
Subject: Re: Color problems with Linux

Posted by [uk2](#) on Wed, 21 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi Brian,

I can tell you what I've discovered, but I'd also be grateful to hear anyone else's view on this.

1. Are you running Linux in 8, 16, or 24 bits? If its 16, change it to 8. IDL doesn't do 16 bit. If it's 24, please help me get my machine to run in 24-bit mode!

2. Are you running netscape concurrently? Try to limit Netscape's color-hogging. I've aliased netscape to the following in my .cshrc file which seems to work:

```
alias netscape 'netscape -no-about-splash -ncols 75'
```

3. I've noticed other 'bad' X-applications like x11amp that seem to be color intensive. I don't know why.

I think it is a bit problem. If you drop to 8 bit, reboot, and run IDL without any other applications you should be able to resolve this. If this works, the next problem you'll have is that the display 'inverts' on you either when you run two sessions of IDL concurrently or some other color-hungry application.

Cheers, Pete Riley

Brian Jackel wrote:

```
> Greetings
>
> One of my co-workers is having problems with IDL 5.2
> under Red Hat Linux.
>
> After placing the following lines in her .Xdefaults file
>
>   idl.gr_visual: PseudoColor
>   idl.gr_depth: 8
>
> IDL starts up believing that it has 256 colors. The
> problem is that the color table as displayed on the
> screen contains a fixed random assortment of entries
> (at least a hundred, it's hard to tell). Using LOADCT
> or XLOADCT does change the values obtained with
```

> TVLCT,r,g,b,/GET, but nothing changes on the screen.
>
> As a result, image display is basically useless. This
> is a significant problem for an astronomer who would
> like to display images...
>
> Any hints or suggestions would be most welcome.
>
> --
> Brian Jackel

Subject: Re: Color problems with Linux
Posted by [Randy Frank](#) on Wed, 21 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Brian Jackel wrote:

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You are running into one of two known issues:

What is the default visual depth/class for the X server in question (use xdpinfo)? Either the X server being used does not support a PseudoColor, 8bit visual in which case, you need to start the server with a different command. If the X server has an 8bit PseudoColor visual, check the output from DEVICE, /HELP. It is likely that IDL is getting a "private" colormap. In this case, there is a known bug in fwm(2) where it does not properly switch between multiple colormaps in the same widget tree (what IDL uses). You might be able to get the colormap to swap by using a raw WINDOW command, but it is iffy. I wrote a patch to fwm to fix this problem while I was at RSI, but I don't think the fwm developers ever included the patch. Someone at RSI tech support might know where the patch is though. If your problem is this latter case, you can also work around the problem by using fewer colors in your IDL windows.

Hope it helps.

>

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