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Subject: Re: How to print from an iTool? In color.

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 18 Jun 2008 14:20:33 GMT

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In article <g39dkh\$m7m\$1@news.nems.noaa.gov>,

Paul van Delst <Paul.vanDelst@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> My previous post today to this newsgroup showed me suffering from an M.C.Escher-like  
> brainfade, and I hope it's happening in this case too.  
>  
> How on earth does one print to a local printer, in color, from an iTool? In this case,  
> iSurface?  
>  
> I keep getting this xprinter thingo that lists a bzillion different printers EXCEPT the  
> one I have. Printing to a file is the obvious answer (the xprinter.eps) but there's no color.  
>  
> And the quality of the PS output that I can get in xprinter.eps is deplorable (all  
> pixel-y). And it appears the plots to file are all bitmaps by default (and even when I  
> specifically set the eps to be vector, I still get bitmaps in the file). I need the usual  
> vector output so I can edit the PS file directly, changing the scale, bounding box, etc.  
> You know, like I can do with direct graphics output.  
>  
> So, I *\*must\** be doing a number of things *\*very\** wrong.  
>  
> Does anyone have an online "dummy's guide" for getting this working for itools? The IDL  
> documentation was...um...well, suffice it to say I ended up visiting DF's website. There I  
> saw a bunch of stuff involving dialog\_printersetup() and whatnot, but nothing particularly  
> iTool-y related.  
>  
> Am I having a really bad day, or is the iTool printer output interface ridiculously  
> complicated?  
>  
> cheers,  
>  
> paulv

Hi Paul,

I struggled with this for a long time myself. The (non-obvious) solution is to use the Export command on the File menu to export to a file. You can pick your format (various bitmapped image file types or EPS). Note that EPS does not support some of the graphics capabilities of the iTools, such as texture maps. For simple graphics it works pretty well.

If your iTool uses more complex graphic functions, the solution appears to be to make a *\*really\** big window in order to get as many pixels as possible. A very large display

helps. :-)

If you want to export graphics programmatically from an iTool, you can try my ITOOL\_WRITE\_GRAPHIC\_KPB procedure, which is in bowman\_lib, available on my downloads page

<http://idl.tamu.edu/Downloads.html>

Cheers, Ken

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