
Subject: Re: FSC_PLOT defaults

Posted by [Marc Buie](#) on Tue, 21 Dec 2010 18:53:10 GMT

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Ben writes:

```
>> Also, it is awkward to use
>> simultaneous instances of things that rely on (the same) global
>> variables.
>
> I'm a little fuzzy on this. How might this occur?
```

This is a very serious issue, especially if you use any kind of widget programming (doesn't have to be object oriented stuff, either). With widgets you can have multiple copies of the same tool each looking at different data. You can also have different tools running at once. Each of these can run asynchronously and at any time. If you have a set of graphics tools that all depend on a global variable for its behavior (and perhaps modify it) then you are stuck with every tool taking on the same behavior. Sometimes that might be ok but mostly it's not what you want.

For this reason, I never, ever use the global variables to control plots unless it's in a throwaway script. In a program, I always use the graphics keywords to set the behavior. There are ways to make the global variables work for you but you have to be very careful. For me, the price is always too high.
