
Subject: Re: Platform recommendation/tradeoffs?
Posted by [gurman](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <3mllmh\$97r@adam.cc.sunysb.edu>, Chris Jacobsen
<jacobsen@xray1.physics.sunysb.edu> wrote:

> The CPU in a pentium is within hailing distance of the CPU of new
> unix workstations. If that's the only issue, a PC is a good platform
> for IDL in terms of bang for the buck.

I know this isn't alt.intel.vs.the.world, but which CPU of which new
workstation is which P5 within hailing distance of? A low-end
SPARCstation? An AlphaStation 250 4/266? A 60 MHz P5? 100 MHz?

> For me, a big issue is memory. For image processing,
> we will frequently end up with several 1024x1024 complex floating
> point arrays at 8 MB memory each. We can afford to have one \$10,000
> unix workstation with 128 or even 256 MB of memory and a half-dozen
> X terminals so that one or two people can do image processing at any
> moment. We cannot afford to put 128 MB of memory in each of half a
> dozen PCs. Also, nobody ever screws up AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS
> on the unix workstation...

Actually, for a single user, the PC or Mac platform often makes more
sense, simply because the memory is cheaper and the single user can do the
image processing whenever he/she wants to.

It's really a question of what octane, memory, and display options
your application(s) require(s).

Joe Gurman

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