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Subject: Re: IDL -> X-terminal -> Windows using Xwin32, "backing store"?

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Mon, 08 Jan 2007 09:49:28 GMT

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Ed Hyer wrote:

> Because of memory and because it's better, I now do most of my IDL work  
> on a Linux machine (IDL6.2, at this writing). I access this machine,  
> which I have never physically seen, from my Windows box using Xwin32.  
> When I draw a graphics window, it shows symptoms just like the "backing  
> store" problems in the manual: that is, any part of the graphics window  
> that is not "on top" is blank.  
>  
> I have tried the solutions in the IDL manual for this problem, so I  
> suspect this is an Xwin32 problem rather than an IDL problem, and  
> therefore inappropriate to this group :). But I also suspect I am not  
> the only person reading this group who uses this setup, and you guys  
> are just so darn \_helpful\_!  
>  
> Any ideas?  
>  
> --Edward H.

What you should require is `device,retain=2`. This works with `freenx` client which, although it claims it does, does not support the X backing store. I've never used Xwin32, but the same solution within IDL ought to work.

This command must be issued before you do *anything* which even queries the X display, never mind produces any output. Once the X display is open this command will make no difference.

Try this:

```
$ idl
IDL> device,retain=2
IDL> plot,[1,2,3,4],[1,2,3,4]
```

it should produce a very simple plot. If you cover it then expose it again the plot ought to be reproduced correctly.

If this doesn't work then it very probably is an Xwin32 problem. This instruction tells IDL to keep a copy of the window and redraw it when requested, so it might be that the X window manager is not handing out redraw requests to clients properly.

You might want to try using `freenx` server and `nx` client. It's free, and it does work pretty well (provided there's a `freenx` server for your Linux distro.). We prefer it to commercial offerings such as Exceed because it works over ADSL

lines, where Exceed is painfully slow to the extent it's unusable.

--

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