Subject: Re: Writing a very large file
Posted by Kenneth Bowman on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 04:50:35 GMT

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On Dec 7, 2:17 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I am writing a sequence of images to a single very large file on my
> Linux system.   I find that the processing dramatically slows down
> after the first few images.   The simplified code looks like the
> following:
>
> So the first four images take ~0.3s each to write, while subsequent
> images require more than 6 seconds each.   I suspect that the slowing
> down is due to IDL (or the OS) needing to extend the file size.   (I
> checked that it is not a memory usage problem.)   So I think
> things would speed up if I could specify the final file size at the
> beginning -- perhaps there is a way to do this in Unix?   I have
> experimented with the BUFSIZE and RAWIO keywords to OPENW but so far
> without any improvement.
>
> Thanks for any suggestions, --Wayne

When writing a sequential file like this there should be no need to
pre-allocate the file space.
What I suspect is happening is the following. The first few images go
into cache (memory).
Once the cache space is filled, it starts writing the files to disk,
which is a much slower process.
6 seconds for a 32 MB file isn't great (~5 MB/s), but maybe you have
older hardware or you are writing to
a network volume?

Ken Bowman