
Subject: Change default value of system variable?
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Fri, 23 Feb 2001 16:54:58 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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.

```
flow>idl  
IDL Version 5.3 (IRIX mipseb). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.  
IDL> PRINT, !P.BACKGROUND, !P.COLOR  
    16777215      0  
IDL> SET_PLOT, 'PS'  
IDL> SET_PLOT, 'X'  
IDL> PRINT, !P.BACKGROUND, !P.COLOR  
      0      255
```

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?

Thanks, Ken
