Subject: Shared Memory in Windows
Posted by Robbie on Wed, 05 Apr 2006 00:32:05 GMT
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Just a simple performance question for shared memory in Windows...

I've started aquainting myself with POSIX and SYSV shared memory in UNIX and I was looking for a Windows equivalent. To my dismay shared memory appears to be backed in the pagefile. Does that mean that I will have overhead due to disk IO? Or is the pagefile actually backed in RAM and only uses pagefile.sys when RAM is exhausted.

> From IDLs SHMMAP documentation

Under Microsoft Windows, the CreateFileMapping() system call forms the basis for shared memory as well as memory mapped files ... To create a region of anonymous mapped memory instead of a mapped file, you pass a special file handle (0xffffffff) to CreateFileMapping(). In this case, the disk space used to back the shared memory is taken from the system pagefile.

> From the MSVC documentation for CreateFileMapping()

.... In this case, CreateFileMapping creates a file mapping object of the specified size backed by the operating-system paging file rather than by a named file in the file system.

Thanks,
Robbie