It should be faster to read as much as your memory will allow in each READ statement.   You say that you read "each data record".   If each data record is a small fraction of your file size then it will take a long time to read the file.   Preferably you can read your entire file in a single READU call.

--Wayne

On Tuesday, August 28, 2012 1:19:03 PM UTC-4, Gompie wrote:
> Hi,
>
> I want to read in 58 gb of data that is spread over several files (having records)of size ranging from 7.6gb to 1gb.
>
> What is the fastest way to read these data files.
>
> Right now I read in each data record and it takes 6 hrs to do the reading.
>
> Thanks in advance
>
> Gompie