

## Re: Slow Accessing a memo field on a network

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- *From:* "MikeA" <[appell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:appell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 20 Sep 2007 06:44:39 GMT
- 

Okay – I appreciate the replies. I did set it to a memory variable in a method and it does dramatically increase the speed. I just was not sure if this was normal.

Thanks,  
Mike

"Cy Welch" <[cywelch@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:cywelch@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
<news:E2EEC760-EE82-4B52-B2AF-2D7E9664714E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

As you have been told that is normal behavior. When the table is open by more than one computer VFP MUST check the record on disk each time you access any field. If it's only open on one computer, it pulls it into memory and doesn't look back at disk. It's pretty normal for database access across the network to take as much as 10 times longer under multiuser. Part of best practices over a network is to not do more reads across the network than needed. In other words, always read everything into memory and then read from memory unless you expect the values to be changed. If everything only reads from the table you might be able to get pretty much the same increase in speed if you open the table read-only as it doesn't have to worry about locking in that situation which is what slows access down.

--

Cy Welch  
Senior Programmer/Analyst  
MetSYS Inc.  
<http://www.metsysinc.com>

"MikeA" <[appell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:appell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:dEdli.17429\\$re2.14254@xxxxxxxxxxx](news:dEdli.17429$re2.14254@xxxxxxxxxxx)

I still have a feeling something else is going on here. I'll check because I have another client that has an XP PRO they are using (for the file server). I don't think their network has this problem but I'm going to go over there today to double check this. I just can't see being able to open a form in under one second and then if I have that same table open on a second workstation that it could then take some 5–10 seconds to open

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that same form. The table is only one record and the dbf is 11K and the fpt is 15K. The only good news is that I have simulated the same problem here on my network as well.

Mike

"Dan Freeman" <spam@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:%23Ec71Uu%23HHA.2004@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23Ec71Uu%23HHA.2004@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

ALL data access is slower when multiple users are involved.  
It \*has\* to  
be.

VFP cannot rely on its local cache. It must first ask Windows  
to poll  
the network to see if other users have cached changes that  
must be  
updated to the server and then updated to the local cache.

It's the nature of the beast. Some networks will handle it  
better than  
others. In your OP you mentioned a "Windows XP server"  
-- Windows XP is  
not a server operating system. I'd expect it to be the least  
capable  
"server" of the lot because it isn't one. ;-)

Dan

MikeA wrote:

Thank you all for your replies but I think  
you may be missing what I'm  
asking. I understand that the memofield  
access can be slow  
especially if the memofield is large.  
However, my memofield is no  
more than 3K but does contain around 150  
lines. My question is why  
is it so much slower when the file is open at  
another workstation on  
the network, otherwise, it is very fast to loop  
through the memofield.

My question is whether it is normal for the  
memofield access to be  
very fast when accessing it over a network  
on workstation #1. But,  
very slow if the table is open at another  
workstation on the network?

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I noticed that it is definitely a lot faster when I simply copy the memofield to a variable and then access the lines via the local variable.

So, say I have 3 computers (one is the file server). I open the table and it is slow to do multiple accesses of the memofield but only if it is open on another computer. My fear is that all data access may be slowing down but not enough to detect with the eye and that maybe there is something else I'm not noticing. I have not used Set Refresh so that is just using the default and I am opening the table via pessimistic locking but nothing is not locked on the reads.

It's just the multiple accessing via the memofields when the table is open at another workstation that slows everything down. Also, I don't think this is happening on all LANs and may depend on the server and network setup. But, it does appear to be happening on some so it really has me curious.

Thanks,  
Mike

"Alex.K" <nomail@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

[news:%23k5ccb%23HHA.1184@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23k5ccb%23HHA.1184@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Mike,

You should only read the Memo field once and store it to a string var. Then do all processing on the string. You can also use `_MLINE` and `MLINE()` on strings.

Another method is to use `ALINES()` and process as an Array

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– Craig

"MikeA"

<appell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:JA5li.7361\\$A72.1856@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:JA5li.7361$A72.1856@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

Anyone  
have any  
ideas about  
this: here's  
the  
situation,

I have a  
memo field  
that I use in  
a table and I  
read various  
lines  
from the  
memo field  
for default  
settings.  
This makes  
it so that I  
don't always  
have to  
modify the  
structure of  
the table.  
The total  
length of  
the  
memofield  
is small  
(under 3K).  
However, I  
have to  
read the  
memo field  
multiple  
times to get  
the default  
values on  
any  
particular  
line. For  
example:

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```
set  
memowidth  
to 8192  
test1 =  
mline(mytable.mysettings,  
1)  
test2 =  
memline(mytable.mysettings,  
2)  
test3 =  
memline(mytable.mysettings,  
3)  
test4 =  
memline(mytable.mysettings,  
4)
```

There are about 150 lines at present in the field. Here's the strange thing. I have a method in a form that reads all the values and sets the objects on the form accordingly. It seems like it is starting to take a long time to load the form (around 6–10 seconds). But, this delay is ONLY PRESENT if the table is open on another computer on the

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network. If I open the table on the same computer in a separate program (such as VFP) or I run another instance of my application, then everything is fast. The slowness only happens if the table is open on another workstation and it appears that it is just as slow if the table is open on 2 workstations or 10 (makes no difference). It drastically speeds up when the table is open on only one workstation and is fast even if that table is open on one computer with multiple programs (such as if it is open

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in my app  
as well as  
open in  
VFP). I  
have  
noticed this  
problem on  
both an XP  
Pro  
computer  
(as the  
server) with  
XP  
workstations  
and I have  
also noticed  
this  
problem  
on a real  
Win 2000  
server with  
XP  
workstations.  
I'm using  
VFP  
6/SP3. The  
problem  
only seems  
to happen  
when doing  
multiple  
reads  
from the  
same  
memofield  
many times.  
In other  
words, if I  
do this  
instead:  
m.lcMain =  
mytable.mysettings

and I then  
populate the  
form using  
m.lcMain  
then  
everything  
is very  
fast. It's as

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if multiple  
reads to the  
same  
memofield  
is really  
slow but  
only if the  
table is  
open on  
another  
workstation.  
There  
are no virus  
checkers or  
other  
programs  
(that I know  
of) to slow  
it  
down). I  
can't  
understand  
why this is  
happening  
but I'm not  
sure  
if it is  
happening  
on other  
server OS's  
as well or  
just these  
few  
examples I  
have  
provided.  
I'm running  
the exe on  
the local  
machine.  
But, it  
seems to be  
some kind  
of network  
issue  
because  
the speed  
drastically  
slows down  
(reading the  
memo field

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multiple  
times)  
whether the  
table is  
open on two  
workstations  
or 10. It's  
then pretty  
much the  
same slow  
speed when  
open at 2  
computers  
or  
more but  
lightening  
fast when  
open at only  
one.  
Anyone  
have any  
ideas?  
Thanks,  
Mike