
Subject: Re: Frame Grabber

Posted by [Mark Rivers](#) on Fri, 25 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Volker Carl wrote in message <38B6279F.BFE2F9E5@cityweb.de>...

> Anybody out there with experience regarding IDL and frame grabber

> support? I want to get my camera data into IDL via grabbing. Who can

> help me.

This can be done in 2 different ways:

1) Write an IDL device driver for the framegrabber. I did this years ago

for a VAX Q-bus based framegrabber. The advantage of this approach is that you can use the standard IDL routines like TV, TVRD, PLOT, TVLCT, etc. to read and write the device. The disadvantage is that it is not trivial.

2) Use CALL_EXTERNAL to call a shareable library (e.g. DLL). You probably already have such a DLL from your vendor. You then need only write 2 things:

- A thin C "wrapper" layer so that IDL can call your DLL. This wrapper layer takes care of calling conventions, since IDL uses the (argc, argv) method of calling C functions with CALL_EXTERNAL.

- A set of IDL routines which call CALL_EXTERNAL. These might be things like:

```
; Read image from framegrabber
image = READ_FG(xstart, ystart, xstop, ystop)
; Start acquiring images
START_FG
; Stop acquiring images
STOP_FG
```

Cheers,
Mark Rivers
