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Subject: How do I run IDL with non-interactive backend?

Posted by [John Yeukhon Wong](#) on Mon, 20 Feb 2012 05:57:36 GMT

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I am not sure if people are familiar with MATLAB, but supposed we do this on a Linux machine without the pretty GUI:

```
matlab -nosplash -nodesktop -r "my_script; quit"
```

There are a few more pretty extra commands I can added to the line above.

Now back to IDL. We are running IDL from a linux machine, and we have a webclient which basically sends the requests and asks the machine to execute the IDL script.

So far we have this

```
idl -e "my_hello_world_script"
```

```
PRO my_hello_world_script  
  PRINT, "HELLO IDL USERS!"  
END
```

This is fine.

But if we want to make a plot, and use the same command --> idl -e "my\_plot" will say

"Unable to open X-terminals."

My question is: does anybody know the command to force IDL execute in a non-interactive mode (meaning no GUI windows pops out), and will quit IDL as well (like the MATLAB command above, if we don't quit, MATLAB will just sit there running"

Thank you.

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