## Troubleshooting & identifying errors in basic data processing with Antelope – Archiving oriented

Version: 2012.286  
Category: Passive source, Antelope processing for SEED data  
Objective: User tips for troubleshooting Antelope database tools while processing data for archiving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSSIBLE PROBLEM</th>
<th>SOLUTION/APPROACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not find files</td>
<td>Verify path where your files, waveforms, pf files are located. Please check paths where your mseed data are, and the new wfname file-naming convention specified with the –w option.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Cannot find miniseed2days or any other antelope tool | **miniseed2days** is part of the antelope distribution so if antelope is installed it should be available.  
Check if you can a do man on miniseed2days or any other tool [weird syntax, think about changing]  
Verify that antelope is sourced, if not source it (source /opt/antelope/current-version/setup.csh or .sh) depending on your preference or platform  
Verify antelope installation (run check_antelope_installation from the command line) if ok, check path or source  
Verify your license (run check_license from command line) |
| Bad blockettes | Some miniseed files may have an error/warning about bad blockettes or out of order blockettes. When this happens, sometimes, by using miniseed2days with the –DU option (please see man page for detail) it will let you pass over this warning.  
Feel free to contact us if you have more questions at: data_group@passcal.nmt.edu. |
| Bad Quality | QT1395090109.ALL  
miniseed2days: bad clock quality = 0 : dropping blockette #1 for QT_1395_BHZ_0  
QT1395090109.ALL  
**SOLUTIONS**  
1)Using the –k option (retain all input data blocks, regardless of clock timing quality values) will allow you to generate mseed day volumes.  
miniseed2days –k –d my_db –w “day_volumes/%{sta}/%{sta}.%{net}.%{loc}.%{chan}.%Y.%j” my_raw/ |
Out of order block

The error may look like:

miniseed2days: appending to ./day_volumes/1395/1395.QT.OCF.2009.009
miniseed2days *fatal*: block #6 (QT_1395_OCF_, t= 1/09/2009 (009) 21:05:59.000) is at or before the previous block for this channel.

Solution:

Using the –DU or –Du (depending on how strict you want to run this option) option will keep a record of the previously written time data block and will not write a second block with the same or previous time.

The command line should look like:

miniseed2days –k -Du –d my_db –w
"day_volumes/%{sta}/%{sta}.%{net}.%{loc}.%{chan}.%Y.%j" my_raw/

for more details please read man page on miniseed2days

What do to when would like to avoid the long command line when running miniseed2days

miniseed2days –d my_db –w “day_volumes/%{sta}/%{sta}.%{net}.%{loc}.%{chan}.%Y.%j” my_raw/

If you have root permission, under /opt/antelope/current-version/data/pf you can simply edit the pf file for miniseed2days and change the default for wfname

from:

wfname %Y/%j/%{net}_%{sta}_%{chan}_%{loc}.msd
minimum_timing_quality 10

pf_revision_time 1237332028

to:

wfname mseed_dayv_s1/%{sta}/%{sta}.%{net}.%{loc}.%{chan}.%Y.%j
minimum_timing_quality 10

By editing this file and changing the wfname default you will avoid having to use the –w option in the command line so now you can simply type in the command line:

miniseed2days –d my_db my_raw/

You may need to edit this file each time you have a new service so each set of day volumes for each service is named accordingly, for example for service2 , you’ll edit:

wfname mseed_dayv_s2/%{sta}/%{sta}.%{net}.%{loc}.%{chan}.%Y.%j
minimum_timing_quality 10
pf_revision_time 1237332028

... and so on.
If you don’t have root permission to write under /opt/antelope/4.11/data/pf then proceed as follows:

1) Copy default file in your local directory where you will run miniseed2days:

```
<my_cpu:my_experiment> cp /opt/antelope/current-version/data/pf/miniseed2days.pf .
```

Please notice the dot at the end of the command (for copying locally)

2) Edit the miniseed2days.pf file as above

3) Set the PFPATH environment (path for parameter files in antelope)

For tsch/csh type:
```
<my_cpu:my_experiment> setenv PFPATH $ANTELOPE/data/pf:
```

For bash, type:
```
<my_cpu:my_experiment> export PFPATH=$ANTELOPE/data/pf:
```

Please notice the “ : ” used to read defaults parameter files (under /opt/antelope/current-version/data/pf) PLUS customized file (your miniseed2days.pf file in local directory)

4) Run `miniseed2days` as:

```
miniseed2days -d my_db my_raw/
```

Table 7. Possible errors when evaluating traces with dbe/dbpick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check</th>
<th>Issues on traces</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dbe (db editor)</td>
<td>Coverage</td>
<td>Helps to visualize completeness per station/channel/network in the wfdisc table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overlaps</td>
<td>Usually generated when traces added more than once to the db. Highlighted in orange when viewing waveforms (dbpick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gaps</td>
<td>Helps to identify data missing from the db. These can either be overlooked traces or real gaps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: you can use pql also to identify coverage, overlaps or gap issues. You can find pql as part of the software release by PASSCAL (http://www.passcal.nmt.edu/content/software-resources)
Table 8. Possible errors when running dbverify – consistency and checks of integrity of information in database and traces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check</th>
<th>Issues on traces &amp; meta-data</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dbverify</td>
<td>1) Non-described channels/stations</td>
<td>Comparing cmd output &amp; batch file to identify the reason for this warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Multiple configurations for same time frame</td>
<td>Mainly due to bad closing times in the batch file or multiple configurations for the same station in one day without proper closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) Removed files</td>
<td>Missing files in original path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4) Duplicate record</td>
<td>Same record in multiple wfdisc entries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of common issues:

