
Subject: Re: Save 2D conversion matrix

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 09 Nov 2005 16:07:26 GMT

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Peter Albert writes:

> But without stretching this discussion too far I would still like to
> know why you chose to set the keyboard focus keyword to one. I repeated
> the exercise with the slow plot command, and well, I have to admit that
> dragging the window is actually not the problem (and several minutes
> was exaggerating ...). It is more that IDL remembers how often you hit
> the window with the mouse, and as I am a nervous person it often
> happend that I repeatedly moved the mouse pointer right across the draw
> widget while it was still processing the first event. Having finished,
> it processed the second, than the third, ... and so on. And while
> waiting I asked myself why it is necessary to update the plot command
> just when a keyboard event occurs... But I guess there was a good
> reason?

I don't know. Keyboard focus!? Off-hand I would say it was to fix some kind of bug. I hardly **ever** use keyboard focus. Let me see...

Ah, in the old days none of us had 24-bit graphics cards. Hard to believe, but we had to choose 256 colors out of the palette of millions available to us now. But, none of us liked the same colors. And if I liked **this**, you certainly liked **that**. But worst of all, when you switched the color table to **that** my programs went all to hell because when you switched colors, you switched it for everyone. (Astronomers, apparently, still prefer this system.)

It was annoying as all get out. But since FSC_WINDOW was designed to work in that environment, and since it didn't know **anything** about what it was displaying, it had to have some way to get the colors right for the program it was displaying. Otherwise, the poor user would have to be reloading his colors (what a good idea!) before he counted on them, and it seemed like a fool's errand to try to teach people to do that!

So I came up with this idea that I would just keep track of what colors you were using when the program started and just reload them when focus shifted to the FSC_WINDOW window. (I can't really think of a good reason why I also chose to draw the graphics again, but it probably had more to do with a Copy-Paste operation than it did with clear thinking.)

In any case, this is the first time in the 15 years since I wrote the program that anyone ever told me it was a problem. I'd probably just remove it. At least that is where I would start, and see what happens.

I doubt I would make changes to FSC_Window myself, however. It's too depressing to read code you wrote so long ago. It's like looking at photos of yourself in the 1970's with the long sideburns and mustache, standing there looking dopey with your sickly paisley tie and mustard yellow shirt with the five inch collars.

There are a LOT better ways to write that program today. Maybe some day I'll get around to it. :-)

Cheers,

David

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