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Subject: WShow Sorta Works in IDL 8.2.2  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2013 15:15:42 GMT  
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Folks,

The command I miss the most since it mostly went away in IDL 7 is WSHOW. I must type this command (still!) a thousand times a day, no matter that it has only worked intermittently for the past several years, and is always good for a few laughs when it throws one of my other applications to the front of the display instead of the graphics window I intended.

Some work must have been done on this command for the IDL 8.2.2 release because it seems to work now in an almost understandable, if still not correct, way. ("Correct" in the sense of the way it used to work.)

I generally work with IDL filling up my entire right-hand monitor, and with my other applications layered and tiled on my left-hand monitor. I have arranged things so that IDL graphics windows (e.g., Window command) open in the left-hand monitor, so I can see them while I work in IDL.

In previous versions of IDL, when I opened a new window, it would appear on top of the applications stacked over in my left-hand monitor. In IDL 8.2.2 it now sometimes appears on top and sometimes not. This appears to be a function of the order in which I open applications on my computer. If I open IDL first, then my mail application, then graphics windows will appear \*behind\* my mail application in my left-hand window. Trying to pop it forward with WShow has no effect. I have to physically pop it forward with my mouse.

If I start my mail application first, then IDL, then the new graphics window will appear on top of my mail application in my left-hand window, and if the window gets behind my mail application, I can pop it forward with WShow.

If I put the graphics window over in the right hand window with my IDL Workbench and obstruct it with the Workbench, then WShow will pop it forward, as it is suppose to. This will be a HUGE advantage when working on a laptop computer and for teaching classes. Thank you!!!!

Now, I just have to pay attention to how I start my day, and make sure IDL is the LAST thing I start, rather than the FIRST. It goes against 25 years of training, but who says an old dog can't learn new tricks. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

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

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