
Subject: Re: Speed test on Mac G5, anyone?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 09 Jul 2003 17:12:17 GMT

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On Tue, 08 Jul 2003 20:58:29 -0700, Richard G. French wrote:

>> It is too bad apple didn't submit SPEC CPU2000 results for the PPC G4
>> (at least I couldn't find them on the spec site. Maybe you can dig up
>> some unofficial scores). While the SPEC CPU benchmarks they released
>> for the PPC 970 should be taken with a shaker full of salt the
>> comparison would be a start.

>>

> And from

> http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1103_2-1021642.html:

>

> Although Apple has won praise for the new Macs as a substantial
> improvement over earlier machines, some have criticized the choices made
> in putting together the rival Dell machine for use in so-called SPEC
> tests. Apple's tests used the same GCC compiler for both machines, with
> the Dell boxes running the Linux operating system. Critics charge that
> much higher benchmarks can be achieved using the Windows OS and an
> Intel-optimized compiler, rather than GCC.

>

>

The interesting reply from an Apple VP was that compiling with GCC under Windows actually slowed the Intel machine down, so using Linux was a help, not a hindrance. Of course Intel's compilers are faster. Much faster, in fact. But few vendors actually use them, since they're so expensive (not that they use gcc, but anyway). If IBM released a compiler for the G5 (which they could do, since they already have a very nice Power-series compiler), you'd see a similar SPEC speedup. What impresses me is not the processor per-se, but the processor coupled with a screamingly fast 1Ghz FSB. This puppy should really be able to move the data. This recalls the time IDL was part of the official G4 Apple release, just before they pulled the plug on their OSX-native version.

.. almost makes me want to get IDLSpecIII going in time for these systems to arrive. BTW, if anyone is interested in taking over the IDLSpec, I'd be glad to help them get started.

JD
