
Subject: Re: IDL time test with a PowerMac G4
Posted by [mgs](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <gurman-0810992114570001@gurman.ari.net>, gurman@gisfc.nasa.gov
(Joseph B. Gurman) wrote:

> (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.)

...
> I suspect the
> disk I/O is still partly 68K code, thus the pokeyness.

The Mac I/O is pathetically slow. It's hard to believe we're still seeing these kinds of processing times for I/O. I've tested IDL under Virtual PC (MS Windows 95 via an emulator) and received better I/O scores under emulation than natively on the Mac. Someone at Apple needs to have the crap slapped out of them for allowing this to continue.

> 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.

What I think we really need to see is some form of IDL running on one of the UNIX's for the PPC processor. With that we could compare very similar OS's across different processors. I make it a point to ask RSI about it every couple of months, but haven't heard anything affirmative, yet. I hope RSI is going to develop IDL for MacOS X (server and client).

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