

Serialize and Unserializa weird behaviour

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/php.general/2005-01/0019.html>

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Hello everyone.

I found a strange behaviour using serialize and unserialize to persist to file a configuration array.

I'm using a flat text file to store configuration information. I have a function that lets software change the value of a configuration variable; the function works like this: reads the entire file in a string, unserialize it into an array, modify the correct variable then rewrites the entire file serializing back the array.

code is like this:

```
function preference_update($name, $val) {
    $fp = fopen('data/preferences.dat', 'r+');
    $ser = fread($fp, filesize('data/preferences.dat'));
    $prefs = unserialize($ser);

    for($i = 0; $i < count($prefs); $i++) {
        if($prefs[$i]['name'] == $name) {
            $prefs[$i]['value'] = $val;
            break;
        }
    }

    $ser = serialize($prefs);
    fseek($fp, 0);
    fwrite($fp, $ser);
    $this->mylog->debug($ser);
    fflush($fp);
    fclose($fp);
    unset($fp);
    unset($prefs);
    unset($ser);
}
```

fun things I found are:

1) if I dont unset(\$fp) at the end, when doing multiple

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"preference_update" in a single page, the first is written, the others result in an empty file containing only "b:0;"

2) if I remove fwrite(\$fp, \$ser) at the end, all things are correctly written back! If I leave this line in the code, when calling multiple times in the same script "preference_update", it seems that only the first change gets serialized back.

(I know this is not efficient, but I don't have a database available. No, either gdbm).

I'm using PHP 4.3.2 under apache 1.3.29 on cygwin both compiled from source.

Any hint on what I'm doing wrong?

Thanks in advance.

LM