Subject: Transparent PNG file in PowerPoint
Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 10 Jun 2003 17:32:22 GMT
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Folks,

After several rounds of back and forth with the good folks at RSI, we have finally discovered how to produce transparent PNG output for inclusion into software such as PowerPoint.

The TRANSPARENT keyword in WRITE_PNG should be a 256-element vector. The vector would represent possible values in your 2D image. Any value that you wanted to be transparent would have a value of 0 in the vector, while any value that you wanted totally opaque would have the value of 255. You could select the "degree" of transparency by varying the values between 0 and 255 in the transparency vector.

So, for example, start with all pixels opaque:

```
t = BytArr(256) + 255B
```

If you want all pixels in your image with value 100 to be transparent:

```
t[100] = 0
```

If you want all pixels in your image with the value of 50 to 75 to be semi-transparent:

```
t[50:75] = 128
```

Here is a test program that produces a plot with a transparent background in PowerPoint:

```
;*****************************************************
PRO Test
  thisDev = !D.Name
  loadct, 0
  TVLCT, 255, 255, 255, !D.Table_Size-2 ; White
  TVLCT,   0, 255,   0, !D.Table_Size-3 ; Green
  TVLCT, 255,   0,   0, !D.Table_Size-4 ; Red
  TVLCT, r, g, b, /Get


  device, decomposed=0
  Set_Plot, 'Z', /Copy
```

```
  Erase
  Plot, findgen(11), Color=!D.Table_Size-4, $
     Background = !D.Table_Size-2, /NoData
  OPlot, findgen(11), Color=!D.Table_Size-3
  snapshot = TVRD()
  Set_Plot, thisDev

; All are 0 so all values 0-255 are completely
; transparent (I.e, have value of 0).

  t = bytarr(256)

; Set values !D.Table_Size-3 and !D.Table_Size-4 to
; be not transparent (I.e., have value 255).

  t[[!D.Table_Size-3,!D.Table_Size-4]] = 128

  WRITE_PNG,'transparent_test.png', $
    snapshot, r, g, b, TRANSPARENT = t
END
;**********************************************
```

Cheers,

David
