Subject: Re: can't change colortable in current window (linux bpp24) Posted by David R. Klassen on Tue, 20 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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"J.D. Smith" wrote:
>
  David Fanning wrote:
>>
>> Liam Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:
>>
>>> I just tried starting IDL on a colleague's laptop running AcceleratedX
>>> V4.1 in 16 bpp mode. It refused to run IDL in PseudoColor (8-bit) mode,
>>> and started in TrueColor mode instead (I verified this using 'device,
>>> get_visual_name=name' to check it wasn't in DirectColor mode). The
>>> commands
>>>
>>> device, decomp=0, retain=2
>>> loadct, 0
>>> tvscl, dist(256)
>>>
>>> gave a strange rainbow of colors, which did not change when I clicked on
>>> the graphics window. I'm going to have to investigate this further, but
>>> it looks like starting the Linux X server with either
>>>
>>> startx -- -bpp 8
>>>
>>> or
>>>
>>> startx -- -bpp 24
>>>
>>> is required for reliable IDL operation under Linux. If anyone knows
>>> otherwise, please let me know.
>>
>> As far as I know, IDL on Linux has *never* been supported in
>> 16-bit mode. Nor have I ever heard any plans for it to be so
   supported. I think these are the only two valid options.
> He's talking about using an 8-bit pseudo overlay in an otherwise 24-bit
  environment... as can be done on all SGI's, for instance. Many video
  cards can do this, but Linux software support of this feature is a bit
> lacking.
  JD
>
>
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```

This is odd...when I was testing things for my use under linux I put the following lines in my .Xdefaults file:

! IDL defaults

idlde.colors: 256 Idl.colors: 256

idl.gr_visual: PseudoColor

idl.gr_depth: 8

and I get 8-bit color windows under 24-bit displays. Granted, I did

that test awhile ago so my memory may be slipping a bit.

I don't like the 1280x1024 resolution I get with 24-bit so I run in 16-bit at 1600x1200 and run IDL under a second X session by opening an xterm and typing:

alias 8bit='startx .xinitrc.8bit -- :1 -bpp 8 &'

The file .xinitrc.8bit is used so the default window manager (KDE) is *not* used on :1 as it interferes with the K running on :0 so I run just a barebones twm on :1. For completeness, the .xinirc.8bit is: nxterm -n IDL_EDIT -fn 9x15 -geom 95x52+200+20 -fg black -bg LightYellow &

nxterm -n WORK_DIR -fn 9x15 -geom 95x52+10+280 -fg black -bg LightYellow &

nxterm -n IDL_RUN -fn 9x15 -geom 95x52+655+220 -fg black -bg LightGoldenrod &

twm -d:1

(the colors are so that when I get the color flash I can still sorta read text in

the window - it's not perfect and needs tweaking...)

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