

# The disembodiment of DIBs from the DIB section

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So far this week, we've separated the DIB metadata ( `BITMAPINFO` ) from the pixels of a DIB section. But there's really no need for the DIB section at all! As long as you have the pixels and the metadata, you can draw bits.

We demonstrate this by drawing a rather stupid-looking bitmap onto the screen, but doing so without the use of `HBITMAP` s at all! Start with a brand new [scratch program](#) and make these changes:

```

const BYTE g_rgbPixels[16][8] = {
    { 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD },
    { 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xD0, 0x00, 0x00, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD },
    { 0xDD, 0xD0, 0x01, 0x11, 0x11, 0x00, 0xDD, 0xDD },
    { 0xDD, 0x01, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x0D, 0xDD },
    { 0xD0, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x10, 0xDD },
    { 0xD0, 0x11, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x01, 0x10, 0xDD },
    { 0x01, 0x11, 0x09, 0x99, 0x99, 0x01, 0x11, 0x0D },
    { 0x01, 0x11, 0x09, 0x99, 0x99, 0x01, 0x11, 0x0D },
    { 0x01, 0x11, 0x09, 0x99, 0x99, 0x01, 0x11, 0x0D },
    { 0x01, 0x11, 0x09, 0x99, 0x99, 0x01, 0x11, 0x0D },
    { 0x01, 0x11, 0x09, 0x99, 0x99, 0x01, 0x11, 0x0D },
    { 0xD0, 0x11, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x01, 0x10, 0xDD },
    { 0xD0, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x10, 0xDD },
    { 0xDD, 0x01, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x11, 0x0D, 0xDD },
    { 0xDD, 0xD0, 0x01, 0x11, 0x11, 0x00, 0xDD, 0xDD },
    { 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xD0, 0x00, 0x00, 0xDD, 0xDD, 0xDD },
};

struct BITMAPINFO16 {
    BITMAPINFOHEADER bmiHeader;
    RGBQUAD bmiColors[16];
} g_bmi = {
    { sizeof(g_bmi.bmiHeader), // biSize
      16, // biWidth
      16, // biHeight
      1, // biPlanes
      4, // biBitCount
      BI_RGB, // biCompression
      0, // biSizeImage
      0, // biXPelsPerMeter
      0, // biYPelsPerMeter
      16, // biClrUsed
      16, // biClrImportant
    },
    {
        { 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[0]
        { 0x80, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[1]
        { 0x00, 0x80, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[2]
        { 0x80, 0x80, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[3]
        { 0x00, 0x00, 0x80, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[4]
        { 0x80, 0x00, 0x80, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[5]
        { 0x00, 0x80, 0x80, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[6]
        { 0xC0, 0xC0, 0xC0, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[7]
        { 0x80, 0x80, 0x80, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[8]
        { 0xFF, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[9]
        { 0x00, 0xFF, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[10]
        { 0xFF, 0xFF, 0x00, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[11]
        { 0x00, 0x00, 0xFF, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[12]
        { 0xFF, 0x00, 0xFF, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[13]
        { 0x00, 0xFF, 0xFF, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[14]
        { 0xFF, 0xFF, 0xFF, 0x00 }, // bmiColors[15]
    }
}

```

```

};
void
PaintContent(HWND hwnd, PAINTSTRUCT *pps)
{
    StretchDIBits(pps->hdc, 0, 0,
                  g_bmi.bmiHeader.biWidth*4,
                  g_bmi.bmiHeader.biHeight*4,
                  0, 0,
                  g_bmi.bmiHeader.biWidth,
                  g_bmi.bmiHeader.biHeight,
                  g_rgbPixels, (BITMAPINFO*)&g_bmi,
                  DIB_RGB_COLORS, SRCCOPY);
}

```

We are drawing a bitmap without using an `HBITMAP` ! The technique is the same one we've been using all week: Building a `BITMAPINFO` and using it to guide the interpretation of a chunk of memory containing pixels. Just to make things easier to see, I magnified the image, but the point is the same.

Okay, now let's look at the limitations and caveats of this technique. First, of course, is that this works only when the memory contains the source bitmap for a `BitBlt` or `StretchBlt` operation. It's nice when you have a bunch of bitmaps that you only intend to draw *from*, but you can't use this technique to draw *into* a chunk of memory. For that, you'll want to create a DIB section and draw into that.

Another problem with this technique is that it doesn't play friendly with remote desktops, one of those Windows programming taxes. After all, pumping a chunk of pixels to the screen is the logical equivalent of a `BitBlt` of a bitmap nobody has ever seen before. You've got pixels just coming out of nowhere. There's nothing to cache since there is no `HBITMAP` to associate the pixels with. On remote desktops, it's probably okay to use this technique for small bitmaps (like ours) where the cost of sending the pixels is insignificant, or if your render target is not the screen (for example, if you are rendering to an off-screen bitmap because you're doing some image manipulation behind the scenes).