
Subject: Re: clipboard objects and postscript (unix)
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 02 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Sean O'Sea (seanosea@my-dejanews.com) writes:

> Howdy, folks. I'm having difficulties with the Clipboard object in IDL on
> unix. This is pretty much my first time posting anywhere; I was so impressed
> by the helpfulness here that I decided to try it out.

Oh, it's a friendly place, alright. :-)

> First, IDL saves to the PostScript "native format" file with a bitmap rather
> than a "true" PostScript objecty-sort of "do this, do that" structure. That
> is, in a normal PS file, you'll see at some point all the words of text
> actually spelt out as "{X} goright {Axis}" or whatever, whereas IDL's PS just
> has 1's and 0's.

>
> Is there a way to output a graphics tree in normal non-bitmap PS form?

No, I'm afraid not. This has been a topic of discussion here in the past. PostScript output is often considered the weak link in the object graphics hierarchy. RSI has been considering what trade-offs users would have to make to get "vectorized" output. If you feel strongly, you should make sure they hear from you about it.

> Second, supposing there isn't, the simplest X Window clipboard utility,
> xclipboard, can't seem to latch on to my attempts to increase the resolution
> and dimensions of the clipboard object. Drawing to the clipboard at the
> default res of 72dpi and default dim of 640x480 works fine: xclipboard
> "converts" it nicely to a PS image with bounding box 640x480, but it's too
> low of res for my purposes.

>
> When I increase the res from 72dpi, leaving the dim at the default 640x480,
> IDL adjusts the dim to keep res*dim constant. So if I double the res, IDL
> halves the dim, leaving the effective resolution (amount of information)
> constant. Finally, if I increase both the res and the dim, IDL hangs, and
> xclipboard complains "failure to convert clipboard data". When I kill
> xclipboard, IDL wakes up.

>
> Is there a way to increase the res, making the file much bigger but the image
> more detailed?

I am not familiar with XClipboard, but I have no difficulty increasing both the resolution and dimensions of the clipboard when I create the clipboard. I am working in IDL 5.2 (beta 2).

```
clipboard = Obj_New('IDLgrClipboard', dimensions=[1200, 1200], $  
  resolution=[0.0352778, 0.0352778]*10 )
```

How exactly are you trying to increase the resolution and the dimensions?

Cheers,

David

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