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Subject: Re: SAVE/RESTORE of sysvars (was IDL and X and PS)

Posted by [knight](#) on Wed, 16 Sep 1992 20:06:47 GMT

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In article <1992Sep16.162635.11002@colorado.edu>, ali@anchor.cs.colorado.edu (Ali Bahrami) writes:

|> In article <15SEP199217204994@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov>, knight@ll.mit.edu (Fred Knight) writes:

|> > Thanks to Bill for sharing the setplot routine.

|> > Another way to store the system variables is to write them to a save file:

|> >

|> > save,/sys

|> >

|> > and then recall them later:

|> >

|> > restore

|>

|> This will certainly work. It is, however, moderately fragile because

|> we (RSI) don't give any assurances that system variables won't change

|> in an upwardly compatible way between releases. If for example, we add

|> a new field to a system variable, your existing SAVE/RESTORE copy

|> of that variable will no longer be restorable. IDL issues an error,

|> skips the saved variable, and continues restoring anything else in the

|> SR file.

I think your comments are apropos. Indeed, they are the reasons I have not relied on S/R with system variables for archival data. However, for the case that Bill considered, namely switching between devices and saving system variables related to plotting to be restored later in *one* IDL session, I think the S/R construct is straightforward, simple and appropriate. It allows a succinct way to recall the state of plotting variables for another device.

|>

|> With the clarity afforded by hindsight, allowing S/R on system variables

|> was probably a mistake on our part. In any event, I would suggest a

|> different approach, perhaps using a startup file to set system variable

|> preferences.

|>

|> - Ali, RSI (ali@rsinc.com)

With the clarity of foresight, I'm glad you *did* allow the S/R capability, even though it leaves open the possibility of using save/sys for archival purposes which seems prone to error.

Fred

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