



Why am I getting the following repeated errors when launching *prism*?

```
Warning: Cannot allocate colormap entry for "snow"
Warning: Cannot allocate colormap entry for "cyan4"
Warning: Type conversion failed
```

This is a color map problem that mainly affects CDE users, since that window manager overrides the default resources with its own value. The color values may be set explicitly in the `$HOME/.CXCdefaults` file (if you do not have this file already, it may be copied from `$ASCDS_INSTALL/config/system/CXCdefaults`):

```
! Private colormap options for gui applications
!   values can be: True    - install a private colormap
!                   False  - use the default colormap
!                   dynamic - automatically use a private colormap if necessary
*forcePrivateColormap      : dynamic

..lines omitted..

! Since CDE overrides the default '*background' and '*foreground' resources
! with its own value, CIAO gui applications must explicitly set their own
! color scheme.

! Specific resources for the task monitoring (taskmonitor) application
taskmonitor*foreground      : white
taskmonitor*background     : cyan4
taskmonitor*fontList       : -adobe-helvetica-bold-r-normal--12-*
taskmonitor*labelBackground : cyan4
taskmonitor*labelForeground : white

! Specific resources for the parameter editor gui (peg) application
peg*foreground              : white
peg*background              : cyan4
peg*autoColor                : white
peg*hiddenColor              : yellow
peg*Parameter Editor Gui.width : 625
peg*Parameter Editor Gui.height : 400

! Specific resources for the file browser (prism) application
prism*foreground          : black
prism*background        : white

..lines omitted..
```

This sets `prism` to black on white and may be repeated for the other GUI applications. If you want CIAO to **ALWAYS** use your default colormaps, change `*forcePrivateColormap` to `False`.

The [configure](#) and [gui](#) ahelp pages have other useful information on this topic.

FAQ Entry – CIAO 3.4

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URL:
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/faq/colormaps.html>
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