David Fanning wrote:

> Mark C. (mychan@petro-canada.ca) writes:
>
>> Any suggestions on:
>>
>> 1) Alternatives if one wants to create GIF files here after?
>>
>> 2) Has any one use other formats in IDL which will yield equal or better
>> quality results to that of GIF?
>
> I think the RECEIVE button might be broken on
> your newsreader, Mark. :-)

David is of course referring to the thread which started last Sunday.

Another alternative which will be useful to some, is the new feature
set_plot, 'metafile'
which causes direct graphics to be written into a file of windows metafile
(wmf) format.
This has obvious limitations (a) direct graphics only, not object graphics
(why not??)
(b) only valid on windows platforms (ditto not??).

Within these shortcomings, it seems a logical alternative/replacement for the
problem of generating large bitmap files (which gif so nicely compressed in
older times).

It is also potentially a replacement for the old trick (attributable to David
F?) of writing graphics into a
windows, /pixmap ,xsize=2000,ysize=1000
of very large pixel size, in order to
tvrd() & write_bmp
into an image file which has nice resolution of character detail.
Anyone used to pasting wmf files between sundry wordprocessor and powerpoint
presentation documents will be familiar with how much nicer wmf files look,
being not limited by pixel resolution from an original screen capture.

But no, I havent actually tried it yet - my shiny new CD arrived this am, and
Im reading the Whats New documentation.

Anyone tried it yet?

Regards,

Michael Asten