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Subject: Re: Computing Speed

Posted by [mgs](#) on Tue, 17 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <34EA0198.C58@ktaadn.com>, Matthew Hanson <matt@ktaadn.com> wrote:

> Greeting all,  
> I have been running IDL on a Sparc Station20 for several months. A  
> couple months ago we got an Ultra 1 (167MHz, 128MB RAM) and i used that  
> for a while for our IDL apps. Now i have a Pentium II (300MHz) with 128  
> MB of RAM.  
> Running some computationally intensive surface fitting and FFT's on both  
> machines i have found, quite surprisingly, that the PC (running NT) is  
> whuppin the SUN Station (which costs roughly 6 times the PC).  
>  
> (We also run a Atmospheric Fortran program - the PC runs this about 8  
> times faster than the UNIX)  
>  
> What has been other people's experience running IDL on PC and UNIX based  
> machines? How about Macs? Fast, slow. . . ?

I found a PowerMac 7500/100 (PPC 601) to be the same overall speed as a Sun SPARCStation 10/51. This was also the same speed as a Pentium 90 running Windows 95. The Pentium had a Matrox video board that was 3x faster than the Vitek video board on the Sun, and about 4x faster than the built-in Mac video. Unfortunately, these are all 3-year old systems now. I'd like to see additional comments regarding newer systems.

My feeling is that the Sun would begin to outperform the PC and Mac hardware when all of the systems are under higher loads. Generally speaking, UNIX systems are geared for handling hundreds of queued processes, whereas the other OS's degrade faster under higher loads.

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Interactive Visuals  
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