Subject: cross platform performance issue
Posted by Richard Tyc on Tue, 24 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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I have been working on a image display feature for our app and I have been puzzled by relatively poor performance of the network wide file read. Now, this most likely is not an IDL issue but I will throw it out to see if anyone has solved it anyways.

I need to display an image file from within IDL (v. 5.4 on NT4) from a Siemens MRI which uses SunOS 4. I am trying to do it as fast as possible (near real time ie. as soon as the file is available on the unix drive). The file is a Siemens proprietary file but I can display it using read_binary(template=tpl) where the template simply defines a 2D array at some offset into the file. This all works OK.

Basically, I have set up a NFS mounted drive on the NT box using OMNI NFS Server/Client from Xlink Technologies. This drive points to the unix drive containing the images. This all works as well.

The problem seems to be that read_binary() can take several (3-5) seconds to read the image file (on the NFS shared drive) even though it is only 138Kb (a 128x128 image plus header data) ! I mean , orders of magnitude longer than simply copying the file (using NFS) to a local NT drive and than reading it, which I am trying to avoid due to large numbers of files needed. We have 10Mbit connection directly to the MR system - no routers, bridges etc in the way

Is this an NFS thing or is read_binary (or OPEN(), READU for that matter) have any additional overhead when it comes to network wide file reads ? Anyone have better success with other NFS products for NT ?

Thanks in Advance

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