
Subject: Re: thumbnails

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2001 17:44:54 GMT

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steve (nobody@nowhere.com) writes:

> As I suspected, thanks for confirming that. As long as I'm talking to a
> guru: is there an image format I can use that will display nice in say,
> powerpoint, and also produce nice postscript output? I write all my
> routines to display to my X display (in Linux) and then I switch to the
> PS device and send everything to a .ps file, making some minor adjustments
> for special cases (like bitmapped images mixed with line-art). This makes
> very nice postscript output, but now I'm trying to fix what should not
> need to be fixed: I'm taking a scalable format (postscript) and producing
> a non-scalable thumbnail (bitmap) for display. I don't want to just dump
> my X display to a bitmap format like tiff, gif, jpeg. Since I'm using a
> *nix-like system, is there something else I should be doing? I'm a little
> afraid of things like Windows Meta File, since Win-xx usually makes postscript
> a real chore, and actually, I don't see it in my IDL help. Any suggestions?

You might try something like CGM output. Some software is able to read and display those files nicely. I've never used it myself.

I tend to use JPEG files for nearly everything. Sometimes if I need great looking viewgraphs I'll do the "scale everything by 4" trick that I have talked about previously in this newsgroup. I use the Z-buffer at 4x resolution, use true-type fonts, set all thickness, character sizes, etc to 4x. Take a snapshot, reduce the image by 4x, and make a JPEG file out of that. It produces some lovely viewgraphs...sometimes. :-)

I'm not sure you are going to have your cake and eat it too with IDL. (Or with your computer, for that matter. The only computer I know of that was fabulous at showing great looking preview images was the Next computer using Display PostScript as it's rendering language.)

Cheers,

David

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