
Subject: Re: Anything in IDL like R's Copy to Clipboard As a Metafile?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 06 Apr 2006 22:13:25 GMT

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Earl F. Glynn wrote:

- > I'm new to IDL and I'm looking for functionality that works well in R.
- >
- > With any R graphic, I can click on "File" and select Copy to Clipboard and
- > then select "As a Metafile" or "As a Bitmap". Usually the Metafiles work
- > great when pasted into Word documents.

The "File" menu? Surely it should be in the Edit menu :)

- >
- > Did I miss something in the IDL documentation about a quick and easy way to
- > get IDL graphics into Word (of course, Alt-PrintScreen does work, but it's a
- > bit crude). The only solution I see now is to create a graphic file and
- > then import it back into Word, which will be quite tedious compared with
- > what R provides.

The basic facilities to do this are in IDL, but to access them you need a "smart plotting window" application.

The iTools will do this. Eg, type "iplot, indgen(11)" and then select the "Edit/Copy" menu item, but *first* go to "File/Properties/General Settings" and change "Clipboard output format" from "Bitmap" to "Metafile".

There are smart plotting window objects in my Motley library, still hosted by David at

<http://www.dfanning.com/hadfield/idl/README.html>

(though he keeps threatening to pull the plug and become a tennis bum).

Try `mgh_example_plot`, which creates an object-graphics plot in an `mgh_window` object, or one of its subclasses. Select "Edit/Copy/Vector".

Or try "`mgh_example_dgwindow`", which creates a direct-graphics plot in an `mgh_dgwindow` object. This supports only bitmap output to the clipboard at the moment, via the "Edit/Copy" menu item, but I think facilities now exist in IDL to support direct-graphics vector output to the clipboard.

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