.NET PERFORMANCE INVESTIGATION

Adam Sitnik

About Myself

- BenchmarkDotNet maintainer
- Bibliotecario #dotnet #Microsoft
 - Building Performance Culture
 - Preventing | Detecting | Solving regressions in .NET Core
 - Making .NET Core even faster
 - Making various .NET libraries faster: ML.NET, .NET for Apache Spark

Measure, measure, measure.

Without data you're just another person with an opinion

W. Edwards Deming, a data scientist

Benchmark? Profiler?

"In computing, a benchmark is the act of running a computer program, a set of programs, or other operations, in order to assess the relative performance of an object, normally by running a number of standard tests and trials against it"

Wikipedia

"In software engineering, profiling ("program profiling", "software profiling") is a form of dynamic program analysis that measures, for example, the space (memory) or time complexity of a program, the usage of particular instructions, or the frequency and duration of function calls. Most commonly, profiling information serves to aid program optimization."

Wikipedia

Recommended Settings

- Release (not Debug)
- Symbols:
 - <DebugType>pdbonly</DebugType>
 - <DebugSymbols>true</DebugSymbols>
- Disable Tiered JIT (or warmup the code)
 - <TieredCompilation>false</TieredCompilation>

Small Repro: ML.NET regression

	Before	After
.NET Core	2.2	3.0
Tiered JIT	Disabled by default	Enabled by default
Vectorized Math	Native library	Managed library

Narrow down:

- Disable Tiered JIT and run the .NET Core 3.0 benchmarks
- Run version with native dependency as .NET Core 3.0

Problem:

Vectorized Math library!

Choose the right Profiler

Windows

- VS Profiler if you can reproduce the problem on your Dev machine
- PerfView very powerful, but has a high entry cost

Cross platform

- dotnet trace
 - Works always and everywhere with .NET Core 3.0+!
 - if you don't need native call stacks
 - if you can't run as Admin/sudo

