you. Please send comments to spg-rfc-007@lists.nasa.gov.

1. Describe in a sentence or two your overall experience related to HDF5 (*e.g., science data provider, science data systems, software tools developer, and science data user, etc*).
2. Do you currently use or plan to use HDF5 in a production setting? What types of applications do you use with HDF5? Is HDF5 applicable to your applications (*e.g., Does it work well with the data types and data manipulations in your application?*)
3. Why do you choose to use HDF5 over other data formats for your applications?
4. Have you or your users encountered any difficulty when using some of the data access or visualization tools (*e.g., IDL, GrADS, ..*) on HDF-5 data files? If you have, please provide a brief description of your experience.
5. Does the performance of HDF5 you have experienced meet your requirements? (*e.g., Can it handle the data types in your applications? Does it take a long time to read and write HDF5 files?*)
6. What operational challenges or limitations does HDF5 present? (*e.g., Does it take a long time to learn how to use it? Does it require advanced processing power, large amounts of memory, complex configuration, etc*)
7. What benefits does HDF5 present? Do the benefits of HDF5 outweigh the challenges? (*e.g., Does it offer the flexibility you want to package the data types in your applications? Does it facilitate interdisciplinary studies?*)
8. How much data do/will you provide or archive in HDF5? (*number of distinct data products or data sets, total data volume, number of files.*)
9. How many users do you have or expect to have for data in HDF5, and what is your expected user community?