



Can I use a newer version of ds9 than the one packaged with CIAO?

In short, yes. There are some simple steps required to do so and a few important caveats associated with upgrading the imager, all of which are described in this FAQ.

When a CIAO release is being prepared, the most recent version of ds9 available is used in testing and then packaged with the software. Since updates to ds9 are released on a much shorter timescale than CIAO, users may wish to upgrade independently of CIAO to take advantage of new features and bug fixes. The [ds9 version 3.0 release notes](#) list all the changes made between versions.

To use a different version of ds9:

1. Start CIAO
2. Change the ASCDS_IMAGER_PATH variable to point to the location of the newer imager on your system:

```
unix% setenv ASCDS_IMAGER_PATH /your/ds9/path
unix% ls $ASCDS_IMAGER_PATH/ds9
/your/ds9/path/ds9
```

3. Edit the PATH variable so that the new imager directory appears before the CIAO OTS directory:

```
unix% setenv PATH "/your/ds9/path:$PATH"
unix% $PATH
/your/ds9/path:/soft/ciao/ots/saord:/soft/ciao/bin:/soft/ciao/contrib/bin:/opt/SUNWspro/bi
```

This step is optional, but recommended.

Following these steps will make the new imager available to CIAO, including imaging plots created by *Sherpa*.

Caveats

- ***We do not guarantee that CIAO will work flawlessly with a newer release of ds9!*** The software team only tests the version of ds9 included with CIAO; it is *possible* that subsequent changes to the imager may cause unexpected problems in the CIAO software. Users who experience problems may contact [the CXC HelpDesk](#), and we will do our best to assist you.
- The preferences set in ds9 are stored in a file called \$HOME/.ds9.prf. A preferences file created for an older or newer version of ds9 may cause problems with the ds9 packaged in CIAO. To avoid a possible conflict, delete or rename this file. The [Preferences](#) section of the ds9 manual contains more information on avoiding this problem when supporting multiple versions of ds9.

FAQ Entry – CIAO 3.4

For more general information on how to use ds9, refer to the [Using SAOImage ds9 thread](#).

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http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/faq/newer_ds9.html
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