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Subject: Re: idl plot window disappearances

Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Tue, 23 Aug 2011 22:42:04 GMT

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>  
> "David Fanning" wrote in message  
> news:MPG.28bdc21744db25b9989966@news.giganews.com...  
>  
> Jeremy Bailin writes:  
>  
>> Would using a cgWindow and cgSet work?  
>  
> Well, the Coyote Graphics equivalent would be  
> cgShow, but alas, the Coyote Graphics rely on  
> the underlying IDL programs working correctly.  
> So, no, it wouldn't help in this case.  
>  
> The problem is there is no reliable way to  
> bring a direct graphics window forward on the  
> display any longer. :-(  
>  
> In IDL 8.1 for example, I type this:  
>  
> window  
>  
> Now, I hide the window behind another application,  
> and type this:  
>  
> wshow  
>  
> This command does nothing. But, if I do this:  
>  
> xcolors  
> wshow  
>  
> The window 0 pops forward!! This works about  
> 25% of the time and for God only knows what  
> reason. :-)

I have done this a couple of times (in an existing IDL session) but what I see is that I can create the window, then put "another app" in front of it, then select the IDLDE to type wshow, then wshow will bring that "other app" to the front.

So here is the hypothesis. IDL uses the wshow command to switch the order of the windows in the operating system alt-tab q. For instance, I have IDLDE as the first app (current, on top, active) several other programs,

then the idl window0 at the 7th spot. I type wshow, and IDLDE becomes the 7th spot, everything else moves up 1 (idl window0 is then 6th). The most recent "other app" was in the second spot, and it moves to the first spot and appears on top.

So, in terms of the windows7 alt-tab queue, seems to me that the action of wshow's error is that instead of moving window0 to 'zero', it is moving the IDLDE to the spot of the window0. Should be easy enough to fix.

cheers,  
bob

PS, it's a bit different with another IDL window (i.e. the xcolors widget), but I don't have the time to really look at that.

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