
Subject: [Q] Using a macintosh as a X terminal for IDL

Posted by [carton](#) on Fri, 28 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Is anyone using a macintosh computer as a X terminal for IDL ?
What software do you use, and what settings do you use on the UNIX side ?
(ie. do you have to set IDL_DEVICE to the X terminal address or do any
settings regarding the color tables)

Thanks in advance,

John Carton

Subject: Re: [Q] Using a macintosh as a X terminal for IDL

Posted by [rep2857](#) on Thu, 04 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3nrogm\$h8g@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>,
Ian E. Sprod <Ian.Sprod@gsfc.nasa.gov> wrote:
> carton@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu (John C Carton) wrote:

>>
>> Is anyone using a macintosh computer as a X terminal for IDL ?
>
> Yes I use MacX version 1.1.7 (don't use 1.2 or IDL will cause
> MacX to hang).

You can also use eXodus. I like MacX better, but eXodus is workable.

>
>> What software do you use, and what settings do you use on the UNIX side ?
>
> I use IDL on the UNIX side with the DISPLAY environment variable
> set to be the IP address of the Mac with window number 0.2 (not 0.0
> as you might expect).

In MacX 1.2 (which doesn't work with IDL or PV-Wave as mentioned) and
eXodus 5.x you set the DISPLAY to 0.0 after indicating the type of
display from the setup parameters in MacX or eXodus.

>> (ie. do you have to set IDL_DEVICE to the X terminal address or do any
>> settings regarding the color tables)
>
> Color is 8-bit only. No other problems except gross flashing of
> screen colors as the Mac switches from the system color table
> to the X device color table.

Same with eXodus.

I just recently switched from eXodus to Tenon's MachTen (UNIX for the Mac) and X package. This is a hell of a lot better than either MacX or eXodus in my opinion. I can't provide real numbers, but the impression is two to five times faster depending on what you're doing. Speed is much faster for pull-downs and pop-ups, color table changes, etc. It's very close to being on the actual workstation. The only drawback is the price. The retail price for the packages I'm using (MachTen Pro and X) is \$1045, but I purchased it during MacWorld for \$350 last year. I would buy it again vs. MacX or eXodus, even at full retail. Tenon offers demos if anyone is interested. I can answer some questions or here's Tenon's info:

Tenon Intersystems
1123 Chapala St. Suite 202
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101
(805) 963-6983, (805) 962-8202 fax
sales@tenon.com
AppleLink: TENON
http://www.tenon.com

Their web page is pretty good.

Mike Schienle Hughes Santa Barbara Research Center
Home: mgs@visdata.com Coromar Drive, M/S B28/87
Work: rep2857@sbsun0010.sbrc.hac.com Goleta, CA 93117
Contract Employee. Will visualize data for large amounts of money.

Subject: Re: [Q] Using a macintosh as a X terminal for IDL

Posted by [chase](#) on Thu, 11 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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>>>> > "Rivers" == Mark Rivers <rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu> writes:

In article <D7tGlv.Etw@midway.uchicago.edu> rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Mark Rivers) writes:

Rivers> In article <3nrchb\$dr@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu>, carton@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu (John C Carton) writes:

>> Is anyone using a macintosh computer as a X terminal for IDL ?

>> What software do you use, and what settings do you use on the UNIX side ?

>> (ie. do you have to set IDL_DEVICE to the X terminal address or do any

>> settings regarding the color tables)

>>

Rivers> We use eXodus on the Mac. We don't use any special settings in

Rivers> IDL. There are a variety of settings which need to be set

Rivers> inside eXodus, but most are "personal preferences" and not

Rivers> critical.

A couple people here use eXodus on the Mac as their X server when running IDL. We found that its performance was much better than MacX. The newest version of eXodus (5.2.2) allows you to use the local window manager in a rootless X screen when running IDL. There was a bug with earlier versions that required running a rooted X server screen when using IDL.

Setting up the Mac-based X server is the same as setting up any X terminal. The most important thing to be done is set the UNIX environment DISPLAY variable to point to the Macintosh X server before running IDL. If you use XDM to remotely login to a host from the X server then this is done automatically.

I have even run eXodus using their compressed serial protocol eXpress over a modem connection. Graphing speed is fine, but images (larger than 200x200) can take a while to display. New windows can be slow to appear, but drawing to them is not bad. Of course widgets can be sluggish in their reponse. I don't use this as my normal operational mode, only when necessary.

Chris

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