

Re: Can 'Minifying' vbscript provide performance gain?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Scripting/microsoft.public.scripting.vbscript/2008-03/msg00308.html>

- *From:* "Richard Mueller [MVP]" <rlmueller-nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Jason wrote;

Can removing all comments, blank lines, tabs etc from vbscript code provide any performance boost? We are looking to tweak any performance we can get out of our app, I know it's a bit extreme of a move but is it viable?

I have created a script to do this and it removes about 12mb from the file system footprint. Do you think that when the scripts are interpreted this could save some time?

In principal, removing white space should make the script run faster, but I doubt you could measure the difference. In my experience, the biggest hit to performance is the number of binding operations to objects that are not local. Binding to local objects, like wshShell or the Dictionary object, is fast, but binding to objects in Active Directory is slow. That's why retrieving information from AD with ADO is so efficient. You bind to a few local objects, then retrieve lots of values in one operation. Doing the same thing by binding to each AD object would be much slower.

I have found that using "Option Explicit" and declaring all variables seems to improve performance. My theory is that the interpreter no longer needs to guess about your intentions, or perhaps it saves preprocessing. This despite the fact that the file becomes larger.

I always use lots of white space and comments. I indent structures like If/End If, For Each/Next, and Do Until/Loop. I use long descriptive variable names. I never use With blocks. I try to always make things explicit and not assume defaults. I use Option Explicit and declare all variables. Sometimes others rewrite my code to be much smaller, requiring much less typing. My chatty version is invariably faster. My motto is that anything that saves the coder typing is generally not a good idea. All of this is in addition to the "chatty" code being much easier to understand, troubleshoot, and modify.

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Richard Mueller
Microsoft MVP Scripting and ADSI
Hilltop Lab – <http://www.rlmuellet.net>

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