
Subject: Re: Lots of files

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 Mar 2007 14:27:10 GMT

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Lasse Clausen writes:

```
> However, I still do not
> know why
>
>
> openr, fin, filename, /get_lun
> for i=0L, lines-1L do begin
>   point_lun, fin, i*1440L
>   readf, fin, line, format='(A1440)'
> endwhile
>
> (note that all the string processing and where is taken out) takes
> about 30 seconds. Well, I suspect the format code, there isn't much
> else to suspect. Can anybody explain to me why the above solution is
> so slow?
```

I'm guessing here, something I never do in a newsgroup post. ;-)

I'd guess the biggest problem is the READF, rather than a READU. I think if you took out the POINT_LUN and made the READF into a READU this would turn out to be reasonably fast, too, even with a FORMAT keyword.

I think when you do a READF, you **always** read to the end of the "line", which in this case is the end of the file. Then, you have to re-position the file pointer for the next read, etc. I think that's why it is so slow. There is a lot of churning going on. You could test this by checking the file pointer position at the end of the READF. (Use POINT_LUN, -fin, position & Print, position.) I'd be curious to know. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
