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Subject: Re: problems printing labels on graphs  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 15 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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R.Bauer (R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de ) writes:

```
>
>
> Stu wrote:
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>> hello,
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>>> I have written an IDL procedure for displaying some data I have, this
>>> basically consists of displaying a grey-scale image (using TV), and then
>>> plotting a line graph directly below this image using PLOT. This data can
>>> be displayed on the screen or written to a PS or EPS file. The procedure
>>> also has the ability to change the type of font used (e.g. vector fonts,
>>> true type fonts, or hardware/device fonts {e.g. postscript}), and by using
>>> TITLE, SUBTITLE, XTITLE, and YTITLE, titles can be added to the axes and
>>> various parts of the plot.
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>>> The procedure works correctly when displaying data to the screen, all the
>>> labels are printed correctly and the correct fonts are displayed. When
>>> writing to a file, the titles are only displayed when the procedure is
>>> called for the first time. I have to quit IDL and restart it each time in
>>> order for the titles to be printed on the plot. Note: this only seems to
>>> apply to vector and true type fonts, it is not necessary to quit each time
>>> when using postscript fonts - although the titles are printed each time,
>>> they're not printed in the correct place.
>>>
>> Anyone any ideas?
>> cheers,
>> Stu
>
> Did you close the device by device ,/close
```

Oh, good idea! :-)

This is clearly a programming error, not an IDL error.  
I would bet some money on that!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

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Subject: Re: problems printing labels on graphs  
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Tue, 16 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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Stu wrote:

> Actually the more I look at this problem, the more I think it is an IDL bug, either  
> that or something  
> REALLY obscure. I have actually managed to get the labels printed each time under  
> some circumstances. What I have is something like:  
>

```
> old_dev=!D.NAME
> :
> :
> program
> :
> :
> IF old_dev NE !D.NAME THEN BEGIN
>   DEVICE,/CLOSE
>   SET_PLOT, old_dev
> ENDIF
```

Stu,

Try creating a test program that reproduces the problem with the minimum number of lines of code. If you can condense it down to 10 lines or less and the problem persists, then you can be more confident that it's an IDL bug (post the code to the group). However often times in the condensing process, the problem will go away....

---

Liam E. Gumley  
Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison  
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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Subject: Re: problems printing labels on graphs  
Posted by [Stu](#) on Tue, 16 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

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> David

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

> Fanning Software Consulting

> Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

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

> Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Yes of course I used DEVICE, /CLOSE and DEVICE,/CLOSE\_FILE!

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REALLY obscure. I have actually managed to get the labels printed each time under  
some circumstances. What I have is something like:

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program
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```
:
```

```
:
```

```
IF old_dev NE !D.NAME THEN BEGIN
```

```
    DEVICE,/CLOSE
```

```
    SET_PLOT, old_dev
```

```
ENDIF
```

Normally !D.NAME would be 'X' when the procedure is first run, it would only be changed during the course of the procedure when printing to a file, if the device is changed it is closed and plotting is redirected to the old device before the procedure quits, as above. I discovered (by chance) if I do a SET\_PLOT, 'PS' before running the procedure for the first time I can get labels printed on the plots each time I run the procedure. But the PS device isn't being closed until I rerun the procedure to generate the next plot. Oddly, if I now sent the output to a window, the labels aren't printed in the window!?

So are there any "hidden variables" in IDL that control if labels are printed to the X/PS devices?

Stu

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