

Re: Can someone explain how a App on a Network server works?

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When you execute a normal EXE on a local drive, the O/S actually "memory maps" the code from the *.exe file, thus making it appear as part of the process virtual address space, and then passes control to it. Note that this is different to it actually being loaded into RAM, or "physical memory". As sections of that code are executed, the normal virtual memory paging brings the relevant bit of code into physical memory on demand, as they're needed.

Although memory mapping can load a file from a network drive, I believe the file content is first fetched across the network into a local temporary file, and then memory mapped (all quietly, behind the scenes). This is because the virtual memory paging would be at a lower-level in the O/S than network access, and so cannot access a non-local disk.

An EXE file is usually marked as "busy" when being executed because the code is being loaded into RAM on-demand, and the O/S has to prevent anything not yet loaded from being changed, or moved, before it gets to it. I find it annoying that this locking also seems to prevent a rename operation too, which isn't really modifying any data. Under UNIX, you can perform a 'mv' command on an executing program with no problems.

I'm not aware of any XP differences in this area. I'm not running XP here so maybe someone else can tell me if you can successfully rename an executing local file. If it only works when executing a remote file then it sounds like the *whole* file is being fetched across the network, and the busy lock released on it before memory mapping the local version. I'm guessing here though.

Tony Proctor

"Darwin Weyh" <shtdev.delete.this@weyh.net> wrote in message news:#M2Byd5\$DHA.1956@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...

- > I have an application (*appname.exe*) that I have developed in VB6 and it is
- > run on the user workstations from a Network drive.
- > This way I only have to update it in one place for minor changes (i.e. no
- > new controls and such).
- > Now when I go to update the .exe file I just rename it to

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- > (*appname.exe.exe.00x*) to keep a backup in case I break it instead of fixing
- > it.
- > If the App is running on a WIN98 user machine it prevents me from renaming
- > because it is in use. But on XP user machines it does allow me to rename it.
- >
- > Can someone explain what is happening here?
- > I assume the XP user must restart the App to get the new changes?
- > Is this correct?
- >
- > Thanks
- > --
- > Darwin C. Weyh
- > *shtdev.delete.this@weyh.net*
- > And for the spammers: *dweyh@weyh.net*
- >
- >