QGIS Application - Bug report #14629
Select by expression (Not Responding)

2016-04-07 07:56 AM - Nikos Tsarmpopoulos

Status:	Closed		
Priority:	Normal		
Assignee:			
Category:	Vectors		
Affected QGIS version:	2.14.0	**Regression?:**	No
Operating System:	Windows	**Easy fix?:**	No
Pull Request or Patch supplied:	No	**Resolution:**	not reproducable
Crashes QGIS or corrupts data:	Yes	**Copied to github as #:**	22594

Description

Hi. I've noticed that Select by expression freezes when working with a large dataset (e.g. postcodes database). I trust the process will theoretically unfreeze once the query has been executed, long queries should be executed in a separate thread and the user interface should provide a button to interrupt it. This is because it is not always possible to predict how long a particular query may take to be evaluated/executed and, where it is found to be too slow, it makes more sense interrupting it and opting for an alternative approach. Currently, once it's frozen, the only option is to kill the whole of QGIS, potentially loosing the current version of the project.

Applies to QGIS 2.14.1 64bit on Windows 7 Pro 64bit.

History

#1 - 2016-04-07 12:05 PM - Nyall Dawson

- Status changed from Open to Feedback

What data source are you using? What's the expression used?

#2 - 2016-04-07 12:23 PM - Nikos Tsarmpopoulos

A SHP file containing some millions of postcodes. The expression is in the form of "<column_name>"='<value>'. The dataset is known to contain a row with this particular alphanumeric <value> in the particular <column_name>.

#3 - 2016-04-07 03:03 PM - Nyall Dawson

Two suggestions which may help:

1. Make sure Settings -> Options -> Data Sources -> "Execute expressions on server side" is checked
2. Create an attribute index on the postcode field. You can do this via the command line ogrinfo tool:
   ogrinfo -sql "CREATE INDEX ON postcode_file USING postcode_field" postcode_file.shp

where postcode_file is the name of your shape file and postcode_field the field you are searching on.

#4 - 2016-04-07 03:19 PM - Nikos Tsarmpopoulos

Nyall Dawson wrote:

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>
> *where postcode_file is the name of your shape file and postcode_field the field you are searching on.*

Thanks for the advice. I think I've already selected "Execute expressions on server side". I presume "server side" refers to the SQL engine, right? Also, creating an index is crucial for searching in large datasets but I don't have access to the command line, as it's locked by group policy. I'll try to find an alternative way to execute the SQL command, if possible.

#5 - 2016-04-09 07:24 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- Category set to Vectors

Nikos Tsarmpopoulos wrote:

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you can create the spatial index of a shape from the qgis gui, vector properties, general tab.

#6 - 2016-05-23 09:37 AM - Giovanni Manghi

have you tested after creating the index?

#7 - 2016-07-03 12:34 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- Resolution set to not reproducable
- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

Closing for lack of feedback, please reopen if necessary.