
Subject: checking if PS output file already open
Posted by [scvt](#) on Wed, 13 Aug 2014 20:03:36 GMT
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I'm often looking at graphics output on the screen and use the prompt for a switch to call a chunk of code to send/regenerate the current image to a PS file before advancing to the next dataset.

I know, it's simple to just rename the 'idl.ps' file at the end of the session. But it would be nice if I could issue a `DEVICE,FILENAME=` statement along with the first `SET_PLOT` that switches to PS. But this overwrites the previously saved pages each time it's called. It's necessary to set up my own flag to test to avoid repeating the `DEVICE` statement.

Is there a simpler way to do this?
Something like `DEVICE,FILENAME=,/NO_REOPEN` would do the trick.

`HELP,/DEVICE` will show the name of the ps output file if it has been set. Is there a way to query this information within a procedure? I tried looking for in `!D` and a few other system variables but couldn't find it.

It's such a minor little thing, but it's irritated me for years!

Thanks for any suggestions.

Richard
