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Subject: Database vs. File Parsing

Posted by [James Everton](#) on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 17:31:08 GMT

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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.

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.

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,

- James

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