
Subject: Re: Sun vs PC Linux - Anyone making the shift?
Posted by [Marc Schellens](#) on Sat, 16 Feb 2002 03:45:09 GMT
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- > What are Windows machines ahead of PC linux machines? I would have
- > thought the opposite would be true.
- >
- > Has anyone gone in either direction (Sun to Linux or visa versa) and
- > what were your experiences?

As the PC you tested for speed are different, I think the result is not very reliable. Perform the test on the same hardware with Linux and Windows.

We are using here both sun and linux.
Sun is very expensive but also very reliable.
Our servers are sun machines. And till now (knock on wood) never failed in three years.
They manage about 1TB (Raid5). (One hardisk was once broken, but because of raid 5 no data was lost)

As workstations we started with sun but now everybody has a linux box. They work well together with the sun servers.
But are not as stable as the sun machines (which might be due to more 'progressive' applications).

In another new lab we started with linux servers.
Disk capacity is 500GB (Raid5).
Since one year they work also almost without failure.
(One harddisk broke, but no data was lost s.a.).

To me it appears that nowadays, PC have the much better value, at least using IDL. Also as Ken said already, you get a *much* more comfortable environment.
(we had KDE1 under Solaris, but to compile it it took some effort and CDE... - well its a shame that all the big workstation companys couldn't come up with something better - see KDE2).
And usually you do not need 99.9% availability in science.
Provided a powerful backup solution (using DLT), which you should have anyway you are on the safe side.

Concerning IDL, the compatibility is very high.
Our IDL programs run both on IDL for linux and Solaris.
This is not true for windows, here the handling of filenames has to be adapted.

HDH,

marc