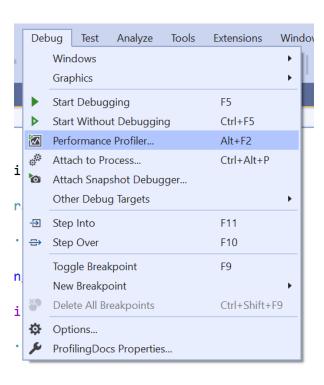
Linux

PerfCollect – if you need native call stacks and can run as sudo

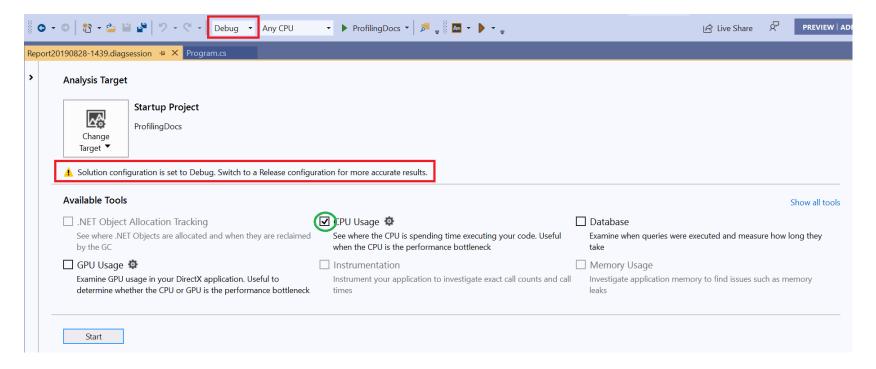
Visual Studio Profiler

- CPU, Memory, GPU
- CPU time per code line!
- .NET Core support

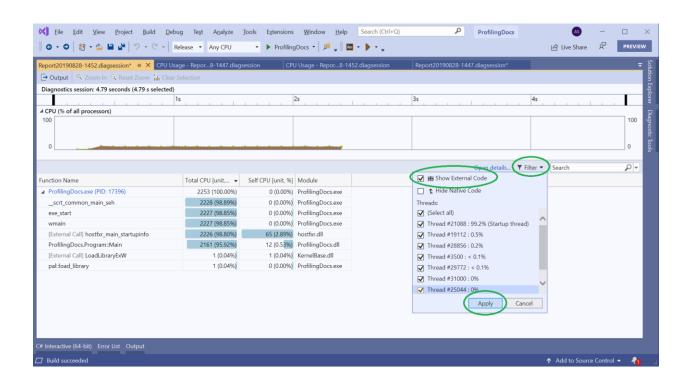
VS -> Alt+F2 or Debug Menu



Available Tools



Filter

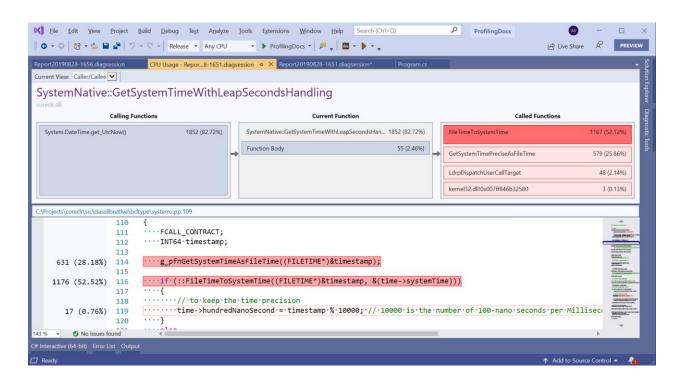


Analysis

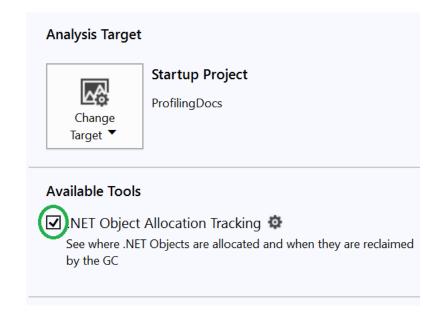


Function Name	Total CPU [unit, %]	Self CPU [unit, 6] ▼	Medule
▲ ProfilingDocs.exe (PID: 17396)	2253 (100.00%)	0 (0.00%)	Profiling Docs.exe
RtlpTimeToTimeFields	856 (37.99%)	856 (37.99%)	ntdll.dll
RtlQueryPerformanceCounter	351 (15.58%)	351 (15.58%)	ntdll.dll
FileTimeToSystemTime	1152 (51.13%)	282 (12.52%)	KernelBase.dll
RtlGetSystemTimePrecise	496 (22.02%)	145 (6.44%)	ntdll.dll
LdrpDispatchUserCallTarget	37 (1.64%)	37 (1.64%)	ntdll.dll
GetSystemTimePreciseAsFileTime	525 (23.30%)	29 (1.29%)	KernelBase.dll
coreclr.dll!0x007fffce7e51d0	15 (0.67%)	15 (0.67%)	coreclr.dll
_security_check_cookie	14 (0.62%)	14 (0.62%)	KernelBase.dll
System.Private.CoreLib.dll!0x007fffcdf18120	14 (0.62%)	14 (0.62%)	System.Private.Co
Profiling Docs. Program:: Main	2161 (95.92%)	12 (0.53%)	ProfilingDocs.dll
System.Private.CoreLib.dll!0x007fffcdee5ee0	12 (0.53%)	12 (0.53%)	System.Private.Co
System.Private.CoreLib.dll!0x007fffcdf18260	11 (0.49%)	11 (0.49%)	System.Private.Co
System.Private.CoreLib.dll!0x007fffcdee5f3b	210 (9.32%)	10 (0.44%)	System.Private.Co

