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Subject: Re: Religious Wars

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 22:29:42 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > Folks,
- >
- > I am not trying to start a religious war here, but I
- > have some reason to believe the software Mac owners
- > use to view PostScript files is screwy. :-)
- >
- > Or maybe it's Windows user's software, I don't know.
- > I'm just trying to get to the bottom of a perplexing
- > problem.

Probably windows.... (see below)

- > The issue concerns encapsulated PostScript files. Here
- > are two encapsulated PostScript files:
- >
- > [http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/a\\_orig.eps](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/a_orig.eps)
- > [http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/a\\_modified.eps](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/a_modified.eps)
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- > If I open these files on my Windows machine, using the
- > latest version of GSView (a GUI to GhostScript), then
- > the a\_orig.eps file looks perfect as long as I modify the
- > GSView view to landscape orientation. If I view the
- > a\_modified.eps file, the output looks cut off at the far
- > end in both portrait and landscape orientations.

On my linux box (RHE5), the file a\_orig.eps is all screwy (no matter what orientation I choose in kghostview), and the file a\_modified.eps looks just fine.

- > Oddly enough, Mac users find these results, too, but
- > for the opposite files!!!

So, if I read correctly, my linux results agrees with the mac ones.

Gotta luv them anecdotal data points... :o)

cheers,

paulv

- > If I put these documents in, say, Google Docs, then
- > Google appears to agree with the Windows outlook

> on things. Of course, if I put them in Windows documents  
> (Word, Framemaker, etc.) they agree with the Windows  
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> these eggs be broken on the big end or the little end?  
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> Any help greatly appreciated!  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>

---

Subject: Re: Religious Wars

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 23:06:38 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> So, if I read correctly, my linux results agrees with the mac ones.  
>  
> Gotta luv them anecdotal data points... :o)

Tell me about it. :-(

Alright. But what do you suppose it all means? Clearly  
I have to make encapsulated PostScript files differently  
depending upon which machine you want to \*view\* them on.  
How in heaven's name am I going to be able to discover that!

Oh, fudge. I'm beginning to become sympathetic to having  
no landscape PostScript output in the function graphics system.  
I see now why they might have chosen that option.

Sigh... This is starting to look like a lot of work. :-(

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.")

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Subject: Re: Religious Wars

Posted by [manodeep@gmail.com](mailto:manodeep@gmail.com) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 23:19:51 GMT

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On Oct 24, 5:29 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Folks,

>

>> I am not trying to start a religious war here, but I  
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>> use to view PostScript files is screwy. :-)

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> file a\_modified.eps looks just fine.

Same results on my linux box (RHE5 as well - so no big surprise here).  
gv does not display a\_orig.eps properly (regardless of orientation);  
however, if I toggle the BBox button and select an A4 page-size, then  
I can see the plot. Running eps2eps on a\_orig.eps also worked -- only  
the orientation needs to be changed in this case and not the BBox  
setting. a\_modified.eps works fine with default gv settings.

Cheers,  
Manodeep

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>> Cheers,  
>  
>> David

---

Subject: Re: Religious Wars

Posted by [lecacheux.alain](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 08:22:33 GMT

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On 25 oct, 01:19, Manodeep Sinha <manod...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Oct 24, 5:29 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:  
>  
>  
>

>  
>  
>> David Fanning wrote:  
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>>> David- Masquer le texte des messages précédents -  
>  
> - Afficher le texte des messages précédents -- Masquer le texte des messages  
précédents -  
>  
> - Afficher le texte des messages précédents -

If you look at both PS source files, you can find that the 'orig' file contains a "portrait" plot (BoundingBox 0 0 437 712) within a "landscape" page (PageOrientation:Landscape, PageBoundingBox 180 75 437 712) on which some translation/rotation of the plot (180 rotate -612 -792 translate) has been done, while the 'modified' file contains a "landscape" plot (BoundingBox 0 0 712 437) within a "portrait" page (PageOrientation:Portrait, PageBoundingBox 0 0 712 437) [note, here, the amazing contradiction: "portrait" and  $X > Y$  !] without any further operation.

In addition IDL, in creating these files, has added the somewhat cryptic statements

```
'orig': $IDL_DICT begin 0 752 translate 0.0283465 dup scale 270  
rotate MITERLIMIT
```

```
'modified': $IDL_DICT begin 0.0283465 dup scale MITERLIMIT
```

What a mess !

I love those "standard file formats" like PostScript...  
alx.

---

---

Subject: Re: Religious Wars

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 13:46:02 GMT

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In article <MPG.290f8f9725c724d398988b@news.giganews.com>, David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > The issue concerns encapsulated PostScript files. Here
- > are two encapsulated PostScript files:
- >
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When I open the files in Illustrator (on my Mac), the modified (landscape) version looks fine; the original (portrait) version is offset on the drawing area and incomplete.

This indicates to me that the problem is with the orig EPS file, not with the viewer.

Ken Bowman

---

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Subject: Re: Religious Wars

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 14:11:15 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

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- > is offset on the drawing area and incomplete.
- >
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- > not with the viewer.

Ok, ok. I think the problem really is that \*all\* encapsulated PostScript files need to be in Portrait mode. I've modified all my PostScript programs (i.e., PS\_Start, PSConfig, etc) this morning to enforce this restriction. They should be checked in and available within the hour. I'm just doing the final quality checks now.

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.")

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Subject: Re: Religious Wars  
Posted by [vto](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 14:25:13 GMT  
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On Oct 24, 6:07 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

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

Hi David,

I tried these files on my Mac (Snow Leopard). The result is the same for distiller, preview, and gs. The a\_orig.eps file looks cut-off and the a\_modified.eps looks fine. Rotating the figures does not change the result.

Regards,

Volker

---

Subject: Re: Religious Wars  
Posted by [vto](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 14:33:24 GMT  
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On Oct 25, 10:25 am, vto <[vto...@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:vto...@cfa.harvard.edu)> wrote:  
> On Oct 24, 6:07 pm, David Fanning <[n...@dfanning.com](mailto:n...@dfanning.com)> wrote:  
>  
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> Regards,  
>  
> Volker

I have to add, that running a\_orig.eps through eps2eps fixes the problem for gv. I haven't checked, it just might fix the bounding box to the correct size, an issue IDL has had all the time.

Volker

---

Subject: Re: Religious Wars  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 14:45:47 GMT  
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vto writes:

> I have to add, that running a\_orig.eps through eps2eps fixes the  
> problem for gv. I haven't checked, it just might fix the bounding box  
> to the correct size, an issue IDL has had all the time.

Yes, I think this is a bounding box issue, too. But it is easier to just confine all encapsulated PostScript files to be in Portrait mode, and then all is well.

I've checked the new files into the Coyote Library and updated these files. This will prevent problems in cgWindow and elsewhere.

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip\\_fils/coyoteprograms.zip](http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/zip_fils/coyoteprograms.zip)

Cheers,

David

--

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