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Subject: Re: graphics window

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 09 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Kristine Hensel (hensel@ucar.edu) writes:

>> This happens to me when I start Netscape before I start IDL. I've  
>> figured out that I have to start Xemacs first if I don't want my Xemacs  
>> cursor to be invisible, then IDL if I don't want my graphics windows to  
>> cause other windows to flash, then my Solaris manual pages if I don't  
>> want them to crash ... now I just try to avoid logging off if things are  
>> working properly.

>

> Yikes! Despite Liam's quixotic attempt's to make \*everyone\* use

> 8-bit display devices, I think the answer is 24-bit color. :-)

I don't believe I'm advocating that \*everyone\* should use 8 bit color.

The fact is there are Unix boxes out there which have 8 bit graphics

only, and in many cases there is no way to upgrade them to 24 bit color.

The color behavior described in this thread is typical of the 8 bit Unix  
consoles we have around here.

The startup file I've posted has overcome this behavior on our in-house  
8 bit Unix displays, as long as color-hungry applications like Netscape  
are not running in the background. In fact I just ran a test on an  
IBM/AIX box down the hall, and even with the startup file, the  
fade-to-black occurs when you click on the IDL graphics window. The  
culprit was that my colleague who uses the IBM box had both Netscape and  
an in-house application (McIDAS) running in the background. Once I  
killed Netscape and McIDAS, there were enough colors for IDL to work  
with (around 140), and using the startup file brought up IDL in a mode  
where there was no color flashing.

I agree that 24 bit color is the way to go if your graphics hardware  
supports it. It's just that these old 8-bit Unix boxes take forever to  
die.

Cheers,  
Liam.

PS You can try starting Netscape with the flag 'ncols' to reduce the  
number of colors used, e.g.

% netscape -ncols 32 &

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