

Re: Which delete statement is faster?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.vms/2007-10/msg00771.html>

- *From:* "Mike Minor" <mminorhsd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 16 Oct 2007 15:23:26 -0400
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I have a directory with 200000+files, all in the a*.txt;1 range. I need to ftp these files to another server. After sending 30,000+ files via FTP I realized the magnitude of the ftp process, and interrupted it. I want to delete the 30,000+ file already ftp'ed before going back and looking at continueing the ftp process in a different manner and it just seems to be taking an extremely long time to perform the delete. I think the hang up is the re-write of the directory contents back to disk after a few files are deleted. I did the delete with a /log to watch how long it took to delete a file. I noticed a pause of a few seconds after it listed 15 to 20 files that were deleted.....

Thank you for your help....

Mike

<briggs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:iO4j523y6UmT@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

In article <13h9vel51sekc1b@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "Mike Minor"
<mminorhsd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

Is there any difference in the speed at which the command is executed in the following examples?

```
del a*.*;*
del a*.txt;*
del a*.txt;1
```

All things being equal (i.e. the only files in the directory that match the a*.*;* wildcard also match a*.txt;1), I'd expect no significant performance difference.

The real work is going to be the disk I/O writing directory contents back to disk. Reading directory entries into cache and parsing and searching directory entries from cache is unlikely to be the bottleneck.

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Why do you ask?

Historically, the thing that absolutely kills delete performance is the "bubble down" that can take place if you delete the last directory entry in a block near the front end of a `_HUGE_` .DIR file.

Various tweaks over the years have improved this behavior by orders of magnitude. If it's still an issue for you, a reverse-alphabetical-order delete is one thing that can sometimes be of use.