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Subject: Re: OT: recommendations for high preformance workstations  
Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Wed, 23 May 2007 00:12:59 GMT  
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Quoth Andrew Cool:

> On May 10, 12:07 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
>> Mirko writes:  
>>> It is interesting that there were no mention of Sun or IBM machines  
>>  
>> Yeah, or VAX/VMS either. ;-)  
>>  
>> Cheers,  
>>  
>> David  
>>  
>> --  
>> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
>> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")  
>  
> David,  
>  
> Last I heard there are still satellites whiizing around above your head  
> running VMS on board. (perhaps Wayne can confirm or deny that/)  
>  
> Good reason to have faith in VMS reliability... ;-)  
>  
> Our systems people say that when our Alpha/AXP boxes die, they won't be  
> replaced. Trouble is, they're not dying - they just keep plugging away!

I have personally observed on at least 4 telescopes that are run by VAXen  
(and 1 that runs on a commodore 64!), and your point is spot on -- they  
are quite bomb-proof. The only reason they are slowly being replaced is  
because it's impossible to get parts for them, on the rare occasions  
something does break.

cheers  
chris

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