

Re: Need Help deleting record from text file

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2007-09/msg01623.html>

- *From:* "Dave O." <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 27 Sep 2007 15:16:22 +0100
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Why so defensive? All I said was that for some operations a database is faster than flat files and for some operations it is slower. If you are going to be so dogmatic that you cannot accept that then I suspect that all your opinions are probably questionable.

If you are going to do a binary search of an array then you need the whole thing in memory, or you need to load it in fragments which will be slow and messy.

Of course there is no magic to databases, but you can treat them as black boxes which might as well be magic, the trick is obviously indexing which allows complex queries to be answered far faster than any search on a flat file – again obviously this only refers to large datasets, for a few hundred items a flat file will be faster but we are dealing with sets of several thousand items so the hypothetical examples will be larger sets where the database has the clear advantage.

The OP is as you say reading in the data to an array – He then needs to store it so he can compare the folder content with what is backed up, for that he needs a record of prior content and a record of what's archived which will be either the flat file or the database, so a database will speed it up because he does not have to read in the array of existing content and previous archive records because all that can be left unloaded but accessible in the database.

Also once you have a rough idea of what you are doing coding for databases with VB6 is a doddle, while maintaining ones own index of flat file content and devising a suitable random access method to get at the bits you need is a lot more complex.

Dave O.

"Mike Williams" <mikea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:%23059sMPAIHA.1204@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

"Dave O." <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:u6TkcoOAIHA.4732@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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Entering data into a database will be a bit slower as it indexes the data on entry however retrieval will be faster.

Faster than what?

The other main speed advantage is that opening a database should be a lot faster than reading the whole array into memory.

Who said you need to read an entire array into memory just to access a small portion of it? I certainly never suggested that. If you need to save a very large array to disk as a data file you can use standard VB I/O code to do it efficiently. If you write the data in a suitable format you can later open the data file by reading just a relatively small header chunk and then read in the elements or the portion of data you require. This method will work for all data types, including large variable length strings, if you write the code properly. Obviously the indexing method chosen will vary depending on the circumstances and on the kind of data and the kind of uses you are likely to put it to, but it certainly is possible to do this stuff very efficiently in ordinary VB code without needing to use a standard "database". Databases do not contain "alien magic" ;-)

Besides, the OP is reading his data (the names of the files contained in a specific folder) using FindFirstFile and FindNextFile (presumably) and dumping that data (the names of the files) directly in to a VB string array and then sorting the array. How is using a database going to speed up that operation!

Mike