

Re: Copying large quantity of files taking forever

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.general/2008-10/msg00487.html>

- *From:* "Pegasus \ (MVP)" <I.can@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 9 Oct 2008 22:32:37 +0200
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The utility xxcopy.exe is known for baulking at large copy jobs. Perhaps there is a similar but much higher limit for robocopy. Which version do you use? It should be at least Version XP010.

If this is a limitation of robocopy.exe then you may be able to walk around it by splitting up the job into many smaller jobs, using a batch file. I would try this:

```
@echo off
for %%a in (0 1 .. 9 a b .. z) do robocopy /s /.. "D:\SourceFolder"
"E:\DestFolder" %%a*.*
robocopy /s /XO "D:\SourceFolder" "E:\DestFolder" *.*
```

The second line will copy all files starting with 0 .. 9 and a .. z. You must expand the dots to include the full alphabet – the batch file won't do it for you! The third line will scoop up any file that was not already copied by the first line. If the third line slows down to a crawl after a while then you have to expand the collection of characters in Line 2 to include all valid ASCII characters. Use charmap.exe to identify them!

"SwitchKat" <SwitchKat@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:561323C4-1B08-4034-9BB6-63C4089824C6@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The files are spread out through many directories. I originally thought this might be an issue too since it also takes a long time to open any of the folders.

"Pegasus (MVP)" wrote:

"SwitchKat" <SwitchKat@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:EFEF754F-402C-438E-9654-0ABC30409346@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi, I wanted to throw this question out because after losing

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over a
week
of
productivity, I'm not sure where else to turn.

Here's my issue. We're trying to restore a file repository for a project that has just under 2 million files. We've tried restoring from tape, copying from another Windows server and even moving from another Windows server. The problem we run into in every case is that the file copy to the new system takes off fast and we can see file transfer rates start out copying 1000's of files per second, but over time it always slows down to a crawl and we end up where we are now. We are currently transferring one file every few minutes.

All the files are fairly small (<10MB), gigabit network (although we see the same performance if we attach the drive locally and just try a copy), and all are running Windows Server 2000 or 2003 server. The target is always running 2003. We've been monitoring resources, and at this point, both servers involved show flatlines for their resources being used. My hunch is that it has something to do with a data block size issue or the file table (maybe fragmentation?), but I'm not sure. Any ideas?

You don't say where these files reside but if they reside in a single

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directory then this is your answer. If you want to keep your machine running at top speed, don't keep more than 10,000 entries in a single folder. 2 million is two hundred times too many.