

getimagesize() & MySQL Image Storage (Running functions on contents of variables)

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I'm using a MySQL database to store images as BLOBs. I know how to handle all the MySQL stuff, it's easy, and really makes keeping track of files nice and clean. No permissions, no risk of getting things out of sync, finding stuff is as easy as SQL.

My question is about handling stuff once you pull it out of the database. When I store images in the database, I currently stash the format and the resolution in the database, which works but is a bit messy. I can't find any easy way to run `getimagesize` on the contents of a variable, not a file. I could write the image to a file if I needed to, but that can be slow and rather inelegant, I'd rather store the values in the DB. Any ideas on how I could use `getimagesize` or similar function to determine the format and resolution of the image in a variable?

I have had a similar problem with ftp uploading. There was no way to upload the contents of a variable, so I had to write everything to the disk, kind of annoying when I have 1,000 files. The script wasn't a very heavily used script nor could the public execute it, but it bugged me to no end. I think there are some other functions that also only operate on files and I've fought with them too.

Is there any kind of generic solution for this? Some kind of wrapper I could use to make a variable act like a reference to a file but actually be in memory only?

If this seems totally pointless, please tell me. But it seems like there should be a way for almost any function that runs off a file to run off the contents of a variable, it's just binary data.

Thanks,

Galen