Subject: Re: Importing IDL Postscript output into Windows apps
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Wed, 29 Nov 1995 08:00:00 GMT
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Liam Gumley <liamg@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:
>
> So if anyone has a *simple* procedure for importing IDL postscript
> graphics into Word for Windows 6.0, I would very much like to hear from
> you. By the way, I know there are several ways to do this on the Macintosh,
> but alas I do not have a Mac - just a Unix box (where I run IDL), and a PC
> (where I do word processing).
>
Sorry, I can't offer "simple". How about "fairly complicated".

MS Word will recognise preview bitmaps in TIFF and WMF forms, but not the
"device-independent" form that's added by the IDL /PREVIEW switch.

I know of two command-line tools that are supposed to add TIFF previews. These are
ps2epsf (available for Unix machines) and epstool (available for Unix, OS/2 &
Windows). I haven't managed to get either to work.

I add bitmap previews to all my EPS files using GSview, a Windows front-end to
Ghostscript. The procedure is a little tedious (you to make 3-4 menu selections &
enter a file name, also ensure you have selected several options appropriately) so I
wrote a Visual Basic front-end program that drives it. Like I said, not simple, but
it works. It works sufficiently well that I make all my graphs in EPS + preview form
and collect them inside Word documents.

At different times I have used either TIFF or WMF preview formats. The choice has
been driven by a number of factors. There have been several bugs in different
versions of the Word import filters, eg Word 2 (and maybe Word 6), would crash if
you imported an EPS file with a WMF preview exceeding 64 KB in size. Now, with Word
7/Windows NT I find the WMF previews to be the most satisfactory.

Feel free to contact me for further info.