
Subject: Re: grayscale vs. color
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 24 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi Struan,

yep! I guess that was shooting a little too fast, but the ensuing discussion (i.e. mostly your series of comments) put it onto the right track. Although there may be workarounds (Liam), it still would be much preferable to see 24bit postscript colors produced by the postscript driver. And I can't see a major difficulty in providing a (linearly translated) CMYK output format in addition to RGB. True enough, RSI should not start dealing with all these nitty details of color adjustments etc., but I think one should be able to produce a postscript file that you can forward to your favorite professional print shop and they should be able to apply the necessary color corrections etc and get the right colors out. What appals me about Photoshop, Coreldraw etc. is that most of these are only available for Windows or Mac, so it is not just firing up another application if you sit on a unix system. And the learning curves are steep enough, although this is certainly also true for color handling in general (why would there be professional graphic studios otherwise?).

I definitively agree with you that IDL seems to lag behind its competitors in several fundamental ways, high ranking among these is more transparent color handling and the mapping inconsistencies. From what I have seen from the object graphics so far, this seems a much better implementation - so perhaps they can at some point replace all direct graphics stuff with procedure interfaces to the object graphics routines? I am waiting for the IDLgrMAP object ...

Yes: Let them do more important stuff!

Cheers,
Martin

Struan Gray wrote:

>
> Martin Schultz, martin.schultz@dkrz.de writes:
>
>> who says they must compete? If they can license
>> a bad editor, they should be able to license some
>> software to generate CMYK.
>
> They are competing in the sense that you're trying to make
> IDL do something that Adobe applications (among others) already
> do very well and at a cheaper price. It is only worthwhile if

> you absolutly insist that your computer only ever runs one single
> program.
>
> As I pointed out, IDL already generates perfectly
> good-looking CYMK every time it uses a colour printer driver. If
> I need more control than the printer driver allows me, any modern
> graphics or page layout program can turn out professional-quality
> seperations. If I'm publishing a book or a thesis with colour
> plates the seperations are done by the printer and I just have to
> supply my monitor profile and check a proof or two.
>
> It would be helpful to make IDL able to use colour profiles
> and to warn about out-of-gamut colours, particularly when sharing
> visualisations with other users, but I don't want a half-assed
> implementation that I then have to second guess the whole time
> and I vastly prefer that IDL stick to its knitting and fix more
> serious problems.
>
> I'm not trying to be argumentative. I'm genuinely baffled as
> to why you and David feel IDL has no CYMK abilities at all, and
> what exactly you feel should be added. I'm interested to hear
> about specific problems you have had.
>
> Struan

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[[ Dr. Martin Schultz  Max-Planck-Institut fuer Meteorologie  [[
[[          Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg          [[
[[          phone: +49 40 41173-308          [[
[[          fax: +49 40 41173-298          [[
[[ martin.schultz@dkrz.de          [[

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