
Subject: Problems importing IDL postscript from TV output into Adobe Illustrator
Posted by [ejensen1](#) on Tue, 21 May 2002 18:57:52 GMT

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I'm using IDL 5.3 under Linux to create some postscript files that I'd like to include in an Adobe Illustrator document. This works fine with line drawings (PLOT, CONTOUR, etc.) but if I create a postscript file using TV (or David Fanning's TVIMAGE), I cannot import it into Illustrator. When I try to open the postscript file in Illustrator or place it into an Illustrator document, one of two things happens:

1. If I created the postscript file without setting it to be encapsulated (i.e. 'device, Encapsulated=0'), I get the error "The MPS parser is unable to parse the file".
2. If I create an encapsulated postscript file (using 'device, Encapsulated=1') then the open just fails silently. It opens an empty document (or if I'm placing an image in an open document, nothing happens - I don't even get an empty rectangle indicating a blank object placed there).

Note that Illustrator doesn't need an embedded preview - it will quite happily display non-encapsulated postscript files with no previews that I've created in IRAF or PGPLOT (or even IDL with PLOT, but not with TV).

Choice of color table doesn't seem to matter, nor does using /COLOR or not for the postscript device.

Under Linux, I can open the offending postscript files with ghostview, and they print with no problem.

Does anyone have any idea what's going on, or other things to try? I've looked around David Fanning's book and website and didn't find any clues there, nor is there anything obvious in Adobe's Illustrator support docs on their site.

My system: IDL 5.3 under Redhat Linux 6.2; Illustrator 10.0.1 under Mac OS X 10.1.3

Here's a minimal program that will generate a postscript file that causes this problem:

```
pro test_tv, myfile, encap

loadct, 0
set_plot, 'ps'
```

```
device, file=myfile, Encapsulated=encap
; Make a 100x100 image with random pixels from
; 0 to 2^8 (to get random 8-bit grayscale pixels)
x = randomu(seed, 100, 100)*(2.^8 - 1)
tv, x
device, /close

end
```

Thanks in advance for your help.

Eric Jensen
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
Swarthmore College

Subject: Re: Problems importing IDL postscript from TV output into Adobe Illustrator
Posted by [Michael L. Kaiser](#) on Wed, 22 May 2002 12:18:45 GMT
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Using IDL 5.3 running under UNIX on our Sun workstations, I import (into Illustrator on my PC) files created with TV all the time without any problems. I've been doing this regularly since IDL 3.x, so I doubt your problem has to do with the IDL version.

Mike Kaiser kaiser@panacea.gsfc.nasa.gov

"Eric Jensen" <ejensen1@swarthmore.edu> wrote in message news:245670e3.0205211057.466f3b5e@posting.google.com...

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> Eric Jensen
> Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
> Swarthmore College

Subject: Re: Problems importing IDL postscript from TV output into Adobe Illustrator
Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Wed, 22 May 2002 14:14:12 GMT
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I just tried your code... I observe the same problem with Illustrator 10.0
under OS X. Even after using 'ps2ps' to remove dodgy postscript, I still

have problems... I don't have version 9 installed anymore but I don't remember this being a problem before.

Cheers,
Randall

On Wed, 22 May 2002, Mike Kaiser wrote:

```
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>> Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
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>
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Subject: Re: Problems importing IDL postscript from TV output into Adobe Illustrator
Posted by [ejensen1](#) on Wed, 22 May 2002 18:42:49 GMT

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Rick Towler kindly sent me some postscript files created with IDL 5.5,
and I observe the same problem as with IDL 5.3, so I can verify that
it's not caused by the postscript bug that RSI fixed after IDL 5.3.

I also tried running Illustrator 9.0.2 in Classic mode under OS X,
and I have the same problem (with the small difference that both
encapsulated and non-encapsulated files fail silently, giving a
blank page, rather than the latter giving a parser error).

Subject: Re: Problems importing IDL postscript from TV output into Adobe Illustrator

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 23 May 2002 07:35:47 GMT

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Eric Jensen wrote:

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Dear all,

I am often using scribus

<http://web2.altmuehlnet.de/fschmid/>

Scribus is a Layout program for Linux^½, similar to Adobe^½ PageMaker,
QuarkXPress, Adobe^½ InDesign,
except that it is published under the GNU GPL.

I have successfully read in your image and I am able to save it in eps.
If you are interested I could mail you the result.

Another problem we have had at the linux is solved by this too.
The eps output is in cmyk and if you like you can do color separations.

regards

Reimar

>

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> Thanks in advance for your help.
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> Eric Jensen
> Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
> Swarthmore College

--

Reimar Bauer

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Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.h tml](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)
=====
