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Subject: Displaying VAX IDL widgets on a Sun workstation

Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 16 Jun 1992 15:13:00 GMT

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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. I haven't been able to in the past, and had suspected at various time DECWindows, the third-party TCP/IP transport, and OpenWindows of being the culprit. However, today I found that its the way one starts up IDL.

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.

I've also noted that one can't have two copies of IDL running at the same time. If not using widgets, then the second copy of IDL will simply allocate a secondary color table. The screen will flash between the two color tables when the pointer across the screen, but it will work. However, this doesn't seem to work with widgets.

I would suppose that the colors IDL wants to use for the widgets would normally belong to the window manager, but I guess there's a problem when running a MOTIF program with an OpenLook window manager. However, there doesn't seem to be any such problem in the opposite direction.

Bill Thompson

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