
Subject: Re: Set path of terminal tools, e.g. ImageMagick, in Workbench
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 11 Oct 2010 02:15:23 GMT
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wlandsman writes:

> Hmm, I can't grok these paragraphs. The versions of PS_START and
> PS_END on your website are for direct graphics and use direct graphics
> fonts. PS_END does not have an option to create a PDF file. Are
> you saying that you have versions of PS_START and PS_END for use with
> the new (V8.0) graphics?

No, no. I'm not interested in new graphics. (Well, maybe I will be when they actually work.) I am talking **strictly** direct graphics here.

I have absolutely given up my quest for decent fonts in IDL **old** direct graphics because I don't need them any more!

All of the graphics routines I write work on the display and in the PostScript device in identical ways. (Teaching people how to do this has been my religious practice for nearly 20 years now.)

Thus, to get a graphical output in **any** format I desire, my code looks like this. I show you PDF output, but I often use PNG, JPEG, or TIFF, depending on what I'm doing and where I want to view the output. Just set the appropriate keyword. ImageMagick does the conversion from PostScript to any of these other formats.

```
IDL> PS_Start  
IDL> My_Graphic_Program  
IDL> PS_End, /PDF
```

It honestly is that dead simple once you have ImageMagick installed. I'm making PDF files that I import into Framemaker. All my book graphics are of this type. Every graphic I produce has beautiful PostScript or True-Type fonts.

It's wonderful! :-)

Cheers,

David

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

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