
Subject: Re: Linux Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 16 Feb 2005 20:55:07 GMT

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Michael Wallace writes:

> Huh? What's that all about? Color works fine. Back in the IDL 5.x
> days, color wasn't so good. I needed to put the magic color commands in
> my ~/.Xdefaults to resolve some color problems, but I haven't needed
> that for a long time. I'm not sure when the problem was fixed, but I
> know that I didn't need the work-around for IDL 6.0. Color works
> exactly the same in Linux as it does in other operating systems.

You probably wouldn't believe the number of e-mails I get from LINUX users who can't get color to make sense to them. (And this was confirmed by my visit to Munich, where at least 75% of the LINUX users were confused about *something*.) Almost always they are running DirectColor visuals. No one has ever told them anything different and they think IDL is *suppose* to behave this way, I guess. At least an awful lot of them were surprised when I told them red plots on black backgrounds are not really normal in IDL. :-)

There were perhaps 75-100 LINUX users where I was, and only one person who clearly knew what he was doing. Everyone would call him. He would storm into your office, kick you out of your chair, and sit pounding on the keys for 10 minutes. Then he would say, "There, that should do it, " and leave. Everyone of us was left wondering what the hell had just happened! After an experience like this, no one bothered to call him again. (He had learned this technique from doctors, no doubt.)

At least half the LINUX users I knew didn't know that windows were suppose to be repaired properly when they were exposed. They just re-ran their plot command if a plot window got behind something else.

I am always amazed with what people put up with, but this was really an eye-opening experience. I recommend *anyone* who writes software for a living go spend a couple of months with the end-users. You will never be the same. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