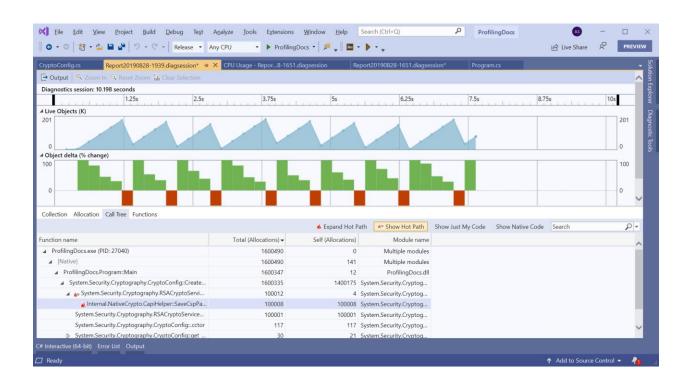
CPU time per code line!



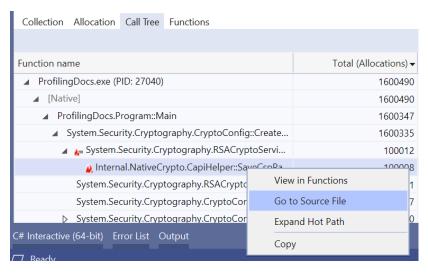
.NET Object Allocation Tracking

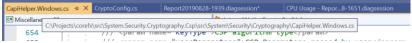


Allocations!



Go to Source File





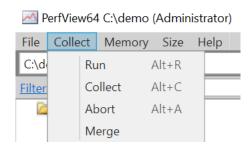
PerfView

- The most powerful .NET Profiler
- Actively Developed and Maintained
- Always up to date with latest .NET Runtime features
- Open Source https://github.com/Microsoft/perfview
- Small Overhead (up to 3-5%)
- Digitally signed by Microsoft
- Production Ready

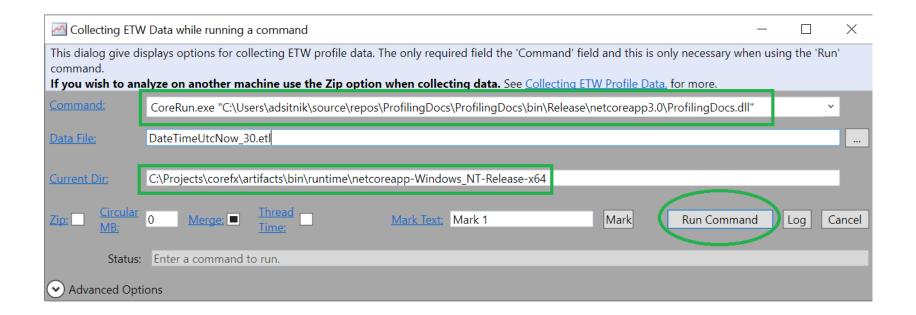
Free tutorial & videos!



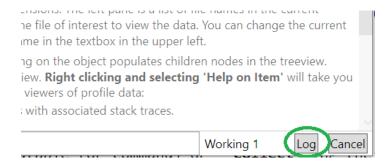
Run a Command or Collect w\ Start&Stop



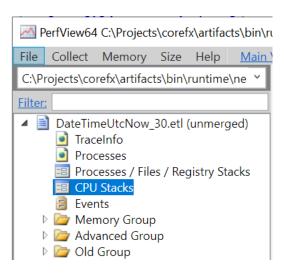
Small Repro App: Run an Executable



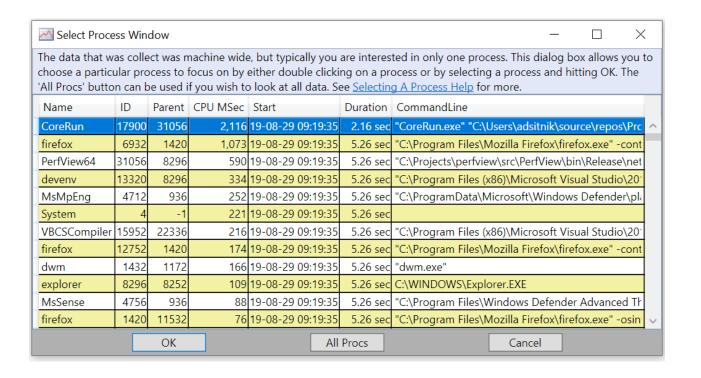
Experiencing a silent error? Log!



