

## Re: Speeding up an application – general rules

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  - *Date:* 22 Dec 2006 06:26:45 GMT
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"Petyr David" <[phynkel@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:phynkel@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Basically: the script uses perl's system command to run a long winded "find" command which is piped to sed to correct patterns that match HTML markers. The matching lines are then shoved into an array. The elements of the array are moved into a hash for the purpose of sorting the file names. Then file names and matching lines are printed.

Q: Can I speed things by eliminating the sed command and letting Perl filter and modify the matching patterns?

Probably not. It should be a 30 second job to take out the sed pipe. Sure, the answers will now be wrong, but unless it gives the wrong answers much faster than it used to, you will know there is no speed benefit to be had by rewriting the sed into Perl.

If so, how much of a performance gain?

Is using Perl's grep to search through every file for the pattern faster than using the find command?

Probably not. Also, Perl's grep (currently) forces the list to be evaluated to completion (in memory) before it gets started, so potentially takes much more memory. You may want to look at Perl's File::Find, although I see no particular reason to think it will be faster than the system's find.

The find command has the advantage that I can search for files of a certain date rather easily. Again: could that be done more rapidly by Perl's looking at the file's mod time?

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Probably not more rapidly, no.

What is the total CPU usage? What is the relative usage of each process  
(perl, find, sed)?

Xho

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