Subject: Re: IDL benchmarks - weird!!
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 18 May 2004 18:19:11 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Tue, 18 May 2004 11:08:15 -0600, R.G. Stockwell wrote:

>
> "Pasi Hakala" <pahakala@phnet.fi> wrote in message
news:sjnqc.1805$aP.879@reader1.news.jippii.net...
>> Hi!
>>
>> I've run through 'TIME_TEST2' on various platforms and
>> I must say I'm a bit surprised/disappointed by the results.
>> It seems to me that IDL runs much faster in windows-
>> environment than it runs under unix (linux or MacOS X).
>> Is this to do with compilers used to compile IDL for
>> different platforms (say gnu on unix vs. commercial on
>> windows)?
>
>
> First of all the usual disclaimers, there are a ton of variables that go
> into a test like this, other demands on CPU, cache, memory, video, loading dlls, dlms, etc.
>
> Having said that, I have seen a win2000 machine run faster
> than a linux machine with the same code.

There is a real need to update my old IDLSpecII benchmarks, which I
see have not made the cut in the new incarnation of my old
institution's web pages (linkers nota bene). Unfortunately, I no
longer have the time to maintain it. However, I'd be happy to hand
off what I have and offer advice to any eager new benchmark masters.
I've put an old and not-completely-functional version of the page up
at:

 http://turtle.as.arizona.edu/idlspec/

Ideally, we'd have a modern benchmark which includes separate CPU,
I/O, 2D graphics, and 3D graphics performance tests, uses large enough
data sizes to get beyond I/O and processor cache sizes, and covers the
full range of supported hardware and OS options. Which, by the way,
is much smaller now than during the circa 1998 original IDLSpec
survey; it's actually nostalgic to look at the list of machines/os's
that entered back then: AIX:ibmr2 IRIX:mipseb MacOS:PowerMac OSF:alpha
Win32:x86 hp-ux:hp_pa linux:alpha linux:x86 sunos:sparc sunos:x86
vms:alpha.

I had collected a small interest group last year, who could probably

be tapped again for input. If anyone is interested in taking the
reins, please email me.

JD