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Subject: Re: Findfile in large directories

Posted by [George N. White III](#) on Fri, 06 Oct 2006 18:26:49 GMT

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On Fri, 6 Oct 2006, Wox wrote:

```
> Dear All,
>
> In a widget application I'm making, I have "next file", "previous
> file" buttons which do the following:
> ...
> path = findfile(list.path+'*'+list.Format)
> nfiles = n_elements(path)
> path = SortListFiles(path,list.sortmethod,list.sortseparator)
> ind = where(path eq list.path+list.file,count)
> ...
> <take next or previous file (if any) and read/display it>
> ...
>
> The current loaded file is "list.path+list.file". SortListFiles sorts
> the files (in general not just string sort).
>
> However, in directories with up to 1000 or more files (usually also on
> an SMB mounted drive), this is rather slow (findfile takes most time).
>
> Any ideas how to make this faster?
```

If the contents of the directories are not updated too often you can generate a cached list of the files. This is essentially what is done by most TeX (math typesetting) implementations, using the unix "ls -R" command to cache the names for a directory tree.

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