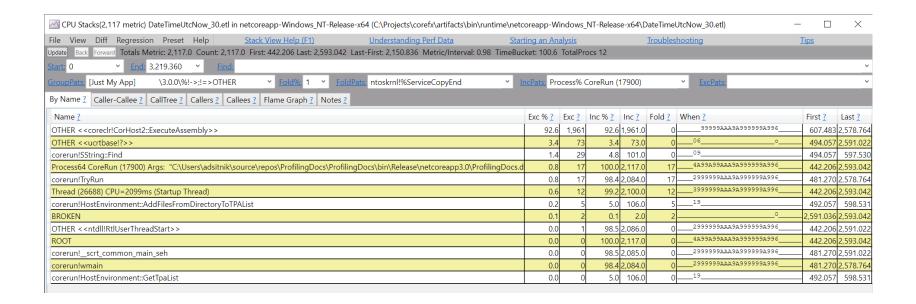
Trace Explorer



Select Process



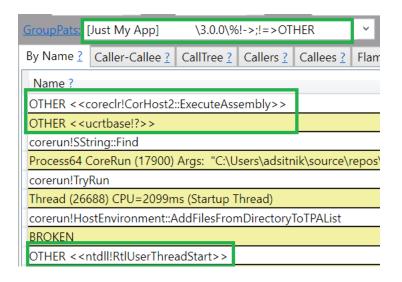
Default Filters

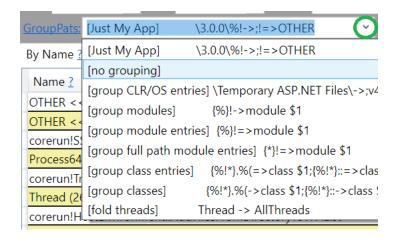


Is it CPU bound?

7 metric) DateTimeUtcNow_30.etl in netcoreapp-Windows_NT-Release-x64 (C:\Projects\corefx\artifacts\bin\runtime\netcoreapp-Windows_NT-Release-x64 (C:\Projects\corefx\artifacts\bin\artifacts\bin\artifacts\bin\artifacts\bin\a

Grouping





No grouping

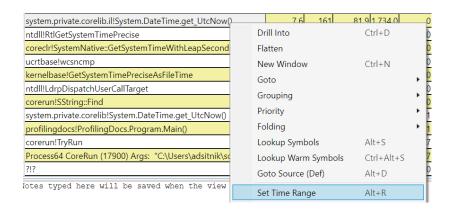


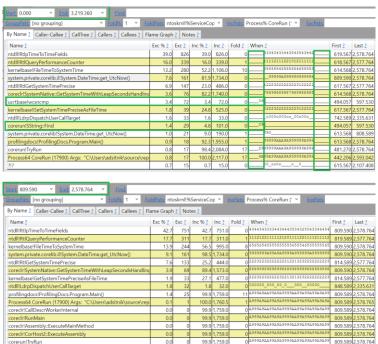
Symbols

ucrtbase!?	
kernelbase!	GetSystemTim
ntdll!LdrpDi	spatchUserCa
corerun!SSt	ring::Find
system.priva	ate.corelib!Sys
profilingdoo	s!ProfilingDoo
corerun!Tryl	Run
Process64 C	CoreRun (1790
?!?	
Thread (266	88) CPU=2099
coreclr!Call[DescrWorkerIn
corerun!Hos	stEnvironment
ntoskrnl!?	

