

## Re: Assembly string functions in i386 libc

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*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2007-07/msg00075.html>

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- *From:* "Sean C. Farley" <[scf@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:scf@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 11 Jul 2007 18:43:00 -0500 (CDT)
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On Wed, 11 Jul 2007, Matthew Dillon wrote:

Long ago I decided that `strlen()` was simply not in the critical path for virtually any program. A few nanoseconds here or there is not going to result in any noticeable improvement for any program other than a benchmark designed to test `strlen()`. It isn't worth the effort to optimize.

Since `strlen()` is used in every program directly or indirectly through `libc`, I thought it was beneficial to make it faster. In the case of `i386`, the C version used by all the other architectures, except for `ARM`, is much faster than the assembly version. This is without any optimization on its part.

I need to test out `grep` (`FreeGrep`) to see how it behaves when calling `regexexec()` (may use `strlen()` in certain cases) many times (i.e., `grep -R` on the source tree) using both versions.

Sean

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