

Building NetCDF

Note: Things that you should type are in the **computer boldface** font.

1. Open up a web browser.
2. Go to your favorite search engine (e.g., Google).
3. Search for:
NetCDF
4. Go to the NetCDF website.
5. Look for the link for downloading the source code.
6. Copy the location of that link.
7. Log in to the computer that you want to build NetCDF on.
8. Create a directory to do this build in:

```
mkdir NetCDF
```

9. Go into that directory:

```
cd NetCDF
```

10. Download the NetCDF source code using this command; for example:

```
wget ftp://ftp.unidata.ucar.edu/pub/netcdf/netcdf.tar.gz
```

11. “Untar” the compressed tar file:

```
tar zxvf netcdf.tar.gz
```

12. Go into the newly created NetCDF directory:

```
cd netcdf-4.1.1
```

13. Determine your current working directory:

```
pwd
```

14. Read the file named `INSTALL`, which has instructions for how to install NetCDF:

```
more INSTALL
```

If you're unfamiliar with the `more` command, ask someone for help.

15. Specifically, in the `INSTALL` file, look for the Section 2, “Quick Instructions for Installing NetCDF on Unix,” specifically section 2.1, “Building NetCDF Without HDF5.”

16. You're going to install NetCDF into the current working directory, so in the configure step (below), the working directory that you discovered in #13, above, is what you should use for the value of:

```
--prefix=
```

17. Perform the `configure` step, as described in the `INSTALL` file. This will probably take a few minutes, as the configure script examines the computer you're on to see how best to build NetCDF.
18. Perform the `make` step, as described in the `INSTALL` file. This will probably take many minutes, because you'll not only be building the code but also testing it (all automatically).
19. If you look in the subdirectory named `lib`, you'll see the NetCDF libraries:

```
ls lib
```