

Re: directory.exists occasionally locks up when checking network share

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- *From:* "Keith Langer" <tanalbit@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 3 Sep 2006 07:33:40 -0700
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Carl,

Do you think I would still get the lock up if I tried to retrieve the directory info or file info instead of calling Exists? These calls would normally throw an error if the directory doesn't exist.

Keith

Carl Daniel [VC++ MVP] wrote:

Keith Langer wrote:

Carl,

From what I've been told, the machines that have had the failure may

have a different type of NIC than the machines that don't have the failure. The call to this function can return successfully hundreds or thousands of times before the call doesn't return at all. The OS is identical on all machines. As to whether the NIC drivers are up to date, I don't know. Shouldn't Windows be able to deal with even a bad NIC driver by causing a timeout?

Unfortunately, no. Unless the driver correctly implements IO cancellation and timeouts, there's nothing the IO manager in the OS can do to forcibly stop it (only the driver can know the actions required to reliably cancel a request).

Some more background on how this function is used: This application will check for the server share every 30 seconds until it finds it.

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It also attempts to connect to the share with a secondary login since the primary login has a password which conflicts with the server. Due to a virus, the Server and Secondary logon services had failed on the server, so the application would check for the share every 30 seconds and never find it.

A few questions:

1) Any idea how I can force this situation to be reproduced?

No. From what you describe, I'd guess that there's a good chance that it's a driver bug.

2) Do you think that if I call this method from a different thread that I'm going to still have problems? I'm guessing that the thread will never be successfully aborted and the system performance will degrade as a result.

I wouldn't expect it to make any difference at all.

3) Is there another way to check for the directory's existence while avoiding the potential for a lockup?

Nothing comes to mind, sorry.

-cd