
Subject: Re: IDL/Linux color table problems
Posted by [David Oesch](#) on Tue, 03 Dec 2002 15:07:04 GMT
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Try

http://www.rsinc.com/services/output.cfm?tip_id=3318

Cheers

Dave

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Remote Sensing is...
Staying as far away from the problem as possible.
- G. Archer, World Bank

Subject: Re: IDL/Linux color table problems
Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Tue, 03 Dec 2002 17:22:02 GMT
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"David Oesch" <oesch@giub.unibe.ch> wrote in message
news:3DECC898.4070306@giub.unibe.ch...

> Try

>

> http://www.rsinc.com/services/output.cfm?tip_id=3318

This tip really only applies to IDL 5.5 on some 24-bit X servers. The OP is using IDL 5.4 and probably an 8-bit X server.

It is hard to diagnose the problem exactly, but this sounds like the classic X "technicolor" problem that is common to many color intensive applications running on 8-bit X servers. There is some discussion of this issue in the IDL docs. The basic problem arises because multiple X clients are competing for a limited set of colors in the 256-color X color table (colormap). Here are a few general suggestions:

- Configure your X server to start in 16-bit or 24-bit mode, if your video system supports it. If you are running XFree86, try one of the various X configurator programs that come with your Linux distro.
- Reduce the color requirements of your other clients. This might mean shutting down some "color hogs" like image editors and viewers.
- Your window manager and desktop gadgets are clients too. Many desktops have applets that let you set the number of colors your desktop will use up. In the extreme case, you can perhaps get it down to two - black and white, as is possible with CDE.
- Reduce the color demands of IDL. See the IDL help items for using color in the X windows environment.

If you are absolutely stuck on 8-bit and your IDL app needs to display (nearly) 256 private colors, then it is pretty hard to avoid the flashing "technicolor" effect. A lot of 8-bit X windows users accept and tolerate this effect; it has been around for over a decade.

We can get into more detail here, if you like.

Karl

Subject: Re: IDL/Linux color table problems

Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2002 08:41:38 GMT

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Chris wrote:

>
> Can someone point me to some good fixes for dealing with the color
> table problem when running IDL under Linux? (When I load a color table
> into IDL under linux, I only get grey-scaled images unless I grab the
> window - at which time it takes over the color table for the rest of
> the display). FWIW, I'm working with IDL 5.4, on Redhat Linux.
>
> TIA,
>
> Chris

I had the same behaviour since IDL used the DirectColor visual.
Just put "idl.gr_visual: TrueColor" in your .Xdefaults file.
Then it will use TrueColor instead.

regards,

B.St.

--

Bringfried Stecklum

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