
Subject: iTool Redeux

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Nov 2003 21:09:48 GMT

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Folks,

As it happens, I had an e-mail this morning from an iTool user (not a newsgroup reader, too, it seems) who wanted to do the simplest thing with an iPlot. He wants to call the iPlot tool from his program and he wants the plot to come up in "Stretch To Fit" mode. He does not want to have to change this each time from the Visualization Browser.

A reasonable request, I'm sure you will agree. Something a casual IDL user might think he wants to do. I tried the obvious thing:

```
IDL> iPlot, data, /Shrink_To_Fit
```

No, good. I read the iPlot documentation. Nothing there. I poked around for 20 minutes in the iTool code until my frustration level reached the boiling point. Then I sent an e-mail to RSI support. How do you do this simple thing?

I don't wish to embarrass anyone at RSI by publishing the answer. But I do want you to know how serious a problem this is. Here is the answer:

"...the only way to do this would be to write an iTool program. I believe the Help Index under iTools- operating tasks- Example: Creating an example (hot link) will bring you to the steps you need to look at."

There you go. I estimate I might have an answer for the poor chap in 4-6 weeks if I drop everything and work on this. I don't know how long it is going to take him to figure it out on his own.

Cheers,

David

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