
Subject: Re: call_external for file I/O

Posted by [Charlie Solomon](#) on Thu, 22 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Mark Rivers wrote in message ...

> I am not sure what you mean. Is the data actually in a disk file or is it in

> memory? If it is in a disk file then some process needs to do the disk I/O.

> If it is in memory then call_external can be used to get it into IDL.

The data is in a disk file initially, the map_file routine puts the relevant part of the file into memory and sets those pages for sequential access, so that when IDL accesses the data in memory it is not based on an algorithm like most recently used. This is optimal for image data in which you may need to access different subsets of the array at different times.

> Note that IDL's disk I/O on NT is quite fast. >5MB/sec is not hard to achieve

> using writeu and readu.

I agree that it is fast, but the method we use on our Solaris machine seems much faster for the same files. I don't have time data available right now, but I could get it if needed.

Thanks for your reply,
Charlie Solomon
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