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Subject: Semi-Transparent Images

Posted by [David](#) on Wed, 24 Oct 2012 04:40:43 GMT

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Folks,

While fooling around with the TRANSPARENT keyword to `cglImage` the other day, I realized how little I knew about transparent images when I first wrote `Make_Transparent_Image`. So, I decided I would retire that program and create a new program named `cgTransparentImage` with the functionality that the earlier program should have had, if I had known what I was doing.

So, there is a new program, `cgTransparentImage`, that can make a semi-transparent image out of any 2D or true-color image. Also, you can specify a "color" or "missing value" that is completely transparent. Optionally, you can save this image that is created as a transparent PNG file.

Essentially, then you have two ways of creating transparent images. You can do it directly with `cglImage`, like this:

```
cglImage, cgDemoData(7), CTIndex=0
cglImage, cgDemoData(5), Transparent=50, Missing_Value=0, CTIndex=22
```

Or, you can do it like this:

```
timage = cgTransparentImage(cgDemoData(5), Transparent=50, $
    Missing_Value=0, CTIndex=22)
cglImage, cgDemoData(7), CTIndex=0
cglImage, timage
```

You can find `cgTransparentImage` here:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgtransparentimage.pro>

You can find the documentation for the program here:

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

This should help, when an image is added to Google Earth, too, since transparency is often a good thing there, too.

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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