Subject: Re: IDL as resource glutton
Posted by rivers on Wed, 06 Sep 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <42ingn$1rh8@rover.ucs.ualberta.ca>, sherwood@fenris.space.ualberta.ca (System
Administrator) writes:
> We have upgraded our single users IDL license to a 6 user license for
> our IBM 550 running AIX 3.2.5.  Since then we've found that with more
> than about 3-4 simultaneous users, the AIX box turns into a slug.
>
> Typically users are running IDL via X-windows, with the display on a
> local workstation.  Often these are the only user activity on this
> machine.  Disk I/O is minimal -- typically a few tps.  The kernel cycle
> sucker process doesn't get incremented from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  This
> machine seems to be very solidly cpu bound -- to the point that a
> X-windows start up on the console with only xclock and aixterm takes 3-5
> minutes.
>
> 1.  Is there a way to speed up IDL?
>
> 2.  Is there a compiler for IDL or converter for IDL -> Fortran or C
> so that production code will run faster/can be run on other machines.

The critical question is what are your IDL users doing? IDL users sitting idle
should use no CPU.  Slowness in starting X windows could be due to memory
shortage, and not CPU busy.  IDL can often be made faster by writing the code
to use the array features of IDL, but without knowing what your users are doing
it is hard to say. I think you need to run some analysis tools to figure out
what is slowing the system down.  It could be that just one of your IDL users
is the culprit if running a huge job.

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