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Subject: Re: Plot to Image

Posted by [chase](#) on Fri, 27 Jan 1995 19:49:27 GMT

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>>>> > "ryba" == ryba <ryba@ll.mit.edu> writes:

ryba> Not to nitpick (I'm sure the Z-buffer works, though the comment  
ryba> about fonts gives me pause), but I've had perfectly fine results using  
ryba> the X driver and the following..

ryba> window, /pixmap ; Create a new graphics window as a pixmap

ryba> (etc., including TVRD, TVLCT, WRITE\_GIF)

ryba> Any comments on the difference between a X pixmap and a Z-buffer? I  
ryba> guess if you are running a remote X-terminal it may matter. Also,  
ryba> given the clunkiness of various X servers (like Sun's), maybe having  
ryba> IDL do the memory management is better.

I specifically use a Z-buffer when I want to run IDL as a background/batch process to create a bunch of images. Generally for this situation I am not connected to an X server (for example, it might be a job that I am running during the night or that I start from a remote telnet connection). If IDL was running in the background using the pixmap method, you would not be able to end your X session and leave whenever you want (you would have to leave the X session running until IDL was finished - tying up the server or leaving it unattended for someone else to accidentally/maliciously tamper with)

If the IDL session is not connected to an X server the pixmap option will not work. Additionally as was pointed out, when the X server is on a different host from the IDL process you may see a performance hit using TVRD(). The Z-buffer method is also portable to MS Windows or Macintosh versions of IDL.

I am not familiar with the font problem alluded to in the previous posts.

Chris

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