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Subject: Coyote Library Updates

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 13 May 2009 19:43:25 GMT

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Folks,

Ever have one of those days when the muse grabs you by the throat and won't let go?

It has been that kind of day for me. I was going to spend 10 minutes grappling yet again with a niggling problem with PS\_END and the next thing I knew all hell had broken loose and I had half the programs in the Coyote Library opened up for surgery. Yikes!

PS\_END is like one of those bad-news relatives we all have. I can't get rid of the darn thing! I've thought I solved the ImageMagick "convert" command problem about a dozen times now, and as soon as I start walking around with a spring in my step again, here it comes with more problems. I'm pretty sick of it, to tell the truth.

But, I think I have *\*finally\** got it licked. (Hah!) At any rate, it's working great with the latest batch of PNG files I built with it. I does produce VERY nice output in the couple of minutes a day it actually works. :-)

[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ps\\_end.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/ps_end.pro)

But, depending on what options I have on the ImageMagick convert command, the PNG output can be pretty weird. Sometimes the data comes back with alpha channels, sometimes you expect byte data and you get unsigned integers, sometimes the background is transparent, etc. There are probably more ImageMagick options to learn about and set, but have I mentioned that I am pretty sick of ImageMagick and its obtuse documentation?

The long and short of it is that I got it into my head that what I ought to have is a program that can read these weird images, and since I have been working with images with alpha channels lately anyway, I thought I would just make TVIMAGE read and display such images correctly. (Getting ahead in the Best IDL Image Display Program arms race didn't enter my thought processes at all, by the way.)

So, these programs have also changed today to work with transparent images or images with alpha channels:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/tvimage.pro>  
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/tvscale.pro>  
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/selectimage.pro>  
[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/image\\_dimensions.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/image_dimensions.pro)

Cheers,

David

P.S. I'll be gone a few days, if you have problems. Getting another one through college this weekend. Hurray! Only one more to go and I can start back to school myself. :-)

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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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