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Subject: Singing New Tune

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2008 20:18:43 GMT

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Folks,

I used to think of the people who ran IDL cron jobs, or who used Ghostview to visualize all their graphics output, as Luddites, or worse. But I am singing a new tune these days as I try to work remotely from a Windows machine to a UNIX machine, and I have the need to process massive amounts of data.

To this end, a couple of my most heavily used programs (by me, anyway) have been updated with new CRONJOB keywords to keep them alive if you want to do some plotting, but don't have a graphics connection. These are FSC\_COLOR and COLORBAR.

Just set the keyword in the call, and neither will load the so-called "system colors". These are colors associated with your window system and are useful for making your IDL applications look like something Bill Gates created. (Using heavily embedded FOR loops helps, too.) No one but me has ever used them, I guess, so it's no big loss. Getting them requires a window connection. So not getting them allows these programs to run as cron jobs. (Hence, the name of the keyword.)

Also, I think the NCDF\_BROWSWER is nearing completion. At least I haven't heard of anyone with bugs in the last 24-hours. So, you might also get the latest version of that if you are interested.

[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc\\_color.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_color.pro)  
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/colorbar.pro>  
[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ncdf\\_data\\_\\_define.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ncdf_data__define.pro)

I'm out of here for a few weeks. I'm putting Chris (Spon) in charge until I get back. ;-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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