
Subject: Another VM conundrum

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2003 18:22:09 GMT

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Having fixed my main-level XManager issues (thankfully fairly trivial), I now find myself with another problem. Typically, I recommend setting something like:

```
device,DECOMPOSED=0,TRUE=16,RETAIN=2
```

in your IDL startup file, where RETAIN=2 is good for most Linux machines (whose window managers don't provide decent backing store), DECOMPOSED=0 is immortalized on David's site, and TRUE=16 is just for good measure, for those X servers which **claim** to offer DirectColor but don't really (sadly, not few in the Linux world). However, I leave it up to the end user to find some combination of device incantations which work for them.

That's fine for interactive usage, but with a runtime/VM application, the startup file is never consulted, so you need to perform these device incantations yourself in the code. Has anyone solved this problem in a platform-independent way? Would something like:

```
device,DECOMPOSED=0,RETAIN=2
```

always be safe, even for older 8-bit PSEUDOCOLOR machines? Or is there some method of interrogating DEVICE for info before making a final decision on RETAIN and color-model settings? What guidance from the IDL color gurus?

Thanks,

JD
