

Windows 2000 and Windows XP present problems for the GUI FAST. The model CFAST runs properly, but the interaction of the graphics output with the operating system has problems. We have found the following solutions to the interactions, which seem to work most of the time.

In both cases, the GUI is attempting to write output directly to low level graphics memory instead of through the Windows API calls. This manifests itself with an error being reported by Windows, thinking there is an attempt to access the communication ports (COM1 or COM2).

A prescription for circumventing the problem starts by opening a command dialog box from the Run command, making sure that the box is a window and not full screen. Then CD to the installation directory (\NIST\CFAST\V5.0.1 or something like that).

Windows XP: When the program minimizes itself to the toolbar, and the error message (COM1 or COM2) comes up, right click on the minimized program box and select properties instead of selecting ignore on the error box. Switch display option from full screen to window and hit OK. THEN select ignore on the error box.

Windows 2000: There are nominally two error messages for COM1 and COM2. Click the ignore button in both cases, and the program should start in full screen.