
Subject: Function Graphics Bugs Depressing
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Oct 2011 14:48:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Folks,

The latest batch of function graphics bugs I am working on is turning me into a depressed shell of a programmer. Most of the bugs in my recent Bug a Day presentation schedule seem benign enough to me. At least I can imagine that someone could go into the code and fix them in a relatively short amount of time.

The bugs I am working on today, however, seem to be of a different sort. They seem to be ingrained into the fabric of the function graphics design. I might call them "bugs of unintended consequence." It is exactly what one might expect of an overly complex system that is extremely difficult for a single person, not to mention a team of people, to understand.

I'll be reporting on these in the days ahead, as time permits, but it is getting harder and harder to get up in the morning and see a bright future for IDL along the current path. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: Function Graphics Bugs Depressing
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 22 Oct 2011 13:55:04 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

alx writes:

> By using IDL 8.1 command line and Windows 7, I can get:
>

```
> after,  
> IDL> window, /FREE  
> IDL> window, /FREE  
> windows 33,IDL and 32 appear in this order (33 in front)  
> IDL> wshow, 32, 1      ;put window 32 in front (then IDL and 33)  
> IDL> wshow, 32, 0      ;put window 32 in rear  
> IDL> wshow, 33, 1      ;restore 33 in front  
> IDL> wshow, 32, /ICONIC ;iconify (ze ?) window 32  
> IDL> wshow, 32, 1      ;restore window 32  
> etc ...  
>  
> what is broken ?
```

Were other applications running while you did this?
I think it must be a problem with application "layering".
In fact, I suspect you wouldn't see the problem at all
if IDL was the only program running that put windows
on the display.

That said, I can't seem to get the IDL command line to
fail to bring the proper window forward on the display,
even with multiple applications running.

But, I do note that the beauty of the WShow command
in any version of IDL prior to IDL 7.0 was that it
would leave the focus in the command window. This
allowed you to bring a window forward on the display
and still type commands in the command window, allowing
you to see the effect of the command in the window as you
typed, even if your IDL application took up the whole
window space, as it usually does on a laptop.

That hasn't worked since IDL 7 and doesn't work in
IDL 8 either. Even in the command line version.

Cheers,

David

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: Function Graphics Bugs Depressing
Posted by [lecacheux.alain](#) on Sat, 22 Oct 2011 15:01:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 22 oct, 15:55, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> alx writes:

>> By using IDL 8.1 command line and Windows 7, I can get:

>

>> after,

>> IDL> window, /FREE

>> IDL> window, /FREE

>> windows 33,IDL and 32 appear in this order (33 in front)

>> IDL> wshow, 32, 1 ;put window 32 in front (then IDL and 33)

>> IDL> wshow, 32, 0 ;put window 32 in rear

>> IDL> wshow, 33, 1 ;restore 33 in front

>> IDL> wshow, 32, /ICONIC ;iconify (ze ?) window 32

>> IDL> wshow, 32, 1 ;restore window 32

>> etc ...

>

>> what is broken ?

>

> Were other applications running while you did this?

> I think it must be a problem with application "layering".

> In fact, I suspect you wouldn't see the problem at all

> if IDL was the only program running that put windows

> on the display.

>

> That said, I can't seem to get the IDL command line to

> fail to bring the proper window forward on the display,

> even with multiple applications running.

>

> But, I do note that the beauty of the WShow command

> in any version of IDL prior to IDL 7.0 was that it

> would leave the focus in the command window. This

> allowed you to bring a window forward on the display

> and still type commands in the command window, allowing

> you to see the effect of the command in the window as you

> typed, even if your IDL application took up the whole

> window space, as it usually does on a laptop.

>

> That hasn't worked since IDL 7 and doesn't work in

> IDL 8 either. Even in the command line version.

>

> Cheers,

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

> I do note that the beauty of the WShow command
> in any version of IDL prior to IDL 7.0 was that it
> would leave the focus in the command window. This
> allowed you to bring a window forward on the display
> and still type commands in the command window

I agree. That is a loss.

I even wonder why this possibility has disappeared: maybe to get
compatibility with Eclipse's window management rules ?
alx.

Subject: Re: Function Graphics Bugs Depressing
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 14:19:21 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hello,

alx wrote:

> On 21 oct, 17:55, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:
>
> By using IDL 8.1 command line and Windows 7, I can get:
>
> after,
> IDL> window, /FREE
> IDL> window, /FREE
> windows 33,IDL and 32 appear in this order (33 in front)
> IDL> wshow, 32, 1 ;put window 32 in front (then IDL and 33)

nothing happened

> IDL> wshow, 32, 0 ;put window 32 in rear

nothing happened (well, since the previous command didn't work maybe there was nothing for it to
do? :o)

> IDL> wshow, 33, 1 ;restore 33 in front

nothing happened

> IDL> wshow, 32, /ICONIC ;iconify (ze ?) window 32

This worked. the window was iconified.

> IDL> wshow, 32, 1 ;restore window 32

Nothing happened.

> etc ...

>

> what is broken ?

Well, not your version of IDL apparently. :o)

cheers,

paulv

p.s.

IDL> print, !version

{ x86 linux unix linux 8.1 Mar 9 2011 32 64}

I had tbird running, along with several terminals (on different virtual desktops), various incarnations of firefox, a plethora of edit sessions, a couple two-three acread processes, a dvi browser, and an online calendar app.

Subject: Re: Function Graphics Bugs Depressing
Posted by [lecacheux.alain](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 15:17:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 24 oct, 16:19, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Hello,

>

> alx wrote:

>> On 21 oct, 17:55, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

>

>> By using IDL 8.1 command line and Windows 7, I can get:

>

```

>> after,
>> IDL> window, /FREE
>> IDL> window, /FREE
>> windows 33,IDL and 32 appear in this order (33 in front)
>> IDL> wshow, 32, 1      ;put window 32 in front (then IDL and 33)
>
> nothing happened
>
>> IDL> wshow, 32, 0      ;put window 32 in rear
>
> nothing happened (well, since the previous command didn't work maybe there was nothing for
it to do? :o)
>
>> IDL> wshow, 33, 1      ;restore 33 in front
>
> nothing happened
>
>> IDL> wshow, 32, /ICONIC ;iconify (ze ?) window 32
>
> This worked. the window was iconified.
>
>> IDL> wshow, 32, 1      ;restore window 32
>
> Nothing happened.
>
>> etc ...
>
>> what is broken ?
>
> Well, not your version of IDL apparently. :o)
>
> cheers,
>
> paulv
>
> p.s.
>
> IDL> print, !version
> { x86 linux unix linux 8.1 Mar 9 2011    32    64}
>
> I had tbird running, along with several terminals (on different virtual desktops), various
incarnations of firefox, a
> plethora of edit sessions, a couple two-three acroread processes, a dvi browser, and an online
calendar app.

```

Along my tests with IDL command line, I had a lot of opened windows too, even including an inactive IDL workbench ...

```
IDL> print,!version
```

{ x86_64 Win32 Windows Microsoft Windows 8.1 Mar 9 2011 64
64}
