Subject: Re: IDL and Dual Processor PC's
Posted by rivers on Fri, 04 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In article <mgs-0306991006350001@teton.ivsoftware.com>, mgs@ivsoftware.com (Mike Schienle) writes:
> In article <7j62f0krm1@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.

It's not QUITE true that IDL is single-threaded. The IDLgrVolume object is
multi-threaded. Thus, volume rendering runs significantly faster on
multi-processor machines.

_____

Mark Rivers   (773) 702-2279 (office)
Argonne National Laboratory   (630) 252-0422 (office)
Building 434A   (630) 252-0405 (lab)
9700 South Cass Avenue   (630) 252-1713 (beamline)
Argonne, IL 60439   (630) 252-0443 (FAX)