
Subject: Re: The Skinny on 24-Bit Color (Long)
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 27 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Folks,

I wrote in a long article yesterday that I did not know of any way to determine the current visual class or depth of the visual class for the current IDL session.

It was pointed out to me this morning that there are two new keywords to the Device command that can help on X, WIN, and MAC devices.

The keyword GET_VISUAL_NAME can get the name of the visual. (This keyword is incorrectly indicated in the on-line documentation as applying only to the X device.) And the keyword GET_VISUAL_DEPTH can get the depth of the current visual. (This keyword is not documented anywhere as far as I can tell.)

```
IDL> Device, Get_Visual_Name=thisName, Get_Visual_Depth=thisDepth
IDL> Print, thisName, thisDepth
      PseudoColor      8
```

This will make it much easier to work with 24-bit color in IDL.

Cheers,

David

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