
Subject: Re: "Unsupported X Windows visual" ALMOST!
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Thu, 08 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Saeid Zoonematkermani wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I seem to be having the same problem but with less severity though it is
> still rather inconvenient.
>
> This is a new machine and I installed RH 6.1 on it. Originally I was not
> able to run any graphics command and I would get the dreaded X visual
> not supported. After installing XFree86 4.0 (as suggested in an earlier
> post), the graphics started working but the window does not refresh
> itself. If any part of the plot window is covered, it is gone for good.
> Also I don't know how to get to the pseudo 8-bit mode so I can use
> standard color tables.
>
> So the questions are:
> - how do I get the window to auto refresh after being covered or
> minimized
> - how do I use standard color tables
>
> Below is the output from 'help, /device'. The graphic card is Diamond
> Viper 770D which uses NVIDIA TNT2 chipset.
>
> Any advice is greatly appreciated. Thanks,
>
> - Saeid Zoonematkermani
> -----
> IDL Version 5.2 (linux x86). Research Systems, Inc.
> IDL> help, /device
> Current graphics device: X
> Server: X11.0, The XFree86 Project, Inc, Release 4000
> Display Depth, Size: 24 bits, (1280,1024)
> Visual Class: TrueColor (4)
> Bits Per RGB: 8
> Physical Color Map Entries (Used / Total): 256 / 256
> Colormap: Private, 16777216 colors. Translation table: Enabled
> Graphics pixels: Decomposed, Dither Method: Ordered
> Write Mask: 16777215 (decimal) ffffff (hex)
> Graphics Function: 3 (copy)
> Current Font: <default>, Current TrueType Font: <default>
> Default Backing Store: Req from Server.

I recommend the following startup file. Set the environment variable IDL_STARTUP to point to the full path and name for this file, e.g.

```
% setenv IDL_STARTUP $HOME/idl_startup.pro
```

or

```
$ export IDL_STARTUP=$HOME/idl_startup.pro
```

```
;--- cut here ---
```

```
if !version.os_family eq 'unix' then device, true_color=24  
window, /free, /pixmap, colors=-10  
wdelete, !d.window  
device, decomposed=0, retain=2, set_character_size=[10, 12]  
device, get_visual_depth=depth  
print, 'Display depth: ', depth  
print, 'Color table size: ', !d.table_size  
;--- cut here ---
```

If your Xserver supports 8-bit mode, then replacing 'true_color=24' with 'pseudo_color=8' will start IDL in 8-bit mode. Otherwise you will have to reconfigure your Xserver to start in 8-bit (256 color) mode.

Cheers,
Liam.

--

Liam E. Gumley
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Subject: Re: "Unsupported X Windows visual" ALMOST!
Posted by [Vincent Favre-Nicolin](#) on Thu, 08 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

I don't work much now using IDL +linux but I may have some ideas for my struggle a few months ago.

Saeid Zoonematkermani wrote:

> So the questions are:

> - how do I get the window to auto refresh after being covered or

> minimized

As for the refresh settings, you should use the 'device,retain=X', where X=1 or 2 to ask IDL or the system to do the backstore.

> - how do I use standard color tables

As for using the pseudo 8-mode, I'm afraid it is not supported by XFree. This is an X server problem. Try (in a linux shell, not in IDL) 'xdpyinfo'. This will give you all modes currently supported by your X server.

AFAIK, XFree in truecolor mode does not support pseudocolor, or DirectColor (you need either one for manipulating color tables) So either you change your global X color depth and view everything in 8-bit mode (this *may* add support to pseudo color), or you must use another X server (not free), which supports either pseudocolor, or DirectColor.

I know there is a 100\$ or so X Server which you can try, but I can't remember the name.

The only other way to go is to use TrueColor instead of pseudocolor... Depending on your program, you may or may not want to give up using color tables...

Hope this helped

VFN

PS: a *very* similar question was asked in january or december, so you may want to make a research via dejanews

--

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Subject: Re: "Unsupported X Windows visual" ALMOST!

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Wed, 14 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Saeid Zoonematkermani wrote:

> So the questions are:

> - how do I get the window to auto refresh after being covered or

> minimized

Try DEVICE, RETAIN=2, this tells IDL to store the parts of the windows which are covered by others. On my SUN here, DEVICE, RETAIN=1 works fine and faster, because the SUN Xserver can do the backing store himself.

The RETAIN option can also be given as a keyword to WINDOW and WIDGET_DRAW.

> - how do I use standard color tables

DEVICE, PSEUDO=8 should do the trick. XFree < 4.0 cannot handle this, but I heard that with 4.0 it is possible to mix 8-bit and 24-bit applications. If it doesn't work, another possibility is to start a new Xserver in 8 bit mode:

```
startx -- -bpp 8 :1
```

This starts a new Xserver with 8 bit depth on the display 1. You have to switch between the sessions via Ctrl-Alt-F7/F8, but it works.

Alex