Name ?			Exc % ?	Exc ?	Inc %
ntdll!RtlpTimeToTimeFields			39.0	826	3
ntdll!RtlQueryPerformanceCounte	er		16.0	338	1
kernelbase!FileTimeToSystemTime		13.2	279	5	
system.private.corelib.il!System.D	ateTin	ne.get_UtcNow()	7.6	161	8
ntdll!RtlGetSystemTimePrecise			6.0	1.17	2
coreclr!SystemNative::GetSystem		Drill Into	Ctrl+	D	8
ucrtbase!?		Flatten			
kernelbase!GetSystemTimePrecis		New Window	Ctrl+	N	2
nt dll! Ldrp Dispatch User Call Target		Goto			, <u> </u>
corerun!SString::Find		Grouping			, L
system.private.corelib!System.Dat		. 3			
profilingdocs!ProfilingDocs.Progr		Priority			S
corerun!TryRun		Folding			<u>▶</u> g
Process64 CoreRun (17900) Args:		Lookup Symbols	Alt+S		10

Set Time Range





Filtering by Name

```
void Main() => WhatYouCareAbout(Setup());

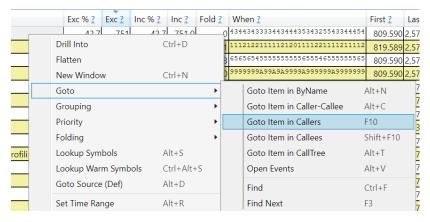
[MethodImpl(MethodImplOptions.NoInlining)]
void $SomeType Setup() ...

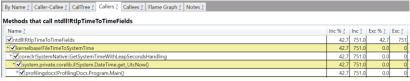
[MethodImpl(MethodImplOptions.NoInlining)]
void WhatYouCareAbout($SomeType initialized) ...
```

By Name tab: Bottom-Up analysis

By Name ? Caller-Callee ? CallTree ? Callers ? Callees ? Flame Graph ? Notes ?							
Name ?	Exc % <u>?</u>	Exc <u>?</u>	Inc % <u>?</u>	Inc ?			
ntdll!RtlpTimeToTimeFields	42.7	751	42.7	751.0			
ntdll!RtlQueryPerformanceCounter		311	17.7	311.0			
kernelbase!FileTimeToSystemTime		244	56.5	995.0			
system.private.corelib.il!System.DateTime.get_UtcNow()		161	98.5	1,734.0			
ntdll!RtlGetSystemTimePrecise		133	25.2	444.0			
coreclr! System Native:: Get System Time With Leap Seconds Handling States and States and States are supported by the States are suppor		69	89.4	1,573.0			
kernelbase!GetSystemTimePreciseAsFileTime		33	27.1	477.0			
ntdll!LdrpDispatchUserCallTarget		32	1.8	32.0			
profilingdocs!ProfilingDocs.Program.Main()		25	99.9	1,759.0			
Process64 CoreRun (17900) Args: "C:\Users\adsitnik\source\rep	0.1	1	100.0	1,760.5			

