
Subject: Re: point_lun is slow

Posted by [George McCabe](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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hi david,

i am reading individual detector array elements from frame sequential image data. the file is too large to be read completely into memory. i wrote three different algorithms to compare: one 'pages' through frames using `assoc()` and keeps groups of pixels, one chunks through groups of frames with `point_lun` & `readu`, and lastly, the algorithm in question, reads each 2 byte piece individually. the number of program steps in the last approach is much higher but, the amount of data read from disk is much smaller for select sets of elements. i did not have a way of estimating the speed of each part of these procedures a priori. if there are no subtleties to using `point_lun` in a unix file system that can change performance significantly (buffer sizes, ...?) the answer to my original question, what is faster, is known. what i was fishing for was information about idl and details related to accessing files which might be relevant to this task.

george

data David Fanning wrote:

>

> George McCabe (george.mccabe@gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

>

>> reading from a data file at regularly spaced byte locations, 2 bytes at
>> a time using `point_lun` - my program is abnormally slow. i don't have
>> enough experience to guess whether the poor performance is inherent to
>> `point_lun` & `readu` approach or if there are options which are affecting
>> execution adversely.

>>

>> i'd appreciate any thoughts on the topic which might lead to a
>> solution.

>

> Can you give us some idea about why in the world you
> are doing this!? :-)

>

> There is probably an easier (and MUCH faster) way
> if I had some idea what you were trying to do.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> P.S. You aren't doing this in a loop are you? :-)

>

> --
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