

Re: detecting drives for windows and linux

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2006-03/msg05036.html>

- *From:* Florian Diesch <diesch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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aleaxit@xxxxxxxxxx (Alex Martelli) wrote:

Florian Diesch <diesch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

...

are and want to do it anyway?) Linux puts the whole file system (including mounted iPods, ISOs and NTFS drives) in one hierarchy.

Yes, but you may still want to distinguish (because, for example, hard linking doesn't work across filesystems, and mv is not atomic then).

Why not use os.stat?

Each os.stat call gives you information about one file (or directory); it may be simpler and faster to get the information "in bulk" once and for all.

Depends on what you want to do. Often you need informations like file size, permissions or owner in any case.

For things like creating hardlinks it may be the best to just try it and catch the exception.

Running a df command is a good simple way to find out what drives are mounted to what mountpoints — the mount command is an alternative, but

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its output may be slightly harder to parse than df's.

Executing df may be expensive if it needs to read some slow file systems.

That's what the `-n` flag is for, if you're worried about that (although I believe it may not be available on all systems) --

GNU df doesn't have it.

Some of the various version of df at Solaris don't have it too. And they have at least two different output formats.

executing mount
is the alternative (just putting up with some parsing difficulties depending, e.g., on what automounters may be doing).

I would prefer mount as it is cheaper than df

Reading `/etc/mntab` is not difficult and much faster

```
$ cat /etc/mntab  
cat: /etc/mntab: No such file or directory
```

Ok, wasn't that clever. On Solaris it's `/etc/mntab`, I don't have any BSD around

Oops! BSD systems don't have `/etc/mntab`... so, if you choose to get your info by reading it, you've just needlessly destroyed your program's compatibility with a large portion of the Unix-y universe. popen a mount or df, and information will be easier to extract portably.

On the other hand I know of at least two boxes (no, not mine) where ordinary users don't have permission to exec mount.

Florian

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Emacs doesn't crash! It contains very little C, so there's very little reason to have it crash. [Pascal Bourguignon in `gnu.emacs.help`]

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