

# Hackathon introductions

Sadie Bartholomew, on behalf of the CF Conventions community

National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) Computational Modelling Services (NCAS-CMS)  
and University of Reading, Meteorology Dept.  
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# 1. Accessibility

*(Digital) accessibility of the CF Convention document*  
Tuesday 2025-09-23, Breakout Room 3



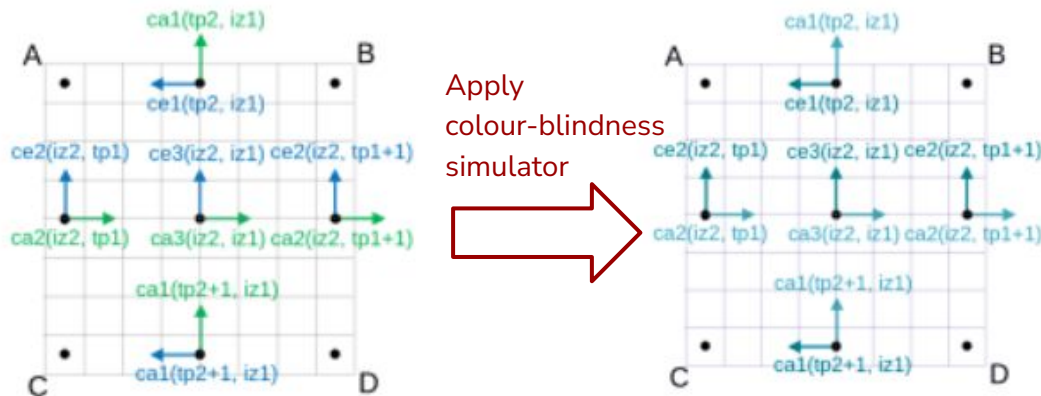
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## Room 3: (Digital) accessibility of the CF Convention document

- Accessibility: “Digital accessibility is about making sure that websites, apps, and digital content are usable by everyone, including people with disabilities.”
- Initiating GitHub Issue: <https://github.com/cf-convention/cf-conventions/issues/404>
- Core question: **how can we make the document more accessible (& where is the low-hanging fruit)?**
- See e.g. <https://accessibility.blog.gov.uk/2025/02/04/10-digital-accessibility-mistakes-to-avoid/>
- Ideas:
  - Review use of text considering those with English as a second language - could some language be simplified?  
- and assumption of domain knowledge - should some terms be added to the glossary?
  - Review schematics/diagrams and use of colour for support for those with vision issues e.g. colour blindness, and check they have accurate and explanatory image ‘alt’ descriptions.

Example from Issue: Figure J.5 with colour to convey meaning



## 2. File formats / data model

*Future of CF for netCDF versus other file formats / data models*  
Thursday 2025-09-25, Breakout Room 1



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# Room 1: *Future of CF for netCDF versus other file formats / data models*

Initiating GitHub Issue, created during the CF Workshop 2024:

<https://github.com/orgs/cf-convention/discussions/359#discussioncomment-14119619>

1. How **format agnostic** is CF, *logically* and *practically*?
2. What **other (to netCDF) file formats and data models** are in use with similar application/scope, and can CF cater for these?
  - How compatible are they each with the NetCDF Data Model?
  - Do converters/mappings exist and if so, how comprehensive are these?
  - If we can cater for them, how much *change/effort* could it need from both the CF side and the data side?
3. What, if anything, are the **barriers** to use of CF for other file/data formats?
4. What do we anticipate the **future of netCDF** to be, both *shorter* and *longer term*?
  - Do we expect it to be prominent for significantly long or that we may need to start overseeing use of CF for other formats sooner rather than later to ensure longevity of the standard?



## (Possibly) useful links

- Specific file formats and/or data models - array-based data with metadata support:
  - NetCDF: <https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf>
  - HDF5 (more general, but note netCDF4 is built on this):  
<https://support.hdfgroup.org/documentation/>
  - Zarr: <https://zarr.dev/>
  - GeoZarr: <https://github.com/zarr-developers/geozarr-spec>
  - GRIB2: [https://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/docs/grib2/grib2\\_doc/](https://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/docs/grib2/grib2_doc/)
  - TileDB: <https://tiledb-inc-tiledb.readthedocs-hosted.com/en/stable/#>
  - TileDB-CF: <https://tiledb-inc.github.io/TileDB-CF-Py/documentation/index.html>

