
Subject: Re: LZW in IDL

Posted by [Jonathan Joseph](#) on Wed, 09 Jun 2004 20:01:53 GMT

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Is there a way to query whether or not you have permission to write an LZW compressed tiff file?

I just found out that we actually do have the LZW licensing string in the license.dat file. Unfortunately, It seems as though the number of allowable LZW licenses is 1, while the number of allowable IDL licenses is 8 - so if someone else has started IDL before you, they have the one and only LZW license. I hope this was just a glitch in the creation of the license.dat file. Another multi-user license we have seems to have the same number of LZW licenses as IDL licenses.

Regardless of whether I get our licensing working correctly, I would like to be able to write the code so that it uses LZW if available and either no compression or packbits otherwise. Is there any way to query whether the write_tiff command with compress=1 will work before calling it? Currently, if LZW licensing is not available, the program will halt at the write_tiff call (despite something I read on an RSI web page which claimed that it would default to packbits).

For example, if I send the code to collaborators, I want it to not crash if they don't have LZW licensing. Even when the Unysis patents expire, It will take some IDL maintenance (at least a new license string, if not a new version of IDL) to be able to use the functionality again.

Thanks.

-Jonathan
