
Subject: Re: PNGs with alpha channel?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 01 Feb 2003 06:40:05 GMT

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Paul Woodford (cpwoodford@spamcop.net) writes:

> Can IDL read and/or write PNGs with an alpha channel?

It would appear so in IDL 5.6, at least.

> I've tried

> reading a PNG that I believe has an alpha channel using IDL 5.4, but I

> do not see the alpha channel.

What do you mean by "do not see" it? It doesn't have a fourth dimension, or you can't get the alpha channel to do anything? What are you trying to do with the alpha channel?

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: PNGs with alpha channel?

Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Sun, 02 Feb 2003 20:49:18 GMT

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In article <MPG.18a519b4b9809640989abe@news.frii.com>,
David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

> What do you mean by "do not see" it? It doesn't have a fourth
> dimension, or you can't get the alpha channel to do anything?

It doesn't have a fourth dimension.

> What are you trying to do with the alpha channel?

Overlay images with transparency; some of the images are generated within IDL, and some elsewhere.

Might be time to check out 5.6...

Paul

Subject: Re: PNGs with alpha channel?

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 04 Feb 2003 00:01:28 GMT

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"Paul Woodford" wrote in message

> David Fanning wrote:

>

>> What do you mean by "do not see" it? It doesn't have a fourth

>> dimension, or you can't get the alpha channel to do anything?

>

> It doesn't have a fourth dimension.

It may not. Depending on how the image was created you may have to create the 4,n,m image yourself using the data from the TRANSPARENT keyword . The PNG spec allows for full alpha support and a sort of 1-bit support where specific pixels are considered transparent.

FWIW, I read 4 channel .png files regularly going back to at least 5.3 with a simple:

```
image = READ_PNG('myimage.png')
```

-Rick

Subject: Re: PNGs with alpha channel?

Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 2003 04:35:20 GMT

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In article <b1n03l\$33es\$1@nntp6.u.washington.edu>,

"Rick Towler" <rtowler@u.washington.edu> wrote:

> Depending on how the image was created you may have to create

> the 4,n,m image yourself using the data from the TRANSPARENT keyword.

Aha! That does it, at least for color images. It doesn't seem to work for grayscale images.

Paul
