
Subject: Re: Change default value of system variable?
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 23 Feb 2001 19:56:03 GMT
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Craig Markwardt wrote:

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>  
> "K. Bowman" <k-bowman@null.tamu.edu> writes:  
>> I prefer to plot with black lines on a white background, so in my  
>> idl_startup file I include  
>>  
>> !P.BACKGROUND = COLOR_24('white') ;Set background color to white  
>> !P.COLOR = COLOR_24('black') ;Set default draw color to black  
>>  
>> (COLOR_24 is my own routine.)  
>>  
>> This works fine until I change plot devices and then change back, viz.  
> ... deleted ...  
>>  
>> This means that I have to include code to set !P.BACKGROUND and  
>> !P.COLOR in every time I switch graphics devices. Is there any way to  
>> change the default value of a built-in system variable?  
>  
> You could simply save and restore the entire !P variable, right?  
>  
> old_p = !p  
> set_plot, 'ps'  
> ...  
> set_plot, 'x'  
> !p = old_p
```

I do this (relatively) religiously. Haven't ever had any problems (as long as the code doesn't crash or I don't Ctrl-C before the restoration statement).

```
> and you have the satisfaction  
> that you didn't miss any stray graphics keywords by accident.
```

exact-o-moe

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov Alexander Pope.
