
Subject: Re: Database vs. File Parsing

Posted by [Antonio Santiago](#) on Tue, 21 Mar 2006 16:58:48 GMT

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James Everton wrote:

> Hello everybody,

>

> I'm at the point in a project where I need to start deciding on a
> method for local storage, and I was wondering if anyone knew the pros
> and cons of using a local database versus performing file parsing.

>

> In my situation, users will be performing specific queries to retrieve
> data from our site, and when they download these specific files, I'll
> need some way of storing the parameters of the queries so that they can
> browse through their downloaded files later on.

>

> I was first thinking that I might want to do a local database where
> each attribute in the database responds to a certain query parameter,
> but I wasn't exactly sure what IDL can do alone with databases, or if I
> would need each user to go out and download MySQL or something.

>

You can use the Java bridge to do so with DB. I use it in some program
and works very well.

> My second idea was that I could create a 'Table of Contents' file in
> which I would just store the information of each query by its file
> name, then just parse through this file when the user performs a local
> search. The problem I thought there might be with this idea is that the
> user can potentially have thousands of files, and I'm not too sure
> whether parsing a single file would take far too long compared to a
> database scheme.

Parsing file must be quickly for long files (I think those less than 2Mb)
but if you have a lot of information it will be better to use a DB.

>

> I hope I have explained this well enough that you can give me some
> ideas of which solution to go with.

>

> Thanks very much for your help,

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> - James

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