
Subject: Re: writing to 2 "windows" in idl?

Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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cas@revelle.cdc.noaa.gov (Cathy Smith) wrote:

>

> Hi- I'd like to write out character strings to a gif imagee and determine
> their lengths (in pixels). I can do this using xyouts and this works for
> most of what I want to do. However, now I would like to find the length
> of a character string BEFORE I write it out. I tried writing out
> in the same color as my image to get the returned length and then writing
> it out again in the color I want. This works except that I cover up some
> lines on my original plot that I don't want covered. Is there a way to
> write to a "fake" device instead?

The trick I heard from a former colleague of mine (PHP) is to write using
xyouts, way out in the left field, meaning way outside the plot, and still
use xyouts to return the string length. So if your plot window covers
coordinates (0,0) to (10,10), then xyout,-100,-100, blah...

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