From: "David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com>
> Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:
>
>> Output destination & format is controlled through keywords to
>> the IDLgrClipboard::Draw method. To send EPS output to a file
>> the basic sequence of operations is
>>
>>   myview = [Create & populate your IDLgrView here]
>>   myclipbrd = obj_new('IDLgrClipBoard')
>>   myclipbrd->Draw, /VECTOR, /POSTSCRIPT, FILENAME=...
>>   obj_destroy, myclipbrd
>
> I just point out what is probably obvious: this
> produces PostScript output, not *encapsulated*
> PostScript output as was requested in the original
> post.

Well you'd think so, wouldn't you?

On my system (IDL 5.4, Windows 2000), the above commands generate a text
file which begins something like this...

%!PS-Adobe-2.0 EPSF-1.2
%%Title: Clipboard Image
%%Creator: IDL
%%BoundingBox: 0 0 344 344
gsave

...followed by a lot of Postscript commands ending with...

end
grestore
showpage

From my (admittedly limited) knowledge of Postscript this is a valid EPS
file. It has the required comment at the beginning and it has a Bounding Box
specification. If you give the file the extension ".eps" then it seems to
behave like an EPS file. It can be imported into MS Word (resulting in the
infamous plain box) and into LaTeX documents. When I open it with GSview
with the "EPS Warn" option turned on, there are no warnings (implying, I
think that GSview has found none of the operators forbidden to EPS files).

I have been treating these files as EPS for quite some time and never run
into any problems.

BTW, here are a couple of links with info about EPS

http://www-cdf.fnal.gov/offline/PostScript/AdobePS.html#EPS
http://www-cdf.fnal.gov/offline/PostScript/EPSF.ps

Section 5.3 of the latter has some handy info about the "showpage" command. The presence of this command at the end of the file above means that it produces output when sent straight to a printer. An application that encapsulates an EPS file is expected to deactivate the showpage command temporarily so that more than one of them can be displayed on a page.

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