
Subject: Change default value of system variable?
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Fri, 23 Feb 2001 16:54:58 GMT
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I prefer to plot with black lines on a white background, so in my
idl_startup file I include

```
!P.BACKGROUND = COLOR_24('white') ;Set background color to white  
!P.COLOR      = COLOR_24('black') ;Set default draw color to black
```

(COLOR_24 is my own routine.)

This works fine until I change plot devices and then change back, viz.

```
flow>idl  
IDL Version 5.3 (IRIX mipseb). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.  
IDL> PRINT, !P.BACKGROUND, !P.COLOR  
    16777215      0  
IDL> SET_PLOT, 'PS'  
IDL> SET_PLOT, 'X'  
IDL> PRINT, !P.BACKGROUND, !P.COLOR  
      0      255
```

This means that I have to include code to set !P.BACKGROUND and
!P.COLOR in every time I switch graphics devices. Is there any way to
change the default value of a built-in system variable?

Thanks, Ken

Subject: Re: Change default value of system variable?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 26 Feb 2001 16:31:07 GMT
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Liam E. Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:

```
> How about including this in your startup file:  
>  
> tvlct, 255B, 255B, 255B, 0  
> tvlct, 0B, 0B, 0B, !d.table_size - 1  
> device, decomposed=0  
>  
> You should get black on a white background by default:
```

Well, certainly until someone loads a color table
or changes the decomposition state to display a
24-bit image. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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Subject: Re: Change default value of system variable?

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Mon, 26 Feb 2001 16:38:12 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

```
>
> Liam E. Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:
>
>> How about including this in your startup file:
>>
>> tvlct, 255B, 255B, 255B, 0
>> tvlct, 0B, 0B, 0B, !d.table_size - 1
>> device, decomposed=0
>>
>> You should get black on a white background by default:
>
> Well, certainly until someone loads a color table
> or changes the decomposition state to display a
> 24-bit image. :-)
```

Quite right. You either play with the color indexes, or the color table itself. At least there are no writable system variables involved in this method.

As for turning the decomposition state on or off to display 24-bit images, I let IMDISP take care of it:

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/imdisp.html>

Cheers,

Liam.

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

Subject: Re: Change default value of system variable?

Posted by [R.G.S.](#) on Mon, 26 Feb 2001 18:47:41 GMT

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I do the same thing, and am constantly annoyed at the switching of the defaults.

How about the following:

```
.*****  
;  
pro setplot,devicestring  
; set the plot and save/restore the !p information  
  
oldp = !p  
set_plot,devicestring  
!p=oldp  
  
end  
.*****  
;  
  
; Useage here  
  
; mainlevel test code here  
  
; HEY, specific numbers here, assuming 256 colours  
!p.color = 0  
!p.background = 255  
  
window,0  
erase ; on my comp, the screen starts out black  
plot,findgen(10),tit='window first'  
  
setplot,'ps'  
plot,findgen(10),tit='ps'  
device,/close  
  
setplot,'win'  
window,1  
erase  
plot,findgen(10),tit='window again'  
  
end
```

Cheers,
bob stockwell
stockwel at co-ra dot com

K. Bowman <k-bowman@null.tamu.edu> wrote in message
news:230220011054580017%k-bowman@null.tamu.edu...

>
> I prefer to plot with black lines on a white background, so in my
> idl_startup file I include

Subject: Re: Change default value of system variable?
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 27 Feb 2001 12:05:14 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

>
> Liam E. Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:
>
>> How about including this in your startup file:
>>
>> tvlct, 255B, 255B, 255B, 0
>> tvlct, 0B, 0B, 0B, !d.table_size - 1
>> device, decomposed=0
>>
>> You should get black on a white background by default:
>
> Well, certainly until someone loads a color table
> or changes the decomposition state to display a
> 24-bit image. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

... but of course you could write a little widget program that uses a
timer event and redefines these colors every second or so ;-)

Cheers,

Martin

--

[[Dr. Martin Schultz Max-Planck-Institut fuer Meteorologie [[
[[Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg [[
[[phone: +49 40 41173-308 [[

[[
[[

Subject: Re: Change default value of system variable?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 27 Feb 2001 23:36:05 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman (kbowman@null.net) writes:

> Well, I'm glad to know it isn't *easy* to change the default background
> color from black to white. ;-)

Easy!? You should try it with Matlab. Can be done
with column vectors, apparently. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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