

Re: os.stat access and modify time same on WinXP

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2005-03/3677.html>

From: Peter Hansen (peter_at_engcorp.com)

Date: 03/23/05

Date: Wed, 23 Mar 2005 12:02:02 -0500

rht wrote:

- > *I'm using the standard NTFS file system. The only time the access time*
- > *is updated is when the file is modified or saved (with no changes).*
- > *What's up with that? Shouldn't a read/view update the access time?*

See

<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/Windows/XP/all/reskit/en-us/Default.asp?url=/resources/docume>

Quoting:

""

The Last Access Time on disk is not always current because NTFS looks for a one-hour interval before forcing the Last Access Time updates to disk. NTFS also delays writing the Last Access Time to disk when users or programs perform read-only operations on a file or folder, such as listing the folder's contents or reading (but not changing) a file in the folder. If the Last Access Time is kept current on disk for read operations, all read operations become write operations, which impacts NTFS performance.

Note

* File-based queries of Last Access Time are accurate even if all on-disk values are not current. NTFS returns the correct value on queries because the accurate value is stored in memory.

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Does that help?

(Just went through this myself the other day.)

–Peter