
Subject: Re: IDL Unix Color Problem

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 08 Mar 2006 03:33:09 GMT

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> any help on this will be greatly appreciated.....

First, try this: <http://dfanning.com/documents/tips.html#UsingColors>

If that fails, create a small bit of sample code that demonstrates the problem and let us take a look at what you're trying to do. Code is much easier to debug than general ideas. :-)

-Mike

Subject: Re: IDL Unix Color Problem

Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Wed, 08 Mar 2006 13:10:56 GMT

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I had a similar problem a while ago porting some color png creating code to a web server that only has 256 colors. I was already using the Z-Buffer on my development platform because RSI has so far been unable to provide us with decent looking fonts in direct graphics. So the only way around this is to create this huge Z-Buffer and downsample later. However, I made originally the mistake of setting the color table prior to switching to the Z-Buffer. This worked fine on the development platform, but messed up the colors on the server. So, make sure you FIRST switch to the Z-Buffer and THEN set the colorbar.

Haje

"twooard" <woodards@myrealbox.com> wrote in message
news:1141781197.120409.286070@e56g2000cwe.googlegroups.com.. .

> I am sure this has been covered many time before but here goes

>

> First

> I am in the midst of deploying a large complex program

>

> Development Server Solaris 8 IDL 6.1 Oracle DB Jdeveloper

>

> Deploying to

>

> Server1 Oracle DB Solaris 10

> Server2 Solaris 9 IDL 6.2--Web based env Web Server OC4J pages and

> xslt's built in jdeveloper

>

> All IDL Programs are non-interactive and produce png files for use in a

> browser across the network--called from java pages and accessing files
> produced by the DB.
>
> First problem encountered and fixed. we got a zlib mit_magic_cookie
> error and detiremined this was a unix problem resolving the xserver
> address. we found a program Xvfb and set the xwindow display to :1.0
> (setenv DISPLAY :1.0) and zlib was solved. typing hosts + at the term
> screen fixed the cookie error
>
> This all sounds and is very ugly and confusing....
>
> That being said 50% of the programs (coded by many people) work perfect
> on server2 all work on the development server. All programs run at the
> command prompt and produce results (png). Half the idl programs
> produce black pictures and if you tweak the color table you can see it
> is also producing kind of a triple picture.
>
> We have narrowed it (I think) to being an issue where we need to use a
> z-buffer this is how we got the black pictures. We are currently using
> tvlct and setting a custom color table r,g,b.
>
> I have noticed some differences in the display while in IDL on the
> developement server and the deployment server. one running 24 bit
> color and one running 8 bit. the resolution is different also.
>
> any help on this will be greatly appreciated.....
>
> T
>

Subject: Re: IDL Unix Color Problem

Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Wed, 08 Mar 2006 15:15:33 GMT

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Any program which displays graphics in an X window should work just fine under Xvfb. In fact, there is no need to use the Z-buffer if you can use Xvfb.

However, if you are maintaining code which is already hardwired to use the Z buffer, you need to explicitly set the number of colors and the font size in the Z buffer for consistent results across platforms. For example:

```
set_plot, 'Z'  
device, z_buffering=0, set_resolution=[800, 600], $  
  set_colors=256, set_character_size=[10, 12]
```

will set the Z buffer to 800 x 600 pixels with 256 colors.

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>
