**In most cases Optim High Performance Unload is significantly faster than the Db2 Export utility because, operating in native mode; it reads Db2 commands outside of the Db2 database manager. In addition to performance benefits, it has more advanced configuration settings such as multiple target file support.**

Optim High Performance Unload can generally unload Db2 data several times faster than Db2 Export for the following reasons:

* Optim High Performance Unload bypasses the Db2 database manager by reading data files directly from disk.
* Optim High Performance Unload achieves additional performance gains through parallel processing capability. As a multithreaded application, Optim High Performance Unload can overlap I/O and use multiple processors to reduce processing time.
* Optim High Performance Unload avoids scanning the Db2 table multiple times when you specify multiple SELECT statements or multiple file formats in a control file. Scanning the Db2 table only once reduces elapsed time.

In addition, Optim High Performance Unload provides support for unloading data into multiple files even if they require different formats, which allows you to have greater control over your system.

Special cases

There are some cases in which you **should use the DB2 FORCE option to force Optim High Performance Unload to use Db2 services to unload the data. For example, consider using DB2 FORCE when the SELECT statement that you are running could use an index, and the percentage of rows to be unloaded is below 5-10% of the total number of rows in the table. Optim High Performance Unload does not use indexes to access data in the table that you want to unload.**

In the following cases you would use Export instead of Optim High Performance Unload:

When you need to unload a table in a single-database partition environment that is not physically located on the machine where Optim High Performance Unload is installed Refer to Unloading data across systems for an alternative when **you use Optim High Performance Unload.**

**When you are unloading hierarchies**