

Compatibility

SDL_bgi has been designed to be functionally compatible with the old Borland Graphics Interface (**GRAPHICS.H**) for DOS, and with [WinBGIm](#), which itself is a mostly complete **GRAPHICS.H** implementation.

SDL_bgi is a superset of both, and as far as I can say it provides the most compatible **GRAPHICS.H** implementation available. It should be stressed, however, that **SDL_bgi** is not a Turbo C or Borland C++ emulator! Besides, **SDL_bgi** is also designed to be portable and to take advantage of modern graphics hardware, thanks to the SDL2 library.

Compatibility with **GRAPHICS.H**

Compatibility with the original **GRAPHICS.H** is nearly perfect, but 100% compatibility with old programs written for Turbo C or Borland C++ is technically *impossible* to attain. In fact, Borland compilers were inherently non portable; they were specifically designed for the PC/DOS platform. Hence, they implemented low-level details such as hardware key codes, memory models, DOS and BIOS calls, inline assembly, and so on. Besides, even in the original Turbo C / Borland C++ different graphic drivers were not fully compatible with one another. For example, programs written for the **IBM8514.BGI** driver needed modifications to compile and run on the **EGAVGA.BGI** driver.

Full compatibility is only possible in a hardware emulator like [DOSBox](#). If a program uses **CONIO.H**, **DOS.H**, **BIOS.H** and the like, chances are you won't be able to compile it. Please consider using DOSBox and one of the original Borland compilers that are available as freeware.

That said, **SDL_bgi** is almost perfectly compatible with the original **GRAPHICS.H**. It has been tested on the original **BGIDEMO.C** included in Turbo C 2.01 and Borland C++ 1.01, and on the sample programs [available here](#). These sample programs were apparently taken from the original [Borland C 3.1 Library Reference](#).

Nearly all functions are correctly implemented and work just like in old BGI; in most cases, output is pixel-perfect.

Differences

Some of the following differences might be eliminated in future releases of **SDL_bgi**.

- colour names with **CGA_** and **EGA_** prefix have the same value as standard colours. For example, the **EGA_BROWN** constant is 6, like **BROWN**, instead of 20 as in Turbo C or Borland C++. This difference should be irrelevant;
- these functions can be called, but have no effect:
 - **_graphfreemem()** is unneeded;
 - **_graphgetmem()** is unneeded;
 - **installuserdriver()** makes no sense in SDL2;

- `registerbgidriver()` only made sense on the DOS platform;
- `registerbgifont()` only made sense on the DOS platform;
- `setaspectratio()` makes no sense on modern hardware;
- `setgraphbufsize()` is unneeded;
- `initgraph()` always uses the SDL2 graphics driver, regardless of its first parameter;
- functions `registerbgidriver()` and `installuserdriver()` require an argument that must be defined at compile time. For instance, given this code:

```
errorcode = registerbgidriver(EGAVGA_driver);
```

you must add `-D EGAVGA_driver` to the `gcc` command line. You'll get a compiler warning, but the program will compile and run.

- `setpalette()` also changes the colours of pixels on screen, but 'palette cycling' (i.e. successive palette changes) does not work the same way as in Turbo C;
- `setallpalette()` does not change the colours of pixels on screen;
- `putimage()` bitwise operations (`XOR_PUT`, `OR_PUT` etc.) are applied to RGB colour components. This is apparently not the same behaviour as in old Turbo C;
- `setusercharsize()` also works with `DEFAULT_FONT`;
- `setrgbpalette()` works on the extended ARGB palette. To change the RGB components of colours in the default palette, use `setpalette()` along with `COLOR()` or `RGBPALETTE()`:

```
setpalette (RED, COLOR (0xa0, 0x10, 0x10));
// use the n-th entry in the ARGB palette
setpalette (GREEN, RGBPALETTE (n));
```

- console functions (e.g. `printf()`) do not send their output to the graphics window. If the program was started from a terminal, input/output will take place on the terminal.

Compatibility with WinBGIm

Most extensions introduced by WinBGIm have been implemented, with a few differences; WinBGIm, in fact, is written in C++, while `SDL_bgi` is written in C.

When WinBGIm breaks C compatibility with `GRAPHICS.H` by providing C++ extensions, `SDL_bgi` follows the original C syntax.

Differences

- output stream `bgiout` and related functions `outstream()` and `outstreamxy()` are C++ features. Hence, they are not implemented;

- functions `converttorgb()`, `printimage()`, `registermousehandler()`, and `setmousequeuestatus()` are not currently implemented;
- mouse functions are simplified in `SDL_bgi`, and do not provide the full range of options available in WinBGIm;
- functions `getwindowheight()` and `getwindowwidth()` are Windows-specific; in `SDL_bgi`, they are equivalent to `getmaxy()` and `getmaxx()`.
- function `closegraph()` has no parameters in `SDL_bgi`;
- functions `IS_BGI_COLOR()` and `IS_RGB_COLOR()` return a value that depends on the palette being used (BGI or ARGB); their argument is ignored.