

Re: [PHP] readfile() problem

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/php.general/2006-10/msg00708.html>

- *From:* ceo@xxxxxxxxxx ("Richard Lynch")
 - *Date:* Thu, 12 Oct 2006 12:51:55 -0500 (CDT)
-

On Thu, October 12, 2006 11:43 am, Peter Lauri wrote:

I have a problem. I am using readfile() to send files to the browser.

I have three different files that I am sending. They are 3MB, 15MB and 59MB

Is there any limitations or settings of how large the files can be when using readfile()? If so, are they settable?

readfile() will slurp the whole file into RAM, and then spit it out to the browser.

It's super-convenient and easy for small files.

It's not a Good Idea for large files.

fopen/fread/echo loop is your buddy.

I'll bet a dollar that your old setting had a different memory_limit in php.ini -- or none at all, or it wasn't even compiled to allow memory_limit -- something along those lines.

Actually, depending on the speed of the server, and its hard drives, and the drive caches, etc, it's entirely possible that the server is just taking TOO LONG to spit out that monster file. wget would probably let you find out pretty quickly if it's RAM or speed that's killing you. But it's kinda moot, really, as the solution either way remains the same.

```
header("Pragma: public");  
header("Expires: 0"); // set expiration time
```

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```
header("Cache-Control: must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0");
header("Content-Type: application/octet-stream");
header("Content-Disposition: attachment; filename=$Row[filename]");
header("Content-Transfer-Encoding: binary");
```

You got Content-type: right, but you know that filename thing is only going to work on some browsers, right?

<http://richardlynch.blogspot.com>

Actually, I think -Type should be -type and it might be case-sensitive, but I'd have to re-read HTTP specs to be 100% sure, and I think all the browsers ignore case anyway, so it's kind of moot, and I'm not THAT bored...

```
//readfile($filelocation);
$file = fopen($filelocation);
while (!feof($file)){
//Last I heard, 2048 optimized some PHP internal buffer...
//That's probably way out of date!
//And does not account for your bandwidth bottle-neck anyway.
//Play with the 2048 until you're happy.
echo fread($file, 2048);
}
```

Some people have a "gift" link here.

Know what I want?

I want you to buy a CD from some starving artist.

<http://cdbaby.com/browse/from/lynch>

Yeah, I get a buck. So?

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