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Subject: Re: Writing a very large file

Posted by [Kenneth Bowman](#) on Mon, 10 Dec 2007 15:43:13 GMT

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In article <f169a807-d4a4-4e89-accf-7b07329b12ca@l16g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>, wlandsman <wlandsman@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Dec 7, 11:50 pm, KenBowman <k-bow...@tamu.edu> wrote:

>

>> 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?

>

> Thanks for this and to the others who responded. I do have old  
> hardware, so my question should have been "how can the first few  
> images be written so quickly?".

Once the data has been written to the cache, which is managed by the OS, not by IDL, IDL thinks the write is complete and moves on to the next write.

Memory access is one to two orders of magnitude faster than disk access. (You have to wait for the platters to rotate, which is a relatively slow process, electronically speaking.)

Ken Bowman

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