
Subject: Avoiding memory paging with large data-set
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Wed, 22 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Hello all.

I have a question for those familiar with UNIX systems stuff. We are using SPARC 10s and 20s under Solaris 2.3, and often have to work with very large data-sets. Sometimes the operations go pretty fast, and sometimes they go REALLY slow! Same machine, even the same data, but the time varies. I can tell that the machine is having to page the memory in and out continuously when things slow down, but I don't know why.

Our systems have 32MB memory. A typical data-set is a 3D volume of about 16MB. Can anyone direct me in the right direction to try and track down this problem? Obviously we need more memory, but the intermittency is strange. Any help in how to analyze the system's "state", including memory allocated and for which processes, would be greatly appreciated.

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