
Subject: Simpler Raster Output

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 30 Nov 2013 01:10:25 GMT

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Folks,

I'm still avoiding real work today. I was thinking about Paul's comment about the "stuff we put up with" earlier this week and I realized I have been putting up with something mildly annoying for a long time. I decided to do something about it.

My practice is to write graphics programs that display themselves on my computer, but when I want to share my results with a colleague, or put the results on my web page, I create a raster file by doing something like this:

```
cgPS_Open, 'myplot.ps'  
... whatever the graphics command is here...  
cgPS_Close, /PNG
```

This creates a PostScript file (which I don't need) and converts it to a PNG file (in this case, but it could be JPEG, or TIFF, or PDF) with the same "base name" as the PostScript file (e.g, "myplot.png").

Over time, I have found myself typing the filename as "myplot.png" because that, in fact, is what I want. So, today, I just made that change.

Now, when I want a JPEG file of the graphics command, I do this:

```
cgPS_Open, 'myfile.jpg'  
... whatever the graphics command is here...  
cgPS_Close
```

The file "myfile.jpg" is created, the intermediate PostScript file is deleted automatically, and I have *exactly* what I want. Ah, it feels SO good! ;-)

You can get the updated Coyote Library files (from just moments ago, not the one I announced earlier today) here:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_files/coyotelibrary.zip

Of course, these commands also work like they always did. So, if your fingers are already trained, no worries.

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.")
