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Subject: Re: 16-bit color in IDL/Linux  
Posted by [tdarnell](#) on Wed, 20 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <33F9CE8B.14@cougar.jpl.nasa.gov>,  
Mike Ressler <ressler@cougar.jpl.nasa.gov> writes:

> I'm sure this has been asked before, but I couldn't find anything  
> in the FAQ or any of the IDL Web pages I know about. Can IDL be  
> made to work with a 16-bit TrueColor visual in the Linux version?

I've only just begun using LINUX on my PC so I am certainly no expert there, however, perhaps I can offer something useful on the IDL side. As you probably know, IDL selects the visual class the first time it connects to the X server. Since you seem pretty sure about the color levels the server is using, the problem is one of making IDL see it when it first creates a window. I presume you are using XFree86 along with some window manager, so I would start by making a startup procedure that IDL executes everytime you enter it with the following in it:

```
DEVICE,True_Color=24  
;DEVICE,Direct_Color=24  
;DEVICE,pseudo_color=8  
;WINDOW,XSIZE=512,YSIZE=512,COLORS=256  
;WINDOW,XSIZE=512,YSIZE=512,COLORS=2L^24  
WINDOW,XSIZE=512,YSIZE=512,COLORS=256  
WDELETE
```

```
HELP,/DEVICE
```

You can then uncomment out the lines (this is my start.pro) to experiment with different visual classes to see if one works. Unfortunately I don't believe you can say `DEVICE,TRUE_COLOR=16`, but I could be wrong, I've never tried it. Try a color level less than 16, say the `pseudo_color=8` mode to make sure there are colors to spare and then go up. The window manager you are using might even support `direct_color`.

If none of this worked, I'd be inclined to try another window manager because there are so many available for LINUX. I'm sure there is a problem with what IDL expects to get from it and what it is actually getting.

If none of this works, my apologies, I hope you'll post what actually ended up working, along with your setup (window manager, etc) because I'll be shifting to LINUX soon. :-)

HTH,

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