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Subject: Interactive Image Locations and Values

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 16 Mar 2008 21:26:51 GMT

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Folks,

I'm not sure what is happening to me, but I find myself more and more longing for simpler days. I'm either going retro or getting older, one.

To this end, I find myself needing a way to interact with images I display in IDL direct graphics windows, but I don't want to go to all the trouble of writing an IDL widget program to do it. I just want to display the damn thing and then click on it to find out the location where I clicked and the value. And, of course, I want to do this no matter where I placed the image in the window, no matter how big the image is, etc. I want to have my cake and eat it, too.

If you have read this newsgroup for any length of time, you know this is generally impossible. But, occasionally, there are advances that get us closer to the ideal. TVINFO, a new program I've written may be one of those advances. At least it works pretty good for me.

[http://www.dfanning.com/graphics\\_tips/tvinfo.html](http://www.dfanning.com/graphics_tips/tvinfo.html)

TVINFO works together with TVIMAGE or TVSCALE to allow interactive inquiry of your displayed image. Simply display the image with either TVIMAGE or TVSCALE and at any time later,\* you can use TVINFO to click on the displayed image and return the image location where you clicked the image, and its value at that location.

Naturally, there are caveats. I've gone to some trouble in the code to keep you from shooting yourself in the foot, but this is IDL circa 1975 (complete with Common blocks and the CURSOR command), so I can't protect you from all the foolish things you might try to do.

But if, like me, you are a direct graphics dinosaur and you need this capability, it's not so bad.

You will need updated versions of TVIMAGE and TVSCALE to be able to use the TVINFO functionality:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/tvimage.pro>

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/tvscale.pro>  
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/tvinfo.pro>

Other Coyote Library routines are also required. Details can be found in the TVINFO documentation header.

Cheers,

David

\*The phase "any time later" assumes that you want to interact with the LAST image you displayed, and you haven't resized the image graphics window, etc., etc. There are a number of reasonable restrictions, but you will get the idea.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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