
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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