
Subject: Re: Findfile in large directories

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 06 Oct 2006 14:22:43 GMT

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Wox writes:

```
> 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?
```

FINDFILE is obsolete. Have you tried FILE_SEARCH?

No idea if it would be faster or not. I'd have guessed
the sorting would be the bottleneck here.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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
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> file" buttons which do the following:
> ...
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> 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.

--

George N. White III <aa056@chebucto.ns.ca>

Subject: Re: Findfile in large directories

Posted by [Wox](#) on Mon, 09 Oct 2006 07:14:53 GMT

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On Fri, 6 Oct 2006 08:22:43 -0600, David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

>
> FINDFILE is obsolete. Have you tried FILE_SEARCH?
> No idea if it would be faster or not. I'd have guessed
> the sorting would be the bottleneck here.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

FILE_SEARCH makes it even slower.

Subject: Re: Findfile in large directories

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Mon, 09 Oct 2006 10:35:45 GMT

Keep the paths in an array - don't read them every time. Sometimes it takes a long time to get a directory listing when there are so many. If you're adding files to the list, you might want to keep track of them yourself.

regards,
Greg

Wox wrote:

> On Fri, 6 Oct 2006 08:22:43 -0600, David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com>
> wrote:
>>
>> FINDFILE is obsolete. Have you tried FILE_SEARCH?
>> No idea if it would be faster or not. I'd have guessed
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>>
>> Cheers,
>>
>> David
>
> FILE_SEARCH makes it even slower.

Subject: Re: Findfile in large directories

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 09 Oct 2006 13:00:55 GMT

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Wox writes:

> FILE_SEARCH makes it even slower.

Well, now it's finding all the files. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Findfile in large directories
Posted by [Wox](#) on Fri, 13 Oct 2006 08:03:27 GMT
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Unfortunately, the directory content is changing all the time and I don't know how many files will be dumped at any given moment, so keeping track of the list myself will be difficult (offcourse having the "dumping" applications notify me when and what they are dumping might be an option, I will look into that.)

Anyway, thanks to all for your replies.

On 9 Oct 2006 03:35:45 -0700, "greg michael" <greg.michael@gmail.com> wrote:

```
>
> Keep the paths in an array - don't read them every time. Sometimes it
> takes a long time to get a directory listing when there are so many. If
> you're adding files to the list, you might want to keep track of them
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>
> regards,
> Greg
>
>
>
>
> Wox wrote:
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