

Re: Why SetFilePointerEx can't accept a negative number as the distance offset?

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It could be that files opened to the whole partition don't have "size" concept. Thus, end of file is not known for them.
I wonder whether GetFileSize(Ex) will succeed for such a handle and return non-zero result.

"Norman Diamond" <ndiamond@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:OvgmML08HHA.1188@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The original poster has permission to open the entire partition and read/write the entire partition, so an attempt to read the last sector of the partition is not a security hole.

Even though we don't know in the physical hardware which sector is "last" in some sense in the physical drive (or in which physical drive in RAID as you point out) there is some sector that has the highest block number, starting from 0 for the first block in the partition.

I don't know why Windows doesn't deliver, but the original poster's wishes look sensible to me.

"Joseph M. Newcomer" <newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:tad4e35ub4jp9foqgcirq2t290buqdmv1b@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

You can't. For all practical purposes, the *concept* does not even exist. Since it makes no sense to allow this (you don't even know what the last sector is, and given dynamic remapping, RAID drives, virtual drives, etc.) there is no way to even *identify* what the last sector is! You can only do this if you have privileged access to the physical drive, and you don't have that.

I have no idea why this could possibly make sense, even if it were possible, but no sane operating system would ever permit this sort of thing to be done. It would be a truly

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massive security hole. So it isn't going to happen.

joe

On Fri, 07 Sep 2007 21:27:28 -0700, xmllmx <xmllmx@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Thank you, Joseph.

My purpose is simple: I want to read the last sector of the drive.

All of the first three posts are mine. Maybe you just saw my first post.

My second post:

=====

"Even if I change the value -512 to 0, the call to SetFilePointerEx still fails.

How weird it is!"

=====

My third post:

=====

"PS.

The error code returned by SetFilePointerEx is 0x87 (ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER)."

=====

CreateFile is successful. And I can successfully call SetFilePointerEx with positive value such as 512, 1024, etc. As long as the offset is positive and sector-aligned, the call will always succeed!

For example, the following code is OK.

===== Code =====

```
HANDLE hDrive = CreateFile(L"\\\\.\\C:",
GENERIC_READ,
FILE_SHARE_READ|FILE_SHARE_WRITE, 0,
OPEN_EXISTING,
NULL, NULL);
LARGE_INTEGER i64;
i64.QuadPart = 512; // must be a whole number multiple of
the volume's
sector size
SetFilePointerEx(hDrive, i64, 0, FILE_BEGIN); // OK!
```

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```
CloseHandle(hDrive);  
===== Code =====
```

Moreover, in some case, I can use a negative value successfully. See below:

```
i64.QuadPart = 512; // must be a whole number multiple of  
the volume's  
sector size  
SetFilePointerEx(hDrive, i64, 0, FILE_BEGIN); // OK!
```

```
/*  
Now the current file pointer points to 512, so I can move the  
file  
pointer backward.  
*/
```

```
i64.QuadPart = -512;  
SetFilePointerEx(hDrive, i64, 0, FILE_CURRENT); // OK!
```

From the experiments
above, we can see that
SetFilePointerEx() has its

meaning. I think a drive can be treated as an ordinary file. GetFileType() will return FILE_TYPE_DISK, which means the drive is seeking device rather than nonseeking device, so we can call SetFilePointerEx on the drive.

After I rephrase my problem, my original problem is still unsolved:

```
i64.QuadPart = -512;  
SetFilePointerEx(hDrive, i64, 0, FILE_END); // This time  
the call will  
still return 0x87
```

I'm still awaiting help for this. Thanks.

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Web: <http://www.flounder.com>
MVP Tips: http://www.flounder.com/mvp_tips.htm