1) Problem: Non-described channels/stations

Example of output:
The following records of AGU_PIC.wfdisc did not have corresponding rows in sensor:
Record #149: sta = BHM8  chan = BHZ  time = 8/12/2009  1:16:34.000  endtime = 8/13/2009  1:50:34.000
Record #150: sta = BHM8  chan = BHZ  time = 8/15/2009  3:04:24.000  endtime = 8/16/2009  3:39:44.000

Possible solutions:
- Evaluate your batch file and the configuration described for this station & check:
  a. station configuration
  b. start/end times
  c. channel description
  d. location code if use in batch or trace
  e. sample rate (s)
  f. Once mismatching information is identified, edit batch file & rebuild db

2) Problem: multiple configurations for same station/day

Example of output:
Comment check that calib doesn’t change in the middle of a waveform
dbopen calibration dbjoin wfdisc sta chan time
#time::endtime dbverify 0 sta chan time wfdisc.time wfdisc.endtime
Possible Solutions:
  • Read output and try to identify the records or field it refers to, you can use mseedhdr or mseedpeek, these two tools will help to identify possible changes on the configuration of the station (for example if sample rate or instrumentation was modified during the day while servicing, antelope will have trouble adding multiple instrument response on a day volume file)
  • Verify time when configuration changed for station (i.e. BARR), in this case you may need to go back to your field notes and identify the times when changes were done so they can be properly described in the batchfile (and therefore dataless)
  • Check/add closing statements for station configurations.
  • Rebuild your database – this should be done only once all previous checks have been done, if something is wrong on the batch file or data, it should be properly described before rebuilding, otherwise it will keep getting the same errors.

3) Duplicated wfdisc records

Example of output:
Keys for records #274072 and #274073 in table wfdisc match:
sta ABRA | ABRA chan BHE | BHE time 1/01/2009 0:00:41.050 | 1/01/2009 0:01:06.525 | 1/01/2009 0:01:07.500 | 1/01/2009 0:01:07.500
endtime

Possible Solutions:
  • Open the table in question with dbe (usually wfdisc)
  • Identify reported records (i.e. 274072 & 274073)
  • Plot and identify if overlaps are simply due to buffer packing
  • If significant overlap, remove duplicated records
  • If resulting from buffer packing - ignore

4) Dbverify :missing wfdisc files - Files that were added to the database cannot be found in their original location

Example of output:
Waveform file 'MSEED/SC44.XR.BHE.2008.220' does not exist.
Waveform file 'MSEED/SC44.XR..BHE.2008.221' does not exist.
Waveform file 'MSEED/SC44.XR..BHE.2008.222' does not exist

Possible solutions:
• Move the files back
• Fix the chanids (dbfixchanids)
• Remove the wfdisc table and add the traces again if needed
• Do nothing - sometimes traces are moved on purpose to open space.

Table 9. Possible errors when verifying the database with dbversdwarf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check</th>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dbversdwarf</td>
<td>BAD records</td>
<td>Command line: dbversdwarf -dtu your_db &gt; dbversdwarf.out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>These warnings are usually associated to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bad endianness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bad logical record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Steim compression issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Corrupted blockette</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possible Solutions:

• Look at the traces with any viewer (e.g. pql) to identify issues
• Move bad records aside-remove from db
• Run ckMseed to identify bad traces/errors
• Use mseedhdr to look at order of the trace
• Use fixhdr if needed, to change endianness
• Once fixed (if possible) add back to your database

Table 10. Possible errors when generating database from dataless or when generating dataless

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>error</th>
<th>output</th>
<th>solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing originating_organization</td>
<td>Command line:</td>
<td>Under the directory: $ANTELOPE/data/pf/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) To generate database from dataless: db2sd -v YoseRocks_dataless</td>
<td>You may need to edit the file site.pf to add the originating_organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X7.08.YoseRocks.20090281014.dataless</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>db2sd <em>fatal</em>: Please fill in the 'originating_organization' in db2sd.pf</td>
<td>An example of the site.pf file at PASSCAL looks like:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exact same locations for more than one station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>db2sd: Offending wfdisc row is T2S6:VMW 12/16/2004 12:38:28.000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>db2sd: Offending wfdisc row is T2S6:VPB 12/16/2004 12:38:28.000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>db2sd <em>fatal</em>: 240 problems -- won't create SEED volume</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- or
- 2) To generate dataless from database
  
  Command line:
  `mk_dataless_seed -v YoseRocks_dataless X7.08.YoseRocks.20090281014.dataless`
  
  `db2sd *fatal*: Please fill in the 'originating_organization' in db2sd.pf`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Default Seed Network</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Originating Organization</th>
<th>Mail Domain</th>
<th>Mailhost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRIS PASSCAL</td>
<td>IRIS PASSCAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>passcal.nmt.edu</td>
<td>mail.passcal.nmt.edu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>