

Re: The performance of Editplus is much better than notepad,Why?

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- *From:* Joseph M. Newcomer <newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 20 Nov 2006 20:24:22 -0500
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Absolutely the right attitude. The problem today is that too many teachers of computer science grew up on minicomputers, where memory, particularly code size, DID matter. The problem is that they failed to grow up with the technology around them, and still cling to, and teach, rather obsolete concepts such as minimizing code size. This is a discipline that matters only for people doing embedded applications with limited memory, and should not be taught as a fundamental paradigm. These are the same people who teach that function calls cost performance and should be avoided, that heap allocation is expensive, and other irrelevant myths from the past. I spent a lot of years retraining programmers who learned from these teachers.

What matters, and for most practical purposes, the ONLY thing that matters, is that the code be written quickly, robustly, is robust-under-maintenance, easily read, easily understood, and well-commented to support future development. Code size, and on the whole, code performance, are simply meaningless metrics most of the time. Only when you have some deep inner loop, such as an image processing loop, sound transformation loop, etc. would performance of lines of code matter.

As I tell my students, "Optimizing code will buy you single-digit percentages in performance. Optimizing architecture will buy you orders of magnitude". Most performance problems are in the architecture of the system. And performance rarely matters these days anyway. When a typical instruction takes 1/6ns (a 3GHz Pentium 4 superscalar architecture could in principle dispatch 9 instructions per 333ps clock cycle, or 27 instructions per ns, but realistically you tend to see numbers around 6 instructions/ns, due to delays in getting data from memory) there is so much excess capacity most of the time that worrying about lines-of-code performance is almost always a waste of time.

Performance matters only when it matters. When it matters, it matters a lot. But until you discover that it matters, it isn't even worthy of consideration.

I find concerns about code size, especially those expressed by the OP, to be completely irrelevant. They bear no relationship to anything that matters, most especially program performance.

joe

On 20 Nov 2006 15:32:40 -0800, "jussij@xxxxxxxxxxxxx" <jussij@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

wei.niu@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Re: The performance of Editplus is much better than notepad,Why?

I found editplus's performance is much better than notepad. Editplus uses only 2--2.5M memory whereas notepad uses more than 4M. Why?

Out of curiosity, why do you even bother measuring performance in terms of RAM?

A typical PC comes with about 1000 M of RAM so 4 M is nearly nothing. Personally I would measure performance in program user response times rather than RAM.

If the program is fast and responsive as a user I would not care less how much RAM it is using.

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