
Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [Brian Wolven](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 20:06:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Program ran, window and plot were created, nothing else happened. No crashes.

Using IDL 8.1 (command line) under OS X 10.6.8 on a Macbook Pro (15", 2.53 GHz Intel Core i5, Built-in Intel HD graphics and PCIe NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M).

The colorbar labels *do* look horrific (four trailing zeros after the last significant digit), but not enough to make my brain crash.

Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 20:49:20 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

It produced a yucky looking plot with the colorbar labels all smushed together, but it worked. No crashes or hesitations.

I ran it as a program, and also pasting each statement on the command line. Worked both ways.

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86 linux unix linux 8.1 Mar 9 2011    32    64}
```

cheers,

paulv

David Fanning wrote:

```
> Folks,
>
> For those of you who would enjoy a coffee break (or
> who wish to join me for something stronger), you might
> try running the following program in IDL 8.1. It will
> crash my Windows machine every single time.
>
> I have narrowed the problem to the TICKNAME keyword
> in the Colorbar() function. Remove that and all is well.
>
> I am especially curious to see what this does on other
> operating systems. :-)
>
> Please be sure to close all your applications besides
> IDL 8.1 when you try this, or you might be spending the
> rest of the day re-installing software.
>
> Cheers,
```

```
>
> David
>
> ;-----
> PRO ContourPlotCrash
>
> ; Create a simple, random dataset for contouring:
> data = RANDOMU(-3L, 9, 9)
>
> levels =[0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.3, 0.44, 0.6, 0.75]
>
> ; Contour function.
> w = Window(DIMENSIONS=[500, 400])
> loadCT, 33, RGB_TABLE=rgb
> ctr=contour(data, C_VALUE=levels, /CURRENT, $
>   POSITION=[0.1, 0.1, 0.9, 0.8], /FILL, $
>   RGB_TABLE=rgb)
> names = StrTrim(levels,2)
> cb = Colorbar(TARGET=ctr, $
>   TICKNAME=names, $
>   POSITION=[0.1, 0.85, 0.9, 0.9])
>
> END
> ;-----
>
>
```

Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 21:06:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Paul van Delst writes:

> It produced a yucky looking plot with the colorbar labels all smushed together, but it worked. No crashes or hesitations.

OK, I went into my Users/David/.idl folder and deleted the itt folder I found there. This allowed me to start up the 32-bit version of the Workstation. Running this version, and the ContourPlotCrash program, I was able to run to completion and see the aesthetic mess you are talking about!

I guess we are making progress, if running crippled software is progress. :-)

At least now I might be able to get back to my

original task, which was to make a filled contour plot with a limited number of colors and a corresponding color bar. Alas, from everything I've learned in the past couple of days, I don't think this simple plot is possible in function graphics, but I'll press on anyway.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 21:29:07 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning writes:

> At least now I might be able to get back to my
> original task, which was to make a filled contour
> plot with a limited number of colors and a
> corresponding color bar. Alas, from everything I've
> learned in the past couple of days, I don't think
> this simple plot is possible in function graphics,
> but I'll press on anyway.

Well, maybe things aren't quite this simple. Now running the 32-bit version of the Workbench, I went back to Mark's original program he sent this morning.

The first time I ran it, it crashed out at the Colorbar() line, but produced an error. All seemed to be well. I could move the cursor, type in the editor window and at the command line, etc. But nothing else would happen in the session. I couldn't even get a simple Plot command to work.

I killed that IDL session and started the 32-bit version again. This time when I ran the program, IDL crashed with a fatal error, but it didn't bring my entire machine down with it.

I really don't know what is wrong, but clearly any more colorbar experiments are going to have to be put off until IDL 8.2 comes out. This current version doesn't like me at ALL!

I wrote an article this morning asking the question "Is IDL 8.1 Useable?" I didn't honestly know the answer when I started the article. But I think after today's experience the answer for me, anyway, is "No, not at all!" At least not if I intend in any way to use the function graphics routines.

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.")

Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 22:10:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> I wrote an article this morning asking the question
> "Is IDL 8.1 Useable?" I didn't honestly know the answer
> when I started the article. But I think after today's
> experience the answer for me, anyway, is "No, not at
> all!" At least not if I intend in any way to use
> the function graphics routines.

Has anyone else who has a similar setup to you reported the same issue with that colorbar program? (I.e. via email since no windows folk have responded to the newsgroup)

Otherwise, how do you know it's an IDL problem and not a your-computer problem?

Now don't get me wrong: I think the former is more likely, but you can't rule out the latter without corroboration from other users. Especially since the effect (basically crashing your entire system) is rather monumental.

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 22:22:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Paul van Delst writes:

- >
- > Has anyone else who has a similar setup to you reported the same issue with that colorbar program? (I.e. via email since
- > no windows folk have responded to the newsgroup)
- >
- > Otherwise, how do you know it's an IDL problem and not a your-computer problem?

I always thought you were psychic, Paul!

No, I didn't hear from any other Windows users, and yes it did turn out to be my COMPUTER'S problem and NOT IDL's!

The clue came when I finally heard back from technical support late this afternoon. They had been unable to duplicate the problem on their computers and they suggested a couple of things about cleaning up the workspace (deleting some files that accumulate, etc.). This I did. Then, at their suggestion (I am too old, apparently, to remember that I used to suggest this to EVERYONE who had object graphics problems!) I ran the program with software rendering turned on and the program worked correctly.

OK! So I immediately downloaded the latest driver for my NVIDIA Quadro FX 580 graphics card. That took about 20 minutes (big!) and my desktop is a total mess now, but in fact, I just ran the program and it works properly with hardware rendering!

So, mea culpa! This problem solved. Now, I can *really* get back to trying to make these things work properly. :-)

I think I just got too sucked into all these reports of problems and I forgot to take a couple of deep breaths and THINK about things before I rushed to judgment. Wish I could say it won't happen again, but that's not the pattern I see developing in my life. :-(

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.")

Subject: Re: Need a Coffee Break?

Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Fri, 09 Sep 2011 08:54:51 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 09/09/11 00:10, Paul van Delst wrote:

> Especially since the effect (basically crashing your entire system) is rather monumental.

IDL had that capability at least since 6.x, where too many recursive function calls would bring down the whole linux system.

chl
