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Subject: Re: Publication-quality plots

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2004 21:57:20 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

> David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

>>> So, does no-one have joy with windows metafiles?

>>> Or directly through the windows clip-board (OLE, and all that)?

>>

>> You might ask the Mac users. They go in for that sort

>> of thing. :-)

>>

>

> Now that Macs run Unix (OS X), IDL runs under X Windows. If I

> understand the question correctly, its about grabbing images from the

> screen.

The original question was about writing IDL graphics to Windows Metafiles via the METAFILE device (Direct Graphics) or the IDLgrClipboard object (Object Graphics). This can only be done on Windows, because it uses the OS's support for the metafile format.

Yeah, it works quite well. If you generate a WMF file in IDL and import it into Word, it looks nice on the screen, prints nicely and is scalable & editable (in principle anyway--the number of elements can be quite large, which may overwhelm Word's picture editor).

I would like to point out that having an accurate representation of a complicated graphic in a WYSIWYG word processor is not necessarily a good thing, because it can make screen redraws very slow. Generally, I find the EPS+preview approach suits me better. But at least with WMF graphics you don't get people asking why the graphs look so horrible.

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