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Subject: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [Ralph.Gailis](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 2003 00:52:47 GMT  
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Has anyone tried to produce PostScript output from iTools (in particular iPlot)? The only way I can find is to select File->Print from the menu, and then check the box "Print to File". This doesn't seem to produce the same quality as PostScript generated from direct graphics using the PS device. Fonts, symbols and lines appear somewhat blurry, much the same way as exporting a plot figure to an image file format such as bitmap, jpeg etc.

If PostScript is not the answer, is there some other way of creating publication quality figures (such as for a journal article) using iPlot? Exporting to some image file format (which appears to be the only option at present) just doesn't give acceptable results.

Are there any plans to give PostScript support to iTools, such as is currently available for direct graphics, in a future release?

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Subject: Re: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2003 00:48:16 GMT  
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Ralph Gailis writes:

- > Has anyone tried to produce PostScript output from iTools (in particular iPlot)?
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- > box "Print to File". This doesn't seem to produce the same quality as PostScript
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- > file format such as bitmap, jpeg etc.

As I understand it, object graphics output to PostScript can only be accomplished currently by sending an "image" to PostScript.

- > If PostScript is not the answer, is there some other way of creating publication
- > quality figures (such as for a journal article) using iPlot? Exporting to some
- > image file format (which appears to be the only option at present) just doesn't
- > give acceptable results.

Oh, well. Back to MPI\_PLOT, I guess. :-)

[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/mpi\\_plot.zip](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/mpi_plot.zip)

- > Are there any plans to give PostScript support to iTools, such as is currently
- > available for direct graphics, in a future release?

If RSI has been paying attention (I'm sure they have been), then they are well aware that a vector engine for object graphics PostScript output would be a GOOD IDEA. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@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: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2003 01:38:27 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Ralph Gailis writes:

>

>

>> Has anyone tried to produce PostScript output from iTools (in particular iPlot)?

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>

> As I understand it, object graphics output to PostScript  
> can only be accomplished currently by sending an "image"  
> to PostScript.

Not so. Object graphics output to Postscript can be done in raster or vector form, depending on the setting of the VECTOR keyword.

However to the best of my knowledge, vector Postscript output is not available from iTools. There are probably two reasons for this:

- \* Nobody got around to it
- \* Vector renditions of object graphics have various peculiarities and limitations, as described in the documentation.

--

Mark Hadfield            "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"  
[m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz](mailto:m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz)  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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Subject: Re: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2003 01:54:07 GMT  
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Mark Hadfield writes:

- > Not so. Object graphics output to Postscript can be done in raster or
- > vector form, depending on the setting of the VECTOR keyword.
- >
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- > available from iTools. There are probably two reasons for this:
- >
- > \* Nobody got around to it
- > \* Vector renditions of object graphics have various peculiarities
- > and limitations, as described in the documentation.

I realize the VECTOR keyword is available for the CLIPBOARD object, but I think this is a hacked together vector approximation rather than a true vector engine, in the sense that IDL writes true vector output in direct graphics PostScript. I think they would have "gotten around to it" if it had been any good. I suspect they are waiting to do it right before they talk about it.

For what it's worth, I always hear "yes, yes, yes" whenever I bring it up with them. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: [david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)  
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Subject: Re: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [John Mariska](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2003 14:31:23 GMT  
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Mark Hadfield <[m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz](mailto:m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz)> writes:

- > David Fanning wrote:

>> Ralph Gailis writes:  
>>  
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>  
> --  
> Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"  
> m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz  
> National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

I was once very excited about iTools, especially after RSI spent a morning giving us a demo here at NRL. In my view, it would at last provide a way to prepare figures for publication without going through all the usual agony of placing labels and text at various places on the figure. Thus it was a major disappointment to discover that iTools are basically useless for producing figures for publication. Virtually all publishers require that figures be submitted as encapsulated postscript. (Color figures usually need to be CMYK postscript files--another place RSI has not helped much, though I hear they are working on it.)

John Mariska  
Naval Research Laboratory  
mariska@nrl.navy.mil

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Subject: Re: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2003 16:48:13 GMT  
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John Mariska writes:

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> not helped much, though I hear they are working on it.)

I've heard from my usual anonymous sources this morning  
that RSI is well aware of these problems and that the  
calvary is on the way. Tell your boss you want to "think  
deeply" about the problem you are working on and don't  
want to publish until you are sure you won't embarrass  
him. He'll appreciate the extra time it takes. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: PostScript output from iTools  
Posted by [Ralph.Gailis](#) on Thu, 20 Nov 2003 23:33:23 GMT  
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David Fanning <[david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)> wrote in message  
news:<MPG.1a22a9b62448b6fc98973f@news.frii.com>...

> John Mariska writes:

>

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> deeply" about the problem you are working on and don't  
> want to publish until you are sure you won't embarrass  
> him. He'll appreciate the extra time it takes. :-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

Oh well, seeing the wisdom out there on PostScript from iTools,  
I guess that I will just forget about using iTools for now - it  
doesn't seem much use to me. I like IDL Direct Graphics for being  
able to write automated programs to produce LOTS of figures  
automatically when crunching through big datasets, but when it  
comes to producing some final figures for publication which  
require a lot of tweaking, it can be a hassle to have to spend  
the time writing a program for each one (or using the command line  
in a slow and iterative process). I thought that iTools might  
be the answer, but no...

Cheers,  
Ralph.

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