
Subject: CGM files

Posted by [Justin Ashmall](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

IDLers,

I'm attempting to produce a CGM file of a plot, however the resulting file gives a square image rather than the landscape shaped plot I'm after and also has some over-lapping text. Producing an encapsulated postscript file with the same plot commands works fine (i.e. the correct aspect ratio, no overlapping text).

Ultimately I want to get the plot into Word (I don't want to use .eps since I'm not using a PS printer). If I resize the CGM file the text becomes distorted. Outside of IDL I've tried using Ghostview to convert the .eps file to a windows meta-file which works except the resolution is very poor, leading to my curves becomes badly jagged.

Any suggestions?

Cheers,

Justin

Subject: Re: CGM files

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

rgs wrote:

- > here's some free advice, for what it's worth:
- > - wipe MSWord from your computer and mind
- > - use LaTeX & includegraphics & ps !!!

Sorry, but for me this free advice is worth its free. I have Word, use Word and it gets what I need done for me. For more sophisticated people, I don't mind that you use anything that works for you, but this is not yet a reason to throw away widely available and quitecommon package.

- > It has been my experience that bitmaps/WMF/etc look Lousy
- > in Word.

WMF and EMF are fully scalable vector file formats. At least on a PC and at least for me, they print and scale fine from Word. I wrote more than one paper this way and had no problems. The only time when this fails is when you bring Word document with WMF or EMF onto Macintosh - there all resolution in graphics is lost. As well as if you bring a Mac word

document with EPS pictures on a PC - pictures get screwed up. Given how this two platforms are different, I don't expect this to work out. But on one platform I never have problems.

> If you do follow this crooked path

Oh well; I am unlucky here, I have no freedom to buy whatever packages I want or advised to own. For my simplistic publications (as well as for many thousands other people) the pathetic Word works alright.

Cheers,
Pavel

P.S. If you want easy solutions and can do things your way, get a secretary instead of LaTeX. Just give her text and pictures, tell her what you need and when, and you don't even need to care which software she will use :-)

Subject: Re: CGM files
Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Greetings Jack,

here's some free advice, for what it's worth:
- wipe MSWord from your computer and mind
- use LaTeX & includegraphics & ps !!!

But since you asked about including figures in Word,
I suggest the following (this is what I used to do).
Even though you don't have a PS printer,
you can still install a PS driver on your
computer. You can then print to file from MSword
to create the ps file.
Then view and print to your printer with Ghostview.

It has been my experience that bitmaps/WMF/etc look Lousy
in Word. If you do follow this crooked path (and I strongly
urge latex/ps if I hadn't mentioned that yet), then
get an image editor and sharpen your images, edge enhance
them, then decrease colour number to 2 (in that order).
This helps to clean up a lot of the plots, but resized
images often get a mottled grey background. YUCK!

Good Luck,
rgs

Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>
Before you buy.

Subject: Re: CGM files

Posted by [justin_ashmall](#) on Mon, 08 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

dejastockwell@my-deja.com (rgs) wrote in <7vv8ok\$2nh\$1@nnrp1.deja.com>:

> Greetings Jack,

>

> here's some free advice, for what it's worth:

> - wipe MSWord from your computer and mind

> - use LaTeX & includegraphics & ps !!!

Although I'm not a huge Microsoft fan I'm going to have to stick up for Word here against the fashionable MS bashing goes on. Word does the trick most of the time - it can be quirky and difficult sometimes but much less so than Latex and it's derivatives. When I started out writing my thesis I spent a few weeks with Latex but decided to use Word in the end. I find not working in a WYSIYG enviroment slow and often annoying, causing me to miss small errors. Even the MS equation editor is not too bad once you've learnt the keyboard short-cuts.

> It has been my experience that bitmaps/WMF/etc look Lousy
> in Word.

Maybe you should try again - WMFs especially are handled very well giving excellent results on any screen or type of printer in my experience. I have used Word for published papers and have had no complaints.

> If you do follow this crooked path (and I strongly
> urge latex/ps if I hadn't mentioned that yet)

It's a shame that the CGI driver doesn't work properly - if it did there wouldn't be a PS vs WMF argument. I'm surprised that RS haven't sorted out a WMF driver considering the large amount of effort they have put into the Windows version of IDL (e.g. IDL as an ActiveX control).

Justin

Subject: Re: CGM files

Posted by [mdwillia](#) on Tue, 09 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Mark Hadfield <m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz> writes:

- > If you DID have a Postscript printer, then by far the best way would be
- > to use
- > the IDL PS device to generate EPS output. You can add a TIFF preview, if
- > you want, in IDL or with GSview (on Windows) or maybe Ghostview (which I
- > haven't used).
- > Without a PS printer you don't have too many satisfactory options.
- > The CGM device is pretty much useless for importing into Word, as you
- > have noted.
- > Ideally you want WMF (Windows Metafile) format but IDL does not have a
- > WMF driver. (Surely it wouldn't be that hard for them to write one!)

I use PV-WAVE to import plots and graphics into MS-WORD. The CGM driver, as of version 7.0 of PV-WAVE, works great to produce output files, with preview, that are perfectly scalable and sizable within MS-WORD. From both UNIX and Windows. If you are running PV-WAVE on Windows, then you can use the WMF driver to produce a scalable metafile that all of the Microsoft Office applications are content to import and size.

Just the rare \$0.02 from a WAVE user on the ol' comp.lang.idl-pvwave.

Regards,
M. Williams
