
Subject: Re: IDL and Dual Processor PC's
Posted by [mgs](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <7j62f0\$krm\$1@pale-rider.INS.CWRU.Edu>, "Tanya Lancaster"
<lancaste@morph.ebme.cwru.edu> wrote:

> We are looking into purchasing a dual processor pc. I was wondering if
> there would be a notable increase in speed for running IDL programs.

Nope. IDL is single-threaded, implying it cannot divvy it's processing up
among multiple processors. Once you start IDL it stays on the same CPU.
You can try some interesting things like spawning addition copies of IDL
onto other processors. I tried that about 7 years ago on a Sun MP/670 with
4 processors. Not worth the effort was my conclusion.

> Right
> now we handle large medical image data sets and operations on the data sets
> take up to several hours on a PII -400, 256 mb memory.

If you're running other tasks on the same system the additional CPU would
be helpful, but not for IDL alone.

I would love to hear that I'm wrong about this.

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