

Subject: Re: Rumors about new plotting software in IDL  
Posted by [Ann\\_Mazuk](#) on Tue, 31 Oct 1995 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <472svd\$s0a@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>, thompson@achilles.nascom.nasa.gov (William Thompson) wrote:

> I've heard a rumor that RSI is planning to change their plotting software in an  
> upcoming release of IDL. From what I hear, the new software will not be  
> downwardly compatible with the old software. Supposedly, user's will be  
> initially given the option of using either the old or new methods, but  
> eventually, the old software will be phased out.  
>  
> Does anybody know anything more definite about this? I'm very concerned about  
> backwards compatibility. Making a new version of IDL that isn't compatible  
> with all our current software only pours flames on the debate about whether we  
> should look for something to replace it with.  
>  
> Of course, I may have this hopelessly garbled. I'm only repeating what  
I heard  
> second hand. Thus, take what I say with a grain of salt. The point of this  
> post is to try to get more detailed information.  
>

I cannot confirm or deny the rumors, but the routines PLOT\_IO, PLOT\_OI and PLOT\_OO are now obsolete and undocumented, however they do still work. Instead, the user is supposed to use the keywords XLOG, YLOG, and ZLOG in the PLOT routine. I saw this in the IDL Online Help under New Keywords to Existing Routines. When I first saw this, I assumed that RSI was going to do away with the routines in future releases of IDL. We, too, have a lot of software we have developed that uses the plot routines, so it would be ashame if it would not be downwardly compatible with older versions.

> Bill Thompson

Ann

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Ann Mazuk                      Internet: Ann\_Mazuk@qmail2.aero.org  
El Segundo, CA                SPAN: DIRAC2::AMAZUK  
Boring Disclaimer: These opinions are my own!

Ford Motto: Quality is #1  
Microsoft Motto: Quality is #1.1  
Pentium Motto: Quality is #0.9994728