
Subject: Re: Graphics problem on Sun Ultra2 workstation
Posted by [Wonko\[3\]](#) on Thu, 14 Aug 2003 14:05:00 GMT
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tim.m.weitkamp@nowhere.edu (Timm Weitkamp) writes:

- > Alex and Jim,
- > I have little knowledge about the hardware internals of computer
- > graphics, but I have seen the phenomenon described by Alex lots of times
- > on different kinds workstations (HP, Sun...). It occurs not only with
- > IDL.
- > I am pretty sure that this is simply the way that their 8-bit visuals
- > deal with any application's attempt to allocate a larger number of colors
- > than is left free by the other applications (including the window
- > manager). In this case, the application gets a "private colormap", and
- > every time the focus is put in the application's window, the entire
- > screen switches to this colormap, inevitably messing up the rest of the
- > screen. In other words: it's a feature, not a bug.
- > I'd be surprised if it had anything to do with the refreshing rate.
- > Alex, your Sun probably has Netscape installed, right? Try start it by

Sort of, but the times when I used SUNs to view Web sites are over, I prefer PCs for that now. Netscape is painfully slow, and crashes way too often. Mozilla is okay, but even slower.

I used to do the -install trick with Netscape some years ago, but my problem happens without any color-using applications. There is just OpenWindows running. I also tried CDE, even in black-white mode, but this does not change the color flashing problem.

When I start Netscape, I can see true-color images. Using xcolor to display the colormap, I see no change here. I can also open another application, using ~200 colors, without color flickering. But I can see the color map changing then.

There are a couple of SUNs here I am working with. Sparc5 machines, sparc10, and some Ultras. But only this Ultra-2 machines gives the problems. With all other machines I can prevent the flickering (if it happens at all) by doing a DEVICE, PSEUDO=8 or DEVICE, DECOMPOSED=0 before opening any graphics window.

But looking at the output of xdpinfo, I just noted that the default visual ID is 0x20, and this means PseudoColor. Although there are a couple of TrueColor visuals. But this may be normal, I see a similar output on another Sun.

Oh, well. This is our biggest Sun, but I don't use it, because IDL
(unless in read TrueColor mode) is no fun here.

Alex

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PGP Key available
