
Subject: Re: IDL and 64bit Linux

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 08 Sep 2004 00:08:17 GMT

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Nigel Wade wrote:

>> On Thu, 19 Aug 2004 09:19:44 +0100, Nigel Wade wrote:

>>

>>

>>> We are in the process of finding a replacement for our ageing Origin 2000
>>> system. One absolute requirement is that it be able to run IDL.

>>>

>>> We are looking at SMP systems and 2 likely contenders are the Sun Fire
>>> V40z (hopefully an 8 processor version will be available sometime) and the
>>> sgi Altix 350. The Sun Fire uses Opteron and the Altix Itanium 2, neither
>>> of which is supported by IDL.

> I've had more positive feedback by private email that IDL should run OK on
> the Itanium using the latest IA32EL at up to 85% of the CPU performance.
> I've heard nothing about AMD64 platforms, though.

Sheesh, I had a nice email typed out and a rare but o-so-fun BSOD wiped
it out...

The gist of it was that with the introduction of the 64bit
Prescotts/Xenons that I find it unlikely that the Itanium will find its
way onto enough desktops to justify native IA64 support for IDL. Since
AMD64 and iX86-64 are "broadly compatible" and WinXP 64 set for release
next year, I see the x86-64 market hitting the threshold for support far
sooner. So I would bet your 64 bits on the Opteron.

As for AMD64 compatibility, I run 32bit IDL on Athlon64 chips in 32bit
WinXP and 32bit Linux w/o issue. I see no reason why it wouldn't run on
64bit linux, just haven't gotten around to it.

And your 8 way SunFire should be out next year:

<http://www.theinquirer.net/?article=18169>

-Rick
