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Subject: Re: Fast editing of text file?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 16 Jun 2005 03:28:04 GMT

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andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au wrote:

>  
> If lines[0:10] and lines[12:~] don't change, why not hold those  
> permanently  
> in memory as two string arrays, array\_top and array\_bottom.  
>  
> Concoct Line 12 with your 3 new numbers,  
> and then printf to a new version of the file :-  
>  
> printf,outlun, array\_top ; lines 1..11  
> printf,outlun, line12 ; line 12  
> printf,outlun, array\_bottom ; lines 13..end of file  
>  
> This way you've only got 1 read, at the very start of your program, and  
> then 1 write per change of numbers.

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; IDI 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...

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