Callers tab

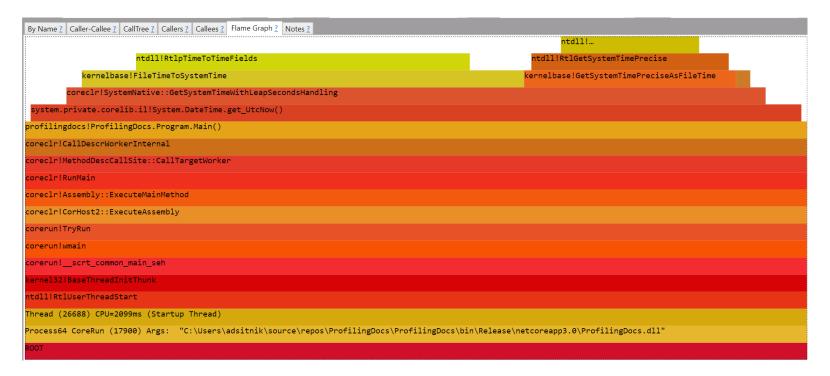




CallTree

by Name? Caller-Callee? CallTree? Callers? Callees? Flame Graph? Notes?				
Name ?	Inc % ?	Inc ?	Exc % ?	Exc
☑ root	100.0	1,760.5	0.0	
😾 Process64 CoreRun (17900) Args: "C:\Users\adsitnik\source\repos\ProfilingDocs\ProfilingDocs\bin\Release\netcoreapp3.0\ProfilingDo	100.0	1,760.5	0.1	
+☑Thread (26688) CPU=2099ms (Startup Thread)	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+☑ntdll!RtlUserThreadStart	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
⁺ ☑kernel32!BaseThreadInitThunk	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+☑corerun!scrt_common_main_seh	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
⁺ √ corerun!wmain	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+ √ corerun!TryRun	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+ ♥ corecIr!CorHost2::ExecuteAssembly	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+ ♂ coreclr!Assembly::ExecuteMainMethod	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+ √ coreclr!RunMain	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
⁺ ✓coreclr!MethodDescCallSite::CallTargetWorker	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+☑coreclr!CallDescrWorkerInternal	99.9	1,759.0	0.0	
+ ☑ profilingdocs! ProfilingDocs. Program. Main()	99.9	1,759.0	1.4	
+√system.private.corelib.il!System.DateTime.get_UtcNow()	98.5	1,734.0	9.1	
⁺ ☑ coreclr!SystemNative::GetSystemTimeWithLeapSecondsHandling	89.4	1,573.0	3.9	
+ ☑ kernelbase!FileTimeToSystemTime	56.5	995.0	13.9	
l + ✓ ntdll!RtlpTimeToTimeFields	42.7	751.0	42.7	
+ √ kernelbase!GetSystemTimePreciseAsFileTime	27.1	477.0	1.9	
+ ✓ ntdll!RtlGetSystemTimePrecise	25.2	444.0	7.6	
† √ ntdll!RtlQueryPerformanceCounter	17.7	311.0	17.7	
+ ✓ ntdll!LdrpDispatchUserCallTarget	1.8	32.0	1.8	

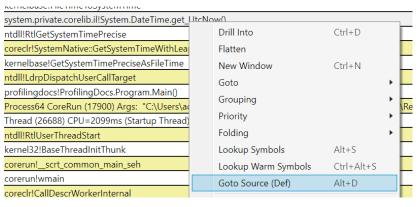
Flame Graph!



Understanding Flame Graph



Goto Source



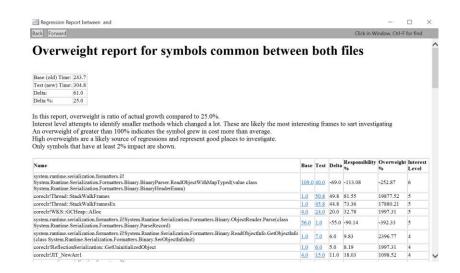
```
TextEditorWindow
Metric|// Licensed to the .NET Foundation under one or more agreements.
       // The .NET Foundation licenses this file to you under the MIT license.
       // See the LICENSE file in the project root for more information.
       using System.Runtime.CompilerServices;
       using System.Runtime.InteropServices;
       namespace System
          public readonly partial struct DateTime
               internal static readonly bool s_systemSupportsLeapSeconds = SystemSupportsLeapSeconds();
               public static unsafe DateTime UtcNow
                       if (s systemSupportsLeapSeconds)
                           FullSystemTime time;
141.0 I
                           GetSystemTimeWithLeapSecondsHandling(&time);
58.0 |
                           return CreateDateTimeFromSystemTime(in time);
                      return new DateTime(((ulong)(GetSystemTimeAsFileTime() + FileTimeOffset)) | KindUtc);
```

Pro Tip: Start & Stop Events

```
[EventSource(Name = "DemoEventSource")]
sealed class DemoEventSource : EventSource
    public void DemoStart() => WriteEvent(1);
    public void DemoStop() => WriteEvent(2);
    public static DemoEventSource Log = new DemoEventSource();
if (DemoEventSource.Log.IsEnabled())
    DemoEventSource.Log.DemoStart();
// thing that you care about
if (DemoEventSource.Log.IsEnabled())
   DemoEventSource.Log.DemoStop();
```

Regressions





dotnet trace

- Cross platform
- .NET Core 3.0+
- No need to run as Admin | sudo
- Lacks native call stacks

Simple commands

- dotnet tool install --global dotnet-trace
- dotnet trace list-processes
- dotnet trace collect -p \$pid
- dotnet trace convert \$inputFile --format speedscope
- dotnet trace collect -p \$pid --format speedscope

PerfCollect

- Script, located at https://aka.ms/perfcollect
- Has an excellent docs
- PerfCollect uses perf, which gives you native callstacks. dotnettrace can only give you managed callstacks.
- Knows how to install its dependencies
- Has a machine-wide scope
- PerfCollect can be started prior to the process start, whereas dotnet-trace can only be attached to a running process.
- Produces a zip file that can be opened with PerfView

Installation

```
curl -OL https://aka.ms/perfcollect
chmod +x perfcollect
sudo ./perfcollect install
```

Sample Usage

```
adsitnik@adsitnikUbuntu1804: ~/Projects/coreclr/bin/tests/Linux.x64.Release/Tests/Core_Root
                                                                                                           $ ./corerun ./ProfilingDocs.dll
adsitnik@adsitnikUbuntu1804: ~/Projects/tracing
dsitnik@adsitnikUbuntu1804:~
                                                          $ sudo ./perfcollect collect slowStartsWith
```

When you find the bottleneck

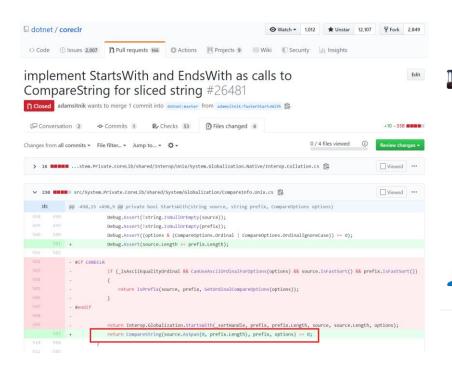
- Try to get the big picture.
- Question the current design:
 - Why do we do that?
 - Can we use it less frequently?
 - Does faster alternative exist?
- Architecture changes require more effort but can boost the perf more than any micro-optimizations.

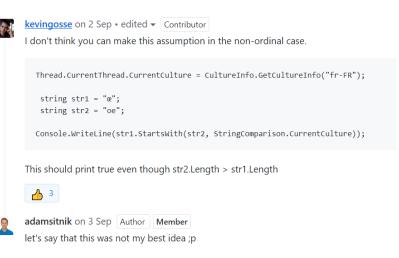
You have an idea. What is the next step?

Correctness > Performance

- Make sure the code has good test coverage before you try to tune the perf.
- Ask for a detailed code review:
 - Explain your decisions, share the perf knowledge.
 - Make sure your changes don't affect the results.
- Don't push on the reviewers.

Example: string.StartsWith





string.StartsWith: Edge Cases

Culture	Source	Prefix	Windows	Unix	Comment
fr-FR	œ	oe	True	False	
hu-HU	dz	d	False	False	
pl-PL	CZ	С	True	False	
	o\u0308	0	False	False	Combining character
	o\u0000\u0308	0	True	True	NULL (0) char
	\uD800\uDC00	\uD800	True	False	Surrogates
	b	new string('a', UInt16.MaxValue + 1)	False	True	18y old bug in ICU

You have an idea and good tests. What is the next step?

Benchmarks!

- Write benchmarks to validate the gains.
- Keep them and measure the perf over time!

while (!goals.Achieved)

- Apply the optimizations
- Run the tests, verify the correctness
- Run the benchmarks, verify the gains
- Profile and analyze the data

Summary

- Have a small repro, try to narrow down the problem.
- Release + debug symbols
- Windows
 - Development Visual Studio Profiler
 - Production PerfView
- Linux
 - dotnet trace default choice
 - PerfCollect if you really need native call stacks or machine-wide
- Analyze
- Correctness over performance
- Use benchmarks to validate the gains

Questions?

Thank you!

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