Subject: Re: Fast editing of text file?
Posted by Michael Wallace on Thu, 16 Jun 2005 08:05:40 GMT
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> It might be that the concatenation of these three components could be
> done more quickly by a system command like Unix "cat". In other words
> you would have file_top and file_bottom containing the unchanging bits;
> IDl would write a new version of file_middle each time, then
>
>   spawn, "cat file_top file_middle file_bottom > file"
>
> On the other hand it could be slower...

This seems to be pretty fast. I created a three files: file of first 11
lines, file of the 12th line and another file for all the remaining
lines. I made the last file 150,000 lines long just for the fun of it.

```
$ wc -l upper.txt middle.txt lower.txt
     11 upper.txt
      1 middle.txt
 150000 lower.txt
 150012 total
$ date && cat upper.txt middle.txt lower.txt > test.txt; date
Thu Jun 16 02:56:29 CDT 2005
Thu Jun 16 02:56:29 CDT 2005
$ wc -l test.txt
 150012 test.txt
```

So, doing the concatenation took under a second. My machine is good,
but not blazingly fast.

-Mike