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Subject: the dreaded issue: colors  
Posted by [D. Mattes](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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IDL gurus (and there are many of you!):

it appears that when IDL first starts, !D.N\_COLORS and !D.TABLE\_SIZE are both 256 for my 8-bit display, and don't actually report the number of colors in the shared color table, until a window or device has been opened. how can i get around this "feature"? i suppose i could open and close a window before querying these system variables...

also: static color tables are a drag on the mac!!! why won't the following work on a mac?

```
loadct,3,ncolors=100,bottom=0  
loadct,1,ncolors=100,bottom=100
```

and how can i implement such a beast on the mac?

by the way, that was a very helpful discussion on IDL variables...much appreciated!

thanks again,  
david mattes

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Subject: Re: the dreaded issue: colors  
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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D. Mattes wrote:

```
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> close a window before querying these system variables...  
>
```

David -

You could put something like the following in your "idl\_startup" file:

```
window, xsize=5, ysize=5, /pixmap, /free  
wdelete
```

and this will do the trick. I often use this when I need to define default fonts and the like in the startup file, and don't want that nagging "IDL 0" window to come up.

Dave Foster

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