
Subject: Re: Creating Transparent PNG Images
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 24 Oct 2009 14:59:25 GMT
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Devin White writes:

> You can write out transparent 24-bit PNGs by supplying a 4-channel
> array to WRITE_PNG (4 x samples x lines). The first three channels
> are RGB, the fourth is the alpha channel. Fully visible pixels should
> have their corresponding alpha channel elements set to 255,
> transparent pixels should have theirs set to 0.

OK, well, then the documentation REALLY needs to be improved!

But there is still a problem. Consider the transparent PNG
image you find here:

http://www.dfanning.com/ip_tips/example.png

I tried this:

```
IDL> image = read_png('example.png')
IDL> help, image
IMAGE      BYTE      = Array[4, 162, 150]
IDL> write_png, 'test.png', image
```

Then, I opened both example.png and test.png in my
browser (FireFox). They appear to be two different
images! The test.png file appears in MUCH darker colors.

Any ideas on what this could be about?

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.")
