
Subject: Re: Is my terminal an X-device from IDL?
Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 04 Jan 1994 18:29:39 GMT
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sjt@xun8.sr.bham.ac.uk (James Tappin) writes:

> Is there any way (other than waiting for the error message on trying to open a
> window or a widget) to tell from within IDL whether the user is using an
> X-terminal or workstation.

> The particular problem I have in mind is a piece of software which can be run
> either from widgets or via a command line interface, with the widget interface
> to start up if possible. This works nicely by using the !D.FLAGS to check if
> widgets are available for the current device, but I haven't been able to find
> a way (suitable for unsophisticated users) to check whether the X-device can
> be opened.

> --

> James Tappin, School of Physics & Space Research
> University of Birmingham

In Unix you should be able to check for a nonempty environment variable
DISPLAY. The VMS equivalent seems to be DECW\$DISPLAY. Therefore, something
like the following should work:

```
IF !VERSION.OS EQ 'vms' THEN ENV = 'DECW$DISPLAY' ELSE ENV = 'DISPLAY'  
IF STRLEN(GETENV(ENV)) NE 0 THEN ... ;Have X-windows
```

One could add a few more IF statements to take care of IDL for Windows and IDL
for MacIntosh which always have windows/widgets, even though not X-windows.

Bill Thompson
