Subject: Re: IDL time test with a PowerMac G4
Posted by gurman on Fri, 08 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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>> ...
>> Since the G4's beat Pentiums runnjing Windoze hands-down in IDL
>> ...
Sorry, that remark referred to the demo of a not-yet released version of IDL with optimization for the AltiVec ("Velocity Engine") features. I didn't mean to suggest
that the results in that file were all that spectacular; really, rather, the reverse.

(In fact, the disk write is the only real loser for the G4 --- without it, the time total is 3.0 s for the G4 vs. 3.8 s for the PIII.)

You'll note that the geometric mean for the G4/450 is about 20% less (0.096 vs 0.119) than for the PIII 400, slightly better than one would expect from the clock speed ratio, but I'm willing to bet that difference would be recovered if you were running Linux. The difference is that the Mac OS achieves essentially the same speed on the G4 as any other OS, since all the math functions are likely to be "native" now. I suspect the disk I/O is still partly 68K code, thus the pokeyness.

>
> The PC is faster overall, though some of the floating-point intensive
> operations are slower (e.g. 9, 20). Hardly "hands down".

Wait 'til January (when, of course, there will be 700 MHz PIII's, 750 MHz K-7's, and at least samples of 1.3 GHz Alphas). I suspect the AltiVec-optimized IDL will pull some numbers way down.

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