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Subject: Re: Shared Memory in Windows

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 05 Apr 2006 01:00:41 GMT

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The Windows pagefile is just an area of hard drive space, nothing more, nothing less. The documentation appears to indicate that your options are to either use the system pagefile or a memory mapped file on disk. While the pagefile is just "an area of hard drive space" it has probably been optimized, of course I could be wrong -- this is Windows we're talking about. ;-) The optimizations of the pagefile will make it perform better than just using a regular memory mapped file, but worse than RAM.

I don't know how the `CreateFileMapping()` system call works, so I can't say if it tries to do something with RAM before using the pagefile or not. But seeing as how this is your only option, go with it and see how it performs. The first rule of performance tuning is to only tune when you have to. Try it out -- you may find that the pagefile works fast enough for your needs.

-Mike

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