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Subject: Re: Write graphics to two devices simultaneously?  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 11 Apr 2009 18:08:10 GMT  
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stefan5465@hotmail.com writes:

> Is there any way to print to an X11 window and simultaneously dump the  
> X11 output to a postscript file?  
>  
> Of course, I could just copy paste the plot information for a new  
> device, but it would make the procedure annoyingly long. Is there a  
> command to take the contents of an X11 device and save it to the  
> postscript device, or a command to write to postscript at the same  
> time as X11?

It is not possible to write to two graphics devices at the same time. But, well-written IDL graphics programs don't much care what device they are being written to, which allows you to use something like PS\_START/PS\_END to write them to PostScript files simply:

Consider displaying a histogram of an image, using HISTOPLLOT:

```
; An image.  
image = LoadData(7)  
  
; Write to display.  
Histoplot, image, /FILL, POLYCOLOR='rose'  
  
; Write to PostScript file.  
PS_START  
Histoplot, image, /FILL, POLYCOLOR='rose'  
PS_END
```

Such commands work on Windows, LINUX, and Macintosh computers, and for Z-buffer and PRINTER devices, etc.

Programs to help with this are found in the Coyote Library:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Write graphics to two devices simultaneously?  
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Sun, 12 Apr 2009 15:51:02 GMT  
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On Apr 11, 11:08 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> stefan5...@hotmail.com writes:

>> Is there any way to print to an X11 window and simultaneously dump the  
>> X11 output to a postscript file?

>

>> Of course, I could just copy paste the plot information for a new  
>> device, but it would make the procedure annoyingly long. Is there a  
>> command to take the contents of an X11 device and save it to the  
>> postscript device, or a command to write to postscript at the same  
>> time as X11?

>

> It is not possible to write to two graphics devices at  
> the same time. But, well-written IDL graphics programs  
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>

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> Histoplot, image, /FILL, POLYCOLOR='rose'

>

> ; Write to PostScript file.

> PS\_START

> Histoplot, image, /FILL, POLYCOLOR='rose'

> PS\_END

>

> Such commands work on Windows, LINUX, and Macintosh computers,  
> and for Z-buffer and PRINTER devices, etc.

>

> Programs to help with this are found in the Coyote Library:

>

> <http://www.dfanning.com/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

> --

- > David Fanning, Ph.D.
- > Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
- > Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
- > Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

For cases like that, I tend to stick the entire thing into a for loop:

```
for ploti=0,1 do begin
  if ploti eq 1 then ps_start
  ... insert plotting commands here
  if ploti eq 1 then ps_end
endfor
```

That way you can ensure that your plot commands are absolutely identical.

-Jeremy.

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Subject: Re: Write graphics to two devices simultaneously?  
Posted by [stefan5465](#) on Sun, 12 Apr 2009 16:43:34 GMT  
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Thank you both, that's a nice solution! Very helpful cheers

David: can't believe I hadn't downloaded your library before! Going to have a good nose around it...

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Subject: Re: Write graphics to two devices simultaneously?  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 12 Apr 2009 16:59:48 GMT  
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stefan5465@hotmail.com writes:

- > David: can't believe I hadn't downloaded your library before! Going to
- > have a good nose around it...

Yeah, it's always a shock to me that anyone can write IDL programs without it. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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Subject: Re: Write graphics to two devices simultaneously?  
Posted by [stefan5465](#) on Mon, 13 Apr 2009 15:13:37 GMT  
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On Apr 12, 5:59 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
> stefan5...@hotmail.com writes:  
>> David: can't believe I hadn't downloaded your library before! Going to  
>> have a good nose around it...  
>  
> Yeah, it's always a shock to me that anyone can write  
> IDL programs without it. ;-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Hi David,

I'm getting a '% Attempt to call undefined procedure/function:  
'FSC\_PS\_SETUP\_\_DEFINE'.'

when running PS\_START.PRO, and a google search finds reference to it  
only in PS\_START.PRO; any idea what this means? I gather I need to  
find and add this procedure to my path?

Cheers,

Stefan

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Subject: Re: Write graphics to two devices simultaneously?  
Posted by [stefan5465](#) on Mon, 13 Apr 2009 15:18:17 GMT  
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Oh wait nevermind, I've found it...

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