Subject: Re: Color question (answer is not device,decomposed=0)
Posted by Troy Carter on Mon, 24 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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On Mon, 24 Apr 2000, Liam Gumley wrote:

> upgrade to XFree86 version 4 is in order). In addition, I believe that IDL
> does *not* support X displays in 16 bpp mode; it only supports 8-bit or
> 24-bit bpp.

IDL runs fine on a 16 bit display. I do it every day -- in 5.2, it took a little trickery (I had to set device,pseudo=8,decomposed=0). But in 5.3 it starts right up. Yes I am sure the terminal is 16 bit. Perhaps IDL effectively runs in 8 bit mode, so perhaps I don't use the 16 bit capability, but the point is that I don't have to run in lower color depth to get idl to work.

> The bottom line:
> (1) If you want to get IDL running and do some work, then re-configure your
> Linux X-server to start in 8 bpp.
> (2) If you want to tinker with the X-server, try an upgrade to XFree86 4.0

I don't think it is necessary to run in 8bpp mode. 24bit mode works great, I have been using it for 1.5 years (linux workstation running idl session on solaris box). I have just run into one issue when trying to migrate to Object graphics. I think that instead of giving up on 24-bit mode I should try to solve the problem and perhaps uncover a bug in IDL or XFree86... Who the heck works with 8bit displays anymore anyway!? ;)

About XFree86 4.0, I will certainly be trying that as soon as it is a little more stable. I probably will not be adventurous and I will wait until RedHat packages it (maybe when the rawhide packages stabilize).

About my particular problem, after some very helpful comments from several people (by e-mail mostly), it seems that the problem is due to byte-order swapping as the solaris box sends graphics to my x-server. It only effects the IDLgrView object -- other objects (plots, axes, text, polygons) all render with the correct colors. For this reason, it is possible that it is a bug in IDL (problems with dithering or with the Mesa libs have been suggested). Thanks to everyone who commented on the problem (Randall, Rick, kschultz). When it is completely resolved, I will write again to the news group.

-Troy

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Troy Carter
tcarter@pppl.gov

(609) 243-3145