Subject: Re: Recovery from PostScript file
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Wed, 12 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

Chris Roberts wrote:

> I have a user who generated a PostScript file of his IDL data as a graph,
> and has now lost his data file. Is there anything sensible I can do to help
> him recover some of the data from the PostScript file?

An indirect method is to scan the printed graph into a high resolution bitmap,
and then use a program like QuickTrace to digitize the data points:
http://servermac.geologie.uni-frankfurt.de/QuickTrace.html

I can also imagine converting the Postscript file to a bitmap graphics file
using ImageMagick, and then using some clever IDL code to extract the outlines
of the plotted points:
http://www.wizards.dupont.com/cristy/ImageMagick.html

However I think it would be best if you just tell your user that he blew it, and
that he should learn to make backups. This will serve him better in the long run
than trying to extract data points from plots.

Cheers,
Liam.
http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley