Subject: Re: IDL with multiple processors
Posted by thompson on Fri, 04 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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steinhh@ulrik.uio.no (Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan) writes:

> In article <7479pd$j5i$1@agate.berkeley.edu>
> korpela@islay.ssl.berkeley.edu (Eric J. Korpela) writes:

>> IDL is pretty much single threaded. If you've got two processors, it's up
>> to you to use 'em. You'd be suprised what you can do if you try.....
>> This works under sunos... (you need to write your own kill proceedure,
>> though. That's not too hard.)
>>
>> pid=call_external("/usr/lib/libc.so.1.9","_fork") ; your libc name may vary
>> if pid then begin
>> do some processing
>> kill,pid
>> endif else begin
>> do some other processing
>> dummy=call_external("/usr/lib/libc.so.1.9","_wait")
>> endelse
>>

> Hmmm... dreaming of a "PIDL" (Parallel IDL).... How about
> something like a few extra "directives":

(rest deleted)

I always thought of IDL as an ideal candidate for parallelization, without any need for modified code. After all, one can apply an operation to an entire array of data in one call, i.e. if one says

A = B + C

and B and C are arrays, then this is equivalent to N separate operations on each of the elements of the arrays. Why couldn't this be split up over several processors?

William Thompson