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Subject: A Nice (undocumented?) feature for PS plotting  
Posted by [Jack Harlan](#) on Sat, 26 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT  
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Hi All,

I stumbled on a very useful feature (that IDL tech support said should be a bug). Here's the situation:

I have IDL procedures that make calls to widget procedures (e.g., PICKFILE) that are used to choose data files, do a little processing, and then some plotting. Pretty average stuff. I need Postscript output files for my presentations since they provide the best resolution plots. So, I usually set the device to 'PS', then run my IDL procedure.

Here's the feature/bug:

If I have already run the widget-using program at least once, then set device to 'PS', everything works fine.

If I start up IDL, then set device to 'PS', then run my widget-using program, I'll get this error:

"WIDGET\_CONTROL: Routine is not defined for current graphics device."

So, all I have to do is to remember to run the procedure once, \*then\* set the 'PS' device, then re-run the procedure. This means that I don't have to write different procedures for X and Postscript output. This is great! Unfortunately, when I mentioned this to IDL tech support, the guy didn't seem to get it (maybe he thought I was being sarcastic) and said that he'd make a bug report. Hopefully, this won't be "fixed" in 5.0. ASIDE: This even works for procedures that make plots in more than one window --> more than one PS page.

Maybe no one else cares about this or maybe everyone else already knew, but I find it very convenient.

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