
Subject: Re: How to erase a (function graphics) plot.
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 15:55:55 GMT
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On 03/05/12 12:07, David Fanning wrote:

> Mark Piper writes:

>

>> In 8.2, there will be an ::Erase method for NG, analogous to ERASE for

>> DG. (In 8.0& 8.1, I've "erased" plots as Alain has.)

>

> And welcome to the version-specific code writing world! ;-)

Uh, I think that happens when someone sits down and starts using IDL.

Remember handles? Or, to be more contemporary, remember when IDL didn't have lists and hashes?

cheers,

paulv

p.s. I still use the function down below in some older code - the fixed IDL version is explicitly listed. Oi vey.

```
; -----  
; Local function to convert BYTE/CHAR values  
; to a STRING data type.  
;  
; Need this because all string netCDF data  
; types were returned as BYTE arrays.  
;  
; For pre IDL v5.3 the returned data type string is "BYTE"  
; For IDL v5.3 the returned data type string is "CHAR"  
; -----  
FUNCTION convert_string, data_type, $  
    input_string, $  
    NO_CONVERT=no_convert  
  
    ; Set the IDL version with the bug fix  
    fixed_IDL_version = 5.3  
  
    ; If the data type is CHAR, then we have a string. Convert and return.  
    IF ( STRUPCASE( data_type ) EQ 'CHAR' ) THEN $  
        RETURN, STRING( input_string )  
  
    ; The data type is not CHAR. Maybe it needs converting, maybe not.
```

```
IF ( FLOAT( !VERSION.RELEASE ) LT fixed_IDL_version AND $  
    STRUPCASE( data_type ) EQ 'BYTE'                AND $  
    ( NOT KEYWORD_SET( no_convert ) )                ) THEN $  
    RETURN, STRING( input_string )
```

```
; Don't do anything  
RETURN, input_string
```

```
END ; FUNCTION convert_string
```
