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Subject: Re: Sun vs PC Linux - Anyone making the shift?  
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Mon, 11 Feb 2002 19:07:07 GMT  
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- > Michael Lefsky wrote:
- >
- > Why are inexpensive PC architectures beating pants off of Sun
- > machines that cost twice as much (but not alphas)?

I think raw processing (floating point ops) is just plain straight dependent on the clock speed, as long as multithreading is supported. I/O is not well tested, so Sun's faster i/o is not really kicking in.

- > What are Windows machines ahead of PC linux machines? I would have
- > thought the opposite would be true.

Graphics/OpenGL is better on Windows, so any graphics operations are faster under Windows. Linux compilers are not yet optimized (this is what I've heard).

- > Has anyone gone in either direction (Sun to Linux or visa versa) and
- > what were your experiences?

We tried Sun vs. a Mac G4 and found G4 to be about 10% faster than the Sun. Of course, running Fortran models on a Sun is the normal practice, but getting a G4 for running IDL ad-hoc and testing the results was feasible given that the G4 costs 10% of what Sun does.  
Pavel

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