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Subject: Re: Displaying VAX IDL widgets on a Sun workstation

Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 16 Jun 1992 22:27:18 GMT

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In articles <16JUN199211370685@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov>, and  
<16JUN199211132982@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov>, I wrote...

>> For a long time now I've been trying to display IDL MOTIF widgets from a  
>> VAX/VMS computer on a Sun workstation running OpenWindows. ...

>>

>> The secret seems to be that one needs to start up a widget routine, any  
>> widget routine, before creating any plot windows. Apparently, it needs to  
>> allocate some colors for the widget text and background. When the plot  
>> window is created, it automatically allocates all remaining colors. ...

>

> After some more experimentation with "WINDOWS,COLORS=...", I've come to the  
> conclusion that it is enough to leave some colors (5) for the widgets, and  
> that one doesn't have to start the widgets first. However, I prefer to allow  
> IDL to choose for itself how many colors are available. I think that when IDL  
> does this, it should automatically keep back whatever colors it will need for  
> the widgets, if not already created.

Well, here I am replying to my own post--twice yet. That's what I get for not  
keeping up with the latest version of IDL. Someone pointed out to me that this  
is discussed in the release notes for 2.3.1 (I was running 2.2.2). The true  
secret seems to be to put

```
Idl*colors: -5
```

in the .Xdefaults file. (Apparently, the VMS equivalent is DECW\$SM\_GENERAL.)  
This doesn't work with IDL 2.2.2.

It seems that there may still be a problem when running two copies of IDL at  
the same time. It doesn't seem to want to allocate a secondary color table any  
more. This is a change from earlier versions of IDL.

Bill Thompson

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