Qlikview Hard Drive Explorer
v1

Chris Cugliotta

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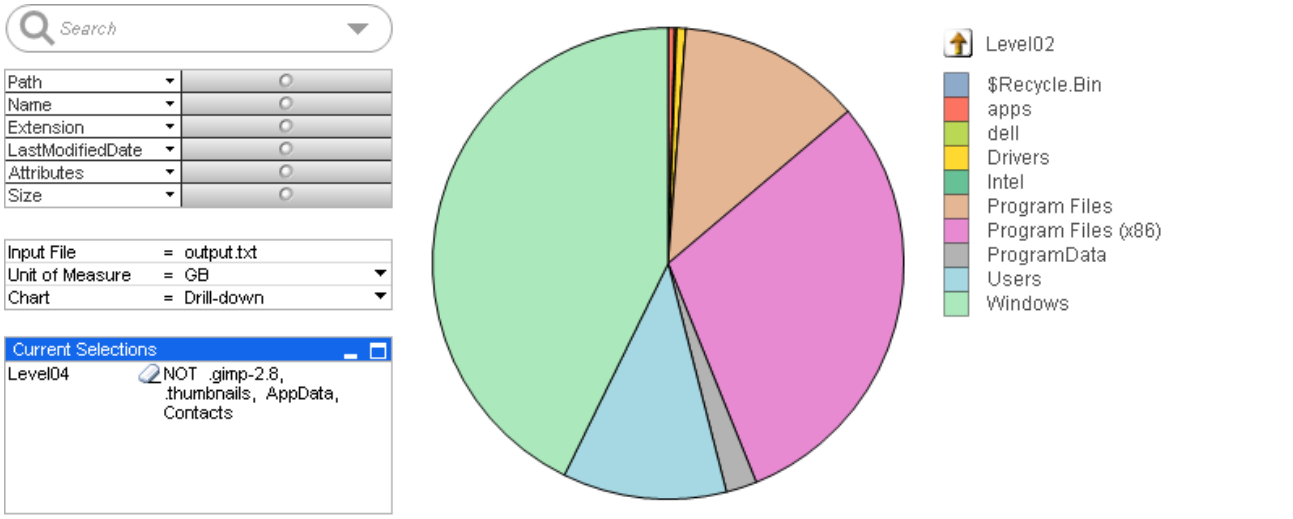
1 Introduction

This tool lets you visualize the files and folders of your hard drive in Qlikview, which can be useful in many situations. For instance, it can be frustrating when your hard drive starts filling up, and you're not sure why. I have always thought it would be convenient to see disk space aggregated up to each high-level folder, with the ability to drill-down. This way, you can determine which folders are consuming the most space.



Level01	Level02	Level03	Level04	Level05	File Count	Total Size (GB)	Last Modified
Total					282603	73.47	8:00:00 PM
C:	$Recycle.Bin				47	0.00	10:39:00 AM
	apps				267	0.33	5:04:00 AM
	dell				87	0.09	10:47:00 AM
	Drivers				588	0.46	11:21:00 AM
	Intel				4	0.00	4:58:00 AM
	Program Files				107959	9.27	8:00:00 PM
	Program Fil...				47131	22.10	8:44:00 AM
	ProgramData				9843	1.55	6:08:00 PM
	Users	All Users			9843	1.55	6:08:00 PM
		chris.cugliotta	Desktop		40	0.03	6:18:00 PM
			Documents		8873	4.88	7:37:00 PM
			Downloads	10SR4	1	0.16	1:09:00 PM
				11SR2	8	0.66	11:02:00 AM
				shexview	5	0.00	9:25:00 AM
				7z920-x64.msi	1	0.00	10:09:00 AM

Figure 1: Hard drive in Qlikview

In addition, it is useful to sort all files by their size descending, because any outliers will immediately pop out. For example, in Figure 2, we can see the largest file on my hard drive is an `.ost` file. This is Outlook's cache of all emails in my inbox, and is 6.73 GB!

Path	File Count	Total Size (GB)	Last Modified
Total	292,174	67.08	8:00:00 PM
C:\Users\chris.cugliotta\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Outlook\chris.cugliotta@terratechnology.com.ost	1	6.73	6:20:00 PM
C:\Program Files\Windows XP Mode\Windows XP Mode base.vhd	1	2.35	2:07:00 PM
C:\Windows\MEMORY.DMP	1	1.03	6:04:00 PM
C:\Windows\Installer\51659.msp	1	0.74	12:15:00 PM
C:\Windows\Installer\247b69.msp	1	0.49	8:35:00 PM
C:\Windows\Installer\2477f0.msp	1	0.27	9:41:00 PM
C:\Windows\SoftwareDistribution\DataStore\DataStore.edb	1	0.26	4:55:00 PM
C:\Users\chris.cugliotta\Downloads\11SR2\QlikViewDesktop_x64Setup.exe	1	0.25	11:12:00 AM
C:\Program Files (x86)\DevExpress 2011.2\DXperienceUniversal-11.2.7.exe	1	0.23	11:56:00 AM
C:\Users\chris.cugliotta\Downloads\DXperienceUniversal-11.2.7.exe	1	0.23	11:56:00 AM
C:\Users\chris.cugliotta\Downloads\11SR2\QlikView_DocumentationAndTutorial_Complete_Se...	1	0.20	11:11:00 AM

Figure 2: Files sorted by size descending

There are other benefits to loading your hard drive into Qlikview. For instance, perhaps you're trying to find an old document, but you forget where it's located. If you remember some clues about it (perhaps some phrasing in the file name), then you can use a wild card search to find it.

For example, I often forget where the Qlikview API guide is located, because it's buried deep within some sub-folders. However, I know that it's called `APIguide.qvw`. In Figure 3, we search for all files containing the substring `APIguide.qvw`, and the tool provides the full path we're looking for.

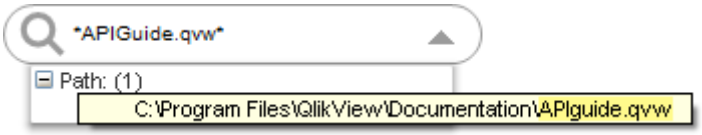


Figure 3: Searching for a file

And hey, who doesn't want to see some useless-but-mildly-interesting statistics about your hard drive? I was amused to discover that file sizes are exponentially distributed (Figure 4), and that 60.3% of all files on my hard drive are less than 100 KB. Furthermore, 21.8% of all disk space is consumed by `.dll` files (Figure 5), mostly coming from `C:\Windows` folder!

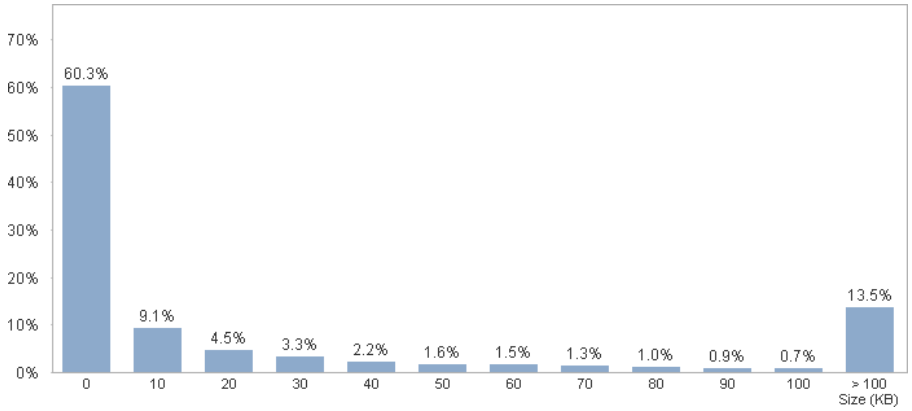


Figure 4: Distribution of file sizes

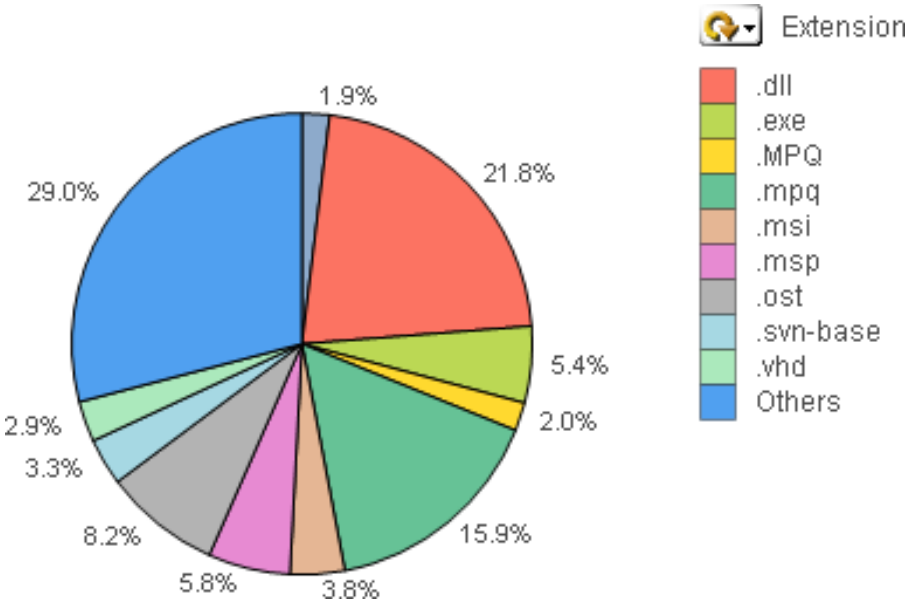


Figure 5: Breakdown of disk consumption by file extension

2 How to use

This report has one input:

- **data.csv**: This is a comma-separated vector containing each file on your hard drive, along with some related attributes such as file size, last modified date, etc. It is created by a batch script called `kicker.bat`, which automatically scans your hard drive and populates the `.csv` file.

To set this up on your machine, please use the following steps:

1. Extract the `.zip`, and keep all files together in a single folder. This is important: Make sure you extract the `.zip` onto whichever drive you wish to scan.
2. Optional: Edit `kicker.bat`, and go to line 13. Currently, it is configured to scan the entire `C:` drive. If you only want to scan inside a particular folder (and all its sub-folders), change the `root` variable accordingly. For instance, you could replace line 13 with the following:

   ```
   set root="C:\Users\chris.cugliotta\Documents"
   ```

3. Double click `kicker.bat`. This will begin scanning your hard drive, and populating a flat file named `data.csv`. This process may take over an hour. The terminal window will disappear when finished.
4. Open the Qlikview document, make sure the Input File variable is pointing to `data.csv`, and then go to File → Reload.