
Subject: Re: IDL 5.4 and gifs

Posted by [Todd Clements](#) on Fri, 26 Jan 2001 22:31:16 GMT

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"Richard G. French" <rfrench@wellesley.edu> wrote:

- > Here is the authoritative answer from the IDL Product Manager at RSINC.
- > (It appears to me that the best short-term solution is for some clever
- > soul with time on their hands to come up with an interface to the
- > library of GIF routines in <http://www.imagemagick.org/>
- > but that is more than I can tackle at the moment.) - Dick

Or you can do it to the old routines in ghostscript. They don't currently support GIF due to the copyright issue, but they do specifically say that you can download the old GIF routines and they work with the current ghostscript.

Then, just print a .ps file, and use the IDL commands below (which are easily put into a procedure). I show it for PNG because I don't have the GIF libraries installed so I can't figure out the device name, but the device name is easy to figure out...just launch ghostscript with "-h" It will list all the devices.

```
;;----- for UNIX... easily modified for windows
;;----- probably have to write an applescript on the mac
device = 'png16m'
res = 150
outFile = 'outfile.png'
inputFile = 'file.ps'

str = 'gs -sDEVICE='+device+' -dBATCH -dNOPAUSE -q -r'+ $
      strtrim(fix(res),2)+' -sOutputFile='+outFile + $
      '' + inputFile
spawn, str
print, 'File written.'
;;-----
```

The nice thing I've found about using ghostscript is that it gives very consistent results across many different file formats. IDL is not that consistent, thus David's claim to fame that he can make it consistent. But this allows you to create plots at any resolution by changing the res parameter without having to change any major system variables and without having to regenerate your plot.

Todd
