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Subject: Quiet Weekend in Paradise

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2012 02:00:45 GMT

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Folks,

Well, it's been a quiet weekend in Paradise, my home town. The kids were off studying. The wife was in Chicago visiting her sisters. The weather was perfect for a final walk in the high country, before the snow flies. The only distraction was Coyote blaring his latest Michele Shocked album at about 150 decibels from his boom box. If I hear him sing "If love was a train, I think I'd ride me a LONG one!" one more time I think I will strangle him.

I planned to take a walk on one of my favorite hiking trails to see what damage had been done to it by the big fire this summer. There was just this one burr under the saddle: as much as I liked the new TRANSPARENT keyword to cglImage, I was annoyed I couldn't get it to work either in PostScript or with !P.MULTI.

I thought I would just take an hour to sort that out, then I'd be off. But, you know how one thing leads to another (and who was the idiot who wrote the documentation for cglImage, anyway!), so about six hours later, I finally had things working the way I wanted them to work, and the sun was getting low in the sky, and ... Oh, what the hell, this Coyote Library is driving me crazy, too, so I'll just spend a couple of hours sprucing that up.

The long and short of it is, the wife came home about six hours before I expected her, the house was still a mess, and I had spent another 8-10 hours putting things right with the Coyote Library. I added a couple of useful features to some programs, retired a few more, changed the name and documentation on a few others, made sure all my web pages pointed to the new programs, etc., etc.

Another whole day rolled by and I finished just in time to run off to the end-of-year party the Wilderness Ranger organization I belong to was having. The group of first year volunteers I mentored won an award for most total patrols by a first year group, and I won a \$30 gift certificate

for Most Backpacking Patrols. Good thing they don't hand out awards for Worst Weekend Husband or Longest Grass Before Mowing, or I would have won those, too. You have to be dedicated to go backpacking when the list of things to do around the house takes up both sides of a sheet of paper.

All this to say that now would be a good time to update your Coyote Library. :-)

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip\\_files/coyoteprograms.zip](http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_files/coyoteprograms.zip)

Or,

<http://idl-coyote.googlecode.com/>

Here are the things I remember doing, off the top of my head:

Beside getting the TRANSPARENT keyword to produce transparent images everywhere and all the time, I added a Filename keyword so you can read and display an image directly from a file. This works spectacularly with GeoTiff images! (You know, I'm as surprised and amazed at the power of Coyote Graphics as I'm sure you are. These commands really do blow me away sometimes!) I also added CTINDEX, BREWER, and REVERSE keywords to cgColorBar, so you can load color table vectors directly, as you do with cgImage. (Note, cgLoadCT, and XColors work with the IDL-supplied Brewer color tables without my having to do anything to them.)

I retired some really old programs that I haven't used in years, transferring some to a new branch in the SNV repository called CoyotePlus. These are mostly example programs I use in my IDL programming classes. These are also available via my web page. I'll have a link to them as soon as I make a final pass through them to be sure there is no old library code lurking about.

I also retired and renamed the following programs:

FSC\_Resize\_Image -> cgResizeImage  
PickColorName -> cgPickColorName  
Color24 -> cgColor24  
AddToPath -> cgAddToPath  
FixPS -> cgFixPS  
HasImageMagick -> cgHasImageMagick  
XStretch -> cgStretch

I also updated all the Coyote Library documentation. Aware,

of course, of how the old, incorrect documentation will live on for years in the new Documentation Center on the ExelisVis web page. ;-)

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/idldoc/cg/index.html>

I guess that's about it. I've got to go get ready for work. :-(

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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