
Subject: Re: tvrd and multiple monitors

Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 16:24:58 GMT

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On Wed, 30 Aug 2006 07:34:11 -0600, David Fanning wrote:

> Marshall Perrin writes:

>

>> I frequently work using a second monitor plugged into my Powerbook
>> for extra screen space. I just now encountered an odd bug with
>> the good Dr. Fanning's TVRD.PRO and the use of that second monitor.

>>

>> Here's the scenario. I fire up IDL, running it in an xterm on my
>> primary monitor, and plot some things to a large display window on
>> my second monitor. Then I want to save that plot to disk - but not so fast!

>>

>> IDL> result = tvread(filename=outfile,/png,/nodialog)
>> % TVRD: Unable to create X windows Window completely off screen, nothing read.

>>

>> Window off screen? What happens if I drag that window back over onto my
>> primary monitor?

>>

>> IDL> result = tvread(filename=outfile,/png,/nodialog)

>> IDL>

>>

>> Voila, things work fine. So there's an easy work-around here - just move the
>> window when you want to save the plot - but that's annoying! Is this a
>> problem that others also have, or is it perhaps specific to my situation
>> (IDL 6.1, Mac OS X 10.4, G4 Powerbook)? I'm curious if this behavior
>> is the same on a multiheader Linux box...

>

> My understanding of this problem is that it is a windows
> problem. At least, when we were investigating it we found
> the very same thing happened in a C program we were using
> as a test suite. (We were working on Windows, so perhaps
> this is different from UNIX.) Maybe Karl has some insight.

>

> In any case, I presume this is something that has been
> addressed in the IDL 6.3 release, which added "multiple
> monitor support". I haven't tested it, since that was about
> the only thing in that release I even remotely cared about,
> and I still haven't upgraded

The problem happens (still happens on IDL 6.3 with the MM support) whenever there is an extended desktop. Windows multi-monitor is always an extended desktop and you have an extended desktop when using Xinerama on either OS X or Unix. IDL is "clipping" the read operation to the extents of the primary monitor, when it should be using the extents of the

extended desktop. This looks like something we overlooked in the new MM support. I'll open a problem report and see if we can get it fixed in the next release.

Thanks!
Karl
