CS 4513 Project 1

Dumpster Diving

Design

I created a folder named *experiment_folder* on the /tmp partition. Within this folder, I created 10 folders named *folder1*, *folder2*....*folder10*. Each of these folders contained 10 files with the .txt extension – thus, the file names were *file1*, *file2*,...*file10*. Each folder contained copies of these 10 files. Each file contained portions of the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll. The text of the novel was obtained from Project Gutenberg.¹

The shell script I used to test the times measured the elapsed time using the *date* shell command - $start_time=`date + \%N`$. Using the %N specifier allows for the measurement of time in nanoseconds. After executing the rm program, the script measured the time again - $end_time=`date+\%N`$. The time taken by the program was obtained by the difference - echo execution time was `expr \$end_time - \$start_time` nanoseconds.

I performed ten runs – one on each folder – and calculated the throughput. I recorded my data by using the du utility to measure the size of the file or directory being transferred, and by noting the time as described above. The throughput was obtained by dividing the size by the time.

I performed this experiment on a laptop that was connected to the WPI Wireless network.

I used the PuTTy software to connect to the CCC server (where I had developed my code), and to run the experiments using the shell. I was also running the Google Chrome browser, Microsoft Powerpoint and Word, and WinSCP at the time on the laptop. The Microsoft Skydrive sync

¹ The full text can be obtained at http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/11/pg11.txt.

service was also running in the background, which may have contributed to a delay in the connection to the CCC server.

I also wrote a simple C file that renamed argv[1] to argv[2], argv[3] to argv[4], etc. I made 10 *rename* requests in the file, and measured the time of execution. I calculated the average time for those ten requests and repeated with the same set of files 10 times.

Results

The preliminary run of the script was to copy just a single folder to the trash directory. The trash directory was in my user folder, thus ensuring that it was on a different partition as compared to the /tmp partition. A custom trash directory was specified using the -t flag - ./rm_prog -t ~/cs4513/proj1/trash_dir/ -r -i /tmp/experiment_folder/folder5/.

This program took 98852000 nanoseconds to execute, which is 98.85 milliseconds. The size of the folder was:

\$du trash_dir/folder5/-b

164798 trash_dir/folder5/

Thus, the throughput was 1.6672×10^6 bytes per second (Bps). The full set of results are as in the table below-

Table 1: Results for rm -r on directories

Filename	Size	Time	Throughput
	(bytes)	(milliseconds)	(10 ⁶ Bps)
folder1	164798	80.17	2.055606835
folder2	164798	50.7	3.250453649
folder3	164798	59.54	2.767853544
folder4	164798	177.4	9.289627959

folder5	164798	98.85	1.667152251
folder6	164798	108.4	1.520276753
folder7	164798	160.1	1.02934416
folder8	164798	812.7	2.02778393
folder9	164798	447.6	3.68181412
folder10	164798	141.8	1.162186178
Mean	164798	213.726	1.495279597
Standard Deviation	0	239.285	9.794490255

The results for the *rename* operation are presented below:

Table 2: data on the rename operation

Run	Total execution time	Average time for 10 requests
	(nanoseconds)	(seconds)
1	466602000	0.0466602
2	82282000	0.0082282
3	45542000	0.0045542
4	604152000	0.0604152
5	436599000	0.0436599
6	50995000	0.0050995
7	779484000	0.0779484
8	264973000	0.0264973
9	636366000	0.0636366
10	154521000	0.0154521

Mean	352151600	0.03521516
Standard	269014161.6	0.026901416
Deviation		

Analysis

There is great variation observed in the results for the *rm* utility. Since the size of the folders removed to trash were the same, I hypothesize that the variation in time is due to both network delays and possible delays between caching and flushing to disk.

The data on the *rename* operation shows less standard deviation, thereby showing that the average time of 0.035 seconds per rename operation can be used as a good approximation.