Newsletter #149

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Release of HDF5-1.8.17

The HDF5-1.8.17 release is now available. It can be downloaded from The HDF Group Downloads page:

https://support.hdfgroup.org/downloads/

It can also be obtained from:

https://support.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/release/obtain5.html

HDF5-1.8.17 is a minor release with a few new features and changes. Important changes include:

- Improvements were made to the High Level C and C++ Packet Table APIs, including:
  - The H5PTcreate function was added to provide control over creation properties. It replaces the H5PTcreate_fl function. The corresponding change in C++ is the addition of a new overloaded constructor to FL_PacketTable that takes a property list identifier.
  - H5PTget_dataset was added to return the identifier of the dataset associated with a packet table. The corresponding member function added for C++ is PacketTable::GetDataset().
  - H5PTget_type was added to return the identifier of the datatype used by a packet table. The corresponding member function added for C++ is PacketTable::GetDatatype().
  - C++ member functions with "char*" as an argument now include overloaded functions to provide a "const char*' argument.
  - The source code was cleaned up to remove the obsolete variable length Packet Table code. This included the following changes:
    - H5PTis_varlen() was made available again. The corresponding C++ function VL_PacketTable::IsVariableLength() was moved to PacketTable.

        - H5PTfree_vlen_readbuff() was renamed H5PTfree_vlen_buff(). The corresponding C++ function VL_PacketTable::FreeReadBuff() was renamed to PacketTable::FreeBuff().

- The H5Pset/get_efile_prefix() functions were added for controlling the search path for dataset external storage that has been configured with H5Pset_external(). Additionally, the HDF5_EXTFILE_PREFIX environment variable was added to control the search path.

- The following new member functions were added to C++:

    - DSetCreatPropList::setNbit() sets up N-bit compression for a dataset.

    - New overloaded "const" member functions were added to ArrayType: ArrayType::getArrayNDims() const and ArrayType::getArrayDims() const

- Overloaded C++ methods with parameters that were not "const" (but should have been) were removed.

- Support was added for Mac OS X 10.11.4 (El Capitan).

This release contains many other changes that are not listed here. Please be sure to read the Release Notes for a comprehensive list of new features and changes:

https://support.hdfgroup.org/ftp/HDF5/releases/hdf5-1.8.17/src/hdf5-1.8.17-RELEASE.txt

Changes that affect maintainers of HDF5-dependent applications are listed on the HDF5 Software Changes from Release to Release page. See:

https://support.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/doc/ADGuide/Changes.html

Future Changes to Supported Compilers and Platforms

After this release we will be dropping support for Mac OS X 10.8.