Subject: Writing a very large file
Posted by wlandsman on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 20:17:23 GMT
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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:

```
pro test
; Display the time required to write a series of image to a single
large file
im = intarr(4096,4096)
t = systime(1)

close,1 & openw,1,'test.dat'
for i=0,20 do begin
writeu,1,im
print,i,systime(1)-t & t = systime(1)
endfor

close,1
return


IDL> test
      0      0.22054195
      1      0.26708603
      2      0.35127902
      3      0.37285185
      4       3.3877730
      5       6.1666460
      6       6.1697872
      7       6.2481630
```

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