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Subject: Re: Window Background  
Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Sat, 04 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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Eric Kihn wrote:

> Hello all,  
>  
> Since I got such a great response to my last post I thought I'd try one  
> more time. Thanks to JD I got the code running but now the  
> behaviour on Windows and Linux is different. On the Linux side my plot  
> window comes up with a white background, on the Windows side a black one.  
> Same code and version of IDL 5.3. Since I need the white BG I tried  
> !P.BACKGROUND = 255 on windows but no change.  
>  
> [code snipped]

I just do

```
erase,color='ffffff'x
```

and then

```
plot,whatever,color=some_other_color,/noer
```

This strikes me as totally inelegant but seems to work fine.

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Subject: Re: Window Background  
Posted by [eak](#) on Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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David,

Well in that case I may have a problem...

From the windows command line I tried:

```
IDL> r = [ 255, 68, 87, 58, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 8, 93, 169,  
255, 255, 255, 255, 0]  
IDL> g = [ 255, 0, 0, 0, 8, 97, 182, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255,  
255, 170, 80, 0, 0]  
IDL> b = [ 255, 72, 145, 218, 255, 255, 255, 242, 165, 80, 0, 0, 0,  
0, 0, 0, 0, 0]  
IDL> tvlct, r, g, b  
IDL> !P.Background = 0  
IDL> window
```

And I get a window with a black background. I'm using IDL 5.2 under NT.

I am actually able to work around this ok by using the fix posted by Med (Thanks)

```
erase,color='ffffff'x
```

And I suppose with a comment in the code I'll even know what's 6 months from now :).

I did notice that my Windows IDL is 5.2 and 5.3 under Linux. Anyway I'm mainly posting this to document a solution for other who might read the group.

Thanks,

BTW: Looking forward to the new book. I'm sure direct graphics solves all these problems :).

"David Fanning" <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote in message  
news:MPG.14706c829a8b0a16989c6c@news.frii.com...

> Eric Kihn (ekihn@ngdc.noaa.gov) writes:

>

>> Since I got such a great response to my last post I thought I'd try one=

>> =20

>> more time. Thanks to JD I got the code running but now the=20

>> behaviour on Windows and Linux is different. On the Linux side my  
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one=

>> .

>> Same code and version of IDL 5.3. Since I need the white BG I tried=20

>> !P.BACKGROUND =3D 255 on windows but no change.

>

> What you really should be doing here is setting the background

> color value to the index of the white color in the color

> vectors you are using. You loaded a white color into index

> 0. So your code should look like this:

>

> TVLCT, r, g, b

> !P.Background = 0

>

> \*Then\* if you don't get what you are looking for,

> you might have other problems.

>

> I tend to prefer to ask for colors by name. I have

> recently upgraded some of the color tools on my  
> web page to recognize 88 different colors by name.  
> (I even added the capability of adding your own  
> color names and values as a color value file.) The  
> advantage of this method is that it *\*always\** gives  
> me the correct color on all machines and in any  
> color decomposition state (if I am using IDL 5.2 or  
> higher where I can tell what the color decomposition  
> state is).

>  
> For example, if I want to create background, axes, and  
> data plotting colors, I would write my code like this:

```
>
> axisColor = FSC_COLOR("Green", !D.Table_Size-2)
> backColor = FSC_COLOR("Charcoal", !D.Table_Size-3)
> dataColor = FSC_COLOR("Yellow", !D.Table_Size-4)
> Plot, Findgen(11), Color=axisColor, Background=backColor, /NoData
> OPlot, Findgen(11), Color=dataColor
>
```

> This works for all machines in any color decomposition space.

>  
> In addition to FSC\_COLOR, the new program PICKCOLORNAME will  
> allow the user to interactively select a new color name for  
> use with FSC\_COLOR:

```
>
> ; Set new data color.
>
> datacolor = PickColorName("Yellow")
> data = Reverse(Findgen(11))
> OPLOT, data, Color=FSC_COLOR(datacolor, !D.Table_Size-4)
>
```

> To see a list of the 88 colors available, type this:

```
>
> IDL> Print, FSC_COLOR(/Names)
>
```

> Or, to see an interactive list of the color names and  
> the actual colors:

```
>
> IDL> color = PickColorName('dark gray')
>
```

> You can find the programs here:

```
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_color.pro
> http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pickcolorname.pro
>
```

> Cheers,  
>  
> David

> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting  
> Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: Window Background  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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Eric Kihn ([ekihn@ngdc.noaa.gov](mailto:ekihn@ngdc.noaa.gov)) writes:

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TVLCT, r, g, b  
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\*Then\* if you don't get what you are looking for, you might have other problems.

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http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pickcolorname.pro
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

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