

## Re: PuTTY Mouse Pointer Color

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**Date:** 05/30/02

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Date: 30 May 2002 09:19:16 +0100 (BST)

Markus Gyger <[mggyger@gmu.edu](mailto:mggyger@gmu.edu)> wrote:

> *On Windows 98, PuTTY 0.52 uses an all-black mouse pointer that  
> makes it difficult to select words (e.g. using double click)  
> on the default black background.*

PuTTY itself doesn't do this. PuTTY asks the system for its default I-beam mouse pointer, and uses whatever it gets.

I've seen the phenomenon you mention myself on NT 4, but I think it's due to the graphics driver – on other NT 4 boxes the same thing didn't happen.

The default I-beam mouse pointer is composed of `reverse' pixels, which are supposed to invert the colour under them, so the pointer should show up as black when on a white background and white when on a black background. When I checked carefully on the NT 4 box that had the problem, the mouse pointer was indeed composed of `reverse' pixels, but they simply weren't doing their job properly. This is the graphics driver's fault; the only thing PuTTY does to provoke it is to have a black background by default.

The only solution I could find (apart from changing my graphics driver) was to design myself a fixed-colour mouse pointer, with a white I-beam surrounded by a black outline so it would be visible everywhere. Installing that in place of the standard I-beam solved my problem, though it looked a bit ugly on white backgrounds.

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Simon Tatham                    These are my opinions. There are many  
<[anakin@pobox.com](mailto:anakin@pobox.com)>            like them but these ones are mine.

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