

Re: reading a directory, first files the newest ones

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- *From:* Gunnar Hjalmarsson <noreply@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 28 Oct 2007 03:36:43 +0100
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jordilin wrote:

On Oct 28, 2:02 am, Gunnar Hjalmarsson <nore...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Maybe you should let the system do the desired sorting. On *nix that might be:

```
chomp( my @files = qx(ls -t $dir) );
foreach my $file (@files) {
  last if -M "$dir/$file" > 2/24;
  print "$file\n";
}
```

With this code, and taking into account that the directory is huge,

How big is "huge"?

memory usage would be a problem as we are going to use a huge array @files, and the Unix server is a very important one. Don't know if that could be achieved by means of a while. The real problem is having to process many files before arriving to the interesting ones.

With the above suggestion you wouldn't `_process_` any files but the interesting ones; you'd just store their names in an array.

The solution would be reading the newest ones first.

And that's what the `-t` option achieves...

I think there is no solution.

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We have, either to slurp all the files into an array (which is going to take time and memory), or process the whole directory through a while (one file at a time) till we get the proper files, which in this case is going to take a lot of time as well.

Have you measured the time for various options? You may want to study the Benchmark module.

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