
Subject: IDL 8.4 LOADCT performance

Posted by [Lajos Foldy](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2014 21:22:31 GMT

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Hi guys,

I am creating hundreds of plots from ASCII files and today I discovered that my program runs six times slower in IDL 8.4 than in 8.3.

The culprit seems to be LOADCT. Here is a small test program:

```
; test.pro
pro test
profiler
profiler, /system
tic
set_plot, 'Z'
device, set_pixel_depth=24, set_resolution=[800, 800]
device, decomposed=0
loadct, 0, /silent
plot, indgen(10)
plot=tvrd(true=1)
set_plot, !version.os_family eq 'unix' ? 'X' : 'WIN'
toc
profiler, /report
end
```

IDL 8.3: % Time elapsed: 0.0080618858 seconds.

IDL 8.4: % Time elapsed: 0.10958481 seconds.

(I am running IDL remotely.)

The profiler output shows that the overhead comes from (LOADCT) calling WIDGET_INFO:

Module	Type	Count	Only(s)	Avg.(s)	Time(s)	Avg.(s)
...						
WIDGET_INFO	(S)	1	0.100391	0.100391	0.100391	0.100391

I think this is a bug in LOADCT, WIDGET_INFO should be called only for the X device. (The modification history in loadct.pro does not mention that it was changed :-)

regards,
Lajos
