
Subject: Re: PostScript Background Color Preference
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 17 Nov 2010 16:18:21 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> I tout in my new graphics commands (FSC_Plot, FSC_Contour, etc.)
> that they "look the same on your display and in a PostScript file".
> But, of course, that's only true if you always use, as I tend
> to, white backgrounds for your graphical output. The joke, of
> course, is that you can have any background color you like
> in PostScript, as long as it's white.
>
> This is not true, you **can** have different colored
> backgrounds in PostScript, but you do have to go to
> some trouble to get them.
>
> Here is my question. I can produce different background colors in
> PostScript in my new graphics commands, but is this what people
> want and expect? My reasoning is that if I use a command and I write
> BACKGROUND='rose', and I want a command that "works everywhere",
> then I should expect a rose colored background everywhere.
>
> But, I can't quite pull the trigger on this. For some reason,
> it's doesn't feel like **exactly** what I want, even with all
> the big talk. What do you think? What would you want?

If I set the background colour explicitly, I expect it to always use that background colour, as with your "rose" example. So if I do BACKGROUND='black', I expect my printer to go through a lot of toner. Nothing enrages me more than technology that asks what I want (in this case via a keyword), and then ignores what I tell it. Grrrr.... :o)

For default, I'm happy with either a white (ala NG graphics) or black (ala DG graphics) background onscreen - which I interpret as effectively "transparent" so that printouts will be as one expects. I would recommend you adopt a white background so you're seen as being aligned with the bright and sunny future direction of graphics in IDL (i.e. NG)

:oD

cheers,

paulv
