

Re: Can anyone explain PHP slowing down please ?

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Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2006-06/msg00517.html>

- *From:* tony@xxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sun, 11 Jun 2006 10:41:11 GMT
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In article <xPxig.3721\$C.2396@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, david.haynes2@xxxxxxxxxxxx says...

A slow down of this magnitude typically points to some system-related bottleneck rather than an algorithmic one. Have you checked the processes' virtual memory use? I would suspect that you are starting to swap around the 6,000th record.

If not, I would start to place finer-grained time information around the major I/O points (fgetcsv, fwrite) to see if they are causing the slow down.

On a stylistic note, why do you use \$x++ in some places and \$x += 1 in others? Also, the checkit function could use the trinary compare operator:

```
function checkit($star) {  
    exec('declination.exe '.$star, $aout, $returnval);  
    return ($aout[0][0] === 'Y');  
}
```

and 'if(\$checkit(\$star) == false) {' could become 'if(! \$checkit(\$star)) {'

However, I don't think any of these would contribute to your slow down issue.

-david-

Thanks for the comments david - I've run this on both windows and linux now and the linux system I ran through apache - I get the same results on that too (very similar but not identical) (The linux box is entirely different hardware) - I'll post timing differences later - they're outrageous !!!

I've also run the windows version with apache too now and still get the slowdown.

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I've tried removing my call to the executable replacing it with a simple return and it still slows down.

Looking at what you suggest – could it be that the fgetcsv command is searching from the top of the file on every iteration?
I dont cause it to – but if thats how it works ?

I have discovered a windows loss of 2Mb of system memory for every run – thats either a windows or PHP problem I dont know which – probably windows and I dont think its connected to the slowdown.

If this isnt obvious to anyone I guess the only thing I can do is start taking things out one by one starting with your suggestions.

On the memory side – no it all(suprisingly) seems to happen in ram – even the test database file of 1 million records seems to go straight to ram. There's no thrashing or anything (The win-98 system has 1Gb ram – the linux system just 128Mb)

On the style front – Dave you wouldn't believe my working methods!
In my time I've used maybe 7 languages in anger and currently I use 3 or 4 so I'm in and out of them all the time – things get mixed up in my head.

I always do a "comment" sweep when I'm done and tidy things up for this very reason but sometimes I do use ++x and += 1 because it helps me remember whats going on and what I need to keep an eye on. (I have a bad short term memory problem) My "if" statements and other stuff follow the same routine for the same reasons – there is method in my madness – you just have to be mad too to see it...

This particular code has been messed about with quite badly too as I try to find the problem.

I care more about function not fancy – most PHP style I've seen is abysmal anyway – the standard style reccomended is appaling. I'm not a fan of the way most people code – nor of the way many languages work for that matter. Anything other than Forth is bad form in my book ;-)

As for the trinary operator – its a terrible construct for anyone who doesn't use it regularly or anyone looking at someone elses code so I avoid it.

tony

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