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Subject: external file read/plot with executable IDL  
Posted by [jeanluc\\_picard\\_66](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2004 20:56:35 GMT  
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My company sells software which after much calculation produces graphical output. Unfortunately, our graphical output is somewhat limited. For example, you cannot change the line color or its width.

We offer the customers the option to save the graphical data to a ASCII data file and I want the customer to be able to use IDL to plot this ASCII data file.

But how to do this cleanly?

I would rather not force the customer to buy IDL.

Instead, could I do the following?

I create an IDL executable that I ship to the customer. I realize this is a special license.

He would then unzip/install this and an ICON would appear on his desktop.

The customer saves the data file to his desktop and then drags and drops it on the ICON.

A window then pops up with all the options available for customizing the graph.

Is this feasible?

thanks!!

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