
Subject: writing gray scale GIFs from a 24bit machine
Posted by [reardonb](#) on Fri, 04 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Hi,
I'm having trouble creating gray scale GIF images that accurately reflect what is on my screen. I'm using a Mac and this problem does not exist when the colors are set to 256 but if the colors are set to thousands or millions I get a saved GIF image that has one color band that should be almost black but is instead almost white. I get this problem for gray scale color pallets such as loadct, 0. If I set the color pallet to loadct, 39 the saved GIF is very much like the screen image. The code I am using is the one David Fanning suggested and is attached below. I would like for this code to work on any system with any color pallet and any monitor color setting. Any help would be appreciated.
Thanks.
-Brian

```
device, decomposed=0
loadct, 0, ncolors=20, bottom=0
    wset, info.wid
    device, Get_visual_depth=thisdepth
    if thisdepth gt 8 then begin
        image24=TVRD(True = 1)
        snapshot=color_quan(image24,1,r,g,b)
    endif else begin
        snapshot = tvrd()
        tvlct, r, g, b, info.bottom, /get
    endelse
    write_gif,filename+'.gif',snapshot, r, g, b
```

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Subject: Re: writing gray scale GIFs from a 24bit machine
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 07 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Liam Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:

> I used to worry about this problem and all the other myriad possibilities
> for screw-ups in reading the display and writing an image file. But then I
> wrote SAVEIMAGE, thereby putting the intelligence into software where it
> belongs. A close reading of the code might be instructive (heaven knows I

> have to go back and read it to remember what its doing!).

Thank goodness! I thought I was the only one who wrote programs and then couldn't remember how they worked! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: writing gray scale GIFs from a 24bit machine

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Mon, 07 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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<reardonb@my-deja.com> wrote in message news:87mpv6\$[nag\\$1@nnrp1.deja.com](#)...

> Liam,

> I installed your saveimage.pro program and it is working great. Thanks!

> Unfortunately, I do not fully understand what I was doing wrong. Could

> you enlighten me? Thanks.

> -Brian

Brian,

I'm glad my SAVEIMAGE procedure is serving you well. I'm not sure what you were doing wrong: There are quite a few variables to take care of. For example, if you are using TVRD to read from any 24-bit display, you should have decomposed color turned on, e.g.

device, decomposed = 1

I used to worry about this problem and all the other myriad possibilities for screw-ups in reading the display and writing an image file. But then I wrote SAVEIMAGE, thereby putting the intelligence into software where it belongs. A close reading of the code might be instructive (heaven knows I have to go back and read it to remember what its doing!).

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu>
