
Subject: AMD CPU

Posted by [Richard Tyc](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 16:11:04 GMT

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Are there any implications with IDL when running on AMD CPU's (Duron, Athlon etc) as compared to Intel ?

I thought it was a non issue, but the salesman at the computer store did mention that some customers using "high end graphics and video editing software" have experienced problems on AMD based PC's compared with Intel's. Not sure where IDL fits here but thought I should ask about anyone's bad experiences...

Thanks in advance

Rich

Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 16:30:36 GMT

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"Richard Tyc" <richt@sbrc.umanitoba.ca> writes:

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> etc) as compared to Intel ?
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> I thought it was a non issue, but the salesman at the computer store did
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> experiences...

We use IDL on an Athlon dual CPU system and it smokes! Floating point performance has been noted to be better on Athlons. [After a bout of bad memory,] we haven't noticed any problems at all.

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 16:45:55 GMT

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I am running 5.4 on an AMD Duron 750, with Radeon 32DDR video, W2kPro. It is not really the highest end system, but IDL is really fast and I have not seen any problems at all. I think it is all in the OS. MAke sure you have W2K and it will be just fine.

Pavel

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> mention that some customers using "high end graphics and video editing
> software" have experienced problems on AMD based PC's compared with
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Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [bgeer](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 16:59:00 GMT

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Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> writes:

>"Richard Tyc" <richt@sbrc.umanitoba.ca> writes:

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>> etc) as compared to Intel ?

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>> experiences...

>We use IDL on an Athlon dual CPU system and it smokes! Floating point
>performance has been noted to be better on Athlons. [After a bout of
>bad memory,] we haven't noticed any problems at all.

I'm having no problems with 5.4 on a 1.2 gig SocketA Thunderbird. It runs double precision FFT code significantly faster than on a 566MHz Alpha.

--

<> Robert Geer & Donna Tomky | ||| We sure ||| <>
<> bgeer@xmission.com | == == find it == == <>
<> dtomky@xmission.com | == == enchanting == == <>
<> Albuquerque, NM USA | ||| here! ||| <>

Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Richard Tyc](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 18:07:03 GMT

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Huh. Win2K recommended.

I was hoping to stay with my Win98SE for a while longer. Is this an issue in using the AMD Duron 1 Ghz CPU's ?

I am able to Run 5.4 on Win 98SE now on a Pentium II - 350 without problems which I will be upgrading.....

Rich

Pavel Romashkin <pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov> wrote in message
news:a397vr\$h0r\$1@mwrns.noaa.gov...

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> not really the highest end system, but IDL is really fast and I have not

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Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Robert Stockwell](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 18:45:53 GMT

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My 1.4ghz AMD athlon runs Linux IDL much slower than my
1.2Ghz Pentium win2000 IDL.

For instance, a process that takes ~7 minutes on the laptop
takes ~15 on the athlon.

I'm not sure why.

Cheers,
bob

Richard Tyc wrote:

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 - > etc) as compared to Intel ?
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 - > Thanks in advance
 - >
 - > Rich
 - >
 - >
 - >
 - >
 - >
-

Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 21:15:57 GMT

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Richard Tyc wrote:

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- > etc) as compared to Intel ?
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- > software" have experienced problems on AMD based PC's compared with Intel's.
- > Not sure where IDL fits here but thought I should ask about anyone's bad
- > experiences...
- >
- > Thanks in advance
- >
- > Rich

Hi Rich,

I run IDL v5.5 at home on a XP1600 (1.4GHz) W2K machine with no problems, using a GeForce2 400MX 64MB card.

As someone else said, it fairly smokes along.

The electronics tech here at work through whom I bought the system says that it effectively matches an Intel P4 2GHz machine.

Your salesman is perhaps either pulling your leg, or living in the dim dark past, or perhaps talking about some _really_ high end video stuff.

How many pimples did the kid/salesman have?

Andrew

Andrew D. Cool .->-.
Electromagnetics & Propagation Group `-<-'
Surveillance Systems Division Transmitted on
Defence Science & Technology Organisation 100% recycled
PO Box 1500, Salisbury electrons
South Australia 5108

Phone : 061 8 8259 5740 Fax : 061 8 8259 6673
Email : andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au

Subject: Re: AMD CPU
