
Subject: Re: Anything in IDL like R's Copy to Clipboard As a Metafile?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Apr 2006 20:09:27 GMT

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Earl F. Glynn writes:

- > I'm new to IDL and I'm looking for functionality that works well in R.
- >
- > With any R graphic, I can click on "File" and select Copy to Clipboard and
- > then select "As a Metafile" or "As a Bitmap". Usually the Metafiles work
- > great when pasted into Word documents.
- >
- > Did I miss something in the IDL documentation about a quick and easy way to
- > get IDL graphics into Word (of course, Alt-PrintScreen does work, but it's a
- > bit crude). The only solution I see now is to create a graphic file and
- > then import it back into Word, which will be quite tedious compared with
- > what R provides.

This can be done crudely with the (very) old program, Clipboard,
described in this article:

<http://www.dfanning.com/tips/clipboard.html>

I see there are new keywords now for the clipboard object
DRAW method that will allow enhanced metafile output.
Such a thing could easily be added to the program, although
the fundamental restriction is that the "thing" being drawn
is a screen dump of the graphics window, as an image. So you
have all the normal resolution issues with that.

Absent the new keywords you might choose to add, I believe
the image is put into Windows applications as a bitmap.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Subject: Re: Anything in IDL like R's Copy to Clipboard As a Metafile?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 06 Apr 2006 22:13:25 GMT

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Earl F. Glynn wrote:

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> With any R graphic, I can click on "File" and select Copy to Clipboard and
> then select "As a Metafile" or "As a Bitmap". Usually the Metafiles work
> great when pasted into Word documents.

The "File" menu? Surely it should be in the Edit menu :)

>
> Did I miss something in the IDL documentation about a quick and easy way to
> get IDL graphics into Word (of course, Alt-PrintScreen does work, but it's a
> bit crude). The only solution I see now is to create a graphic file and
> then import it back into Word, which will be quite tedious compared with
> what R provides.

The basic facilities to do this are in IDL, but to access them you need
a "smart plotting window" application.

The iTools will do this. Eg, type "iplot, indgen(11)" and then select
the "Edit/Copy" menu item, but *first* go to "File/Properties/General
Settings" and change "Clipboard output format" from "Bitmap" to "Metafile".

There are smart plotting window objects in my Motley library, still
hosted by David at

<http://www.dfanning.com/hadfield/idl/README.html>

(though he keeps threatening to pull the plug and become a tennis bum).

Try `mgf_example_plot`, which creates an object-graphics plot in an
`mgf_window` object, or one of its subclasses. Select "Edit/Copy/Vector".

Or try "`mgf_example_dgwindow`", which creates a direct-graphics plot in
an `mgf_dgwindow` object. This supports only bitmap output to the clipboard
at the moment, via the "Edit/Copy" menu item, but I think facilities now
exist in IDL to support direct-graphics vector output to the clipboard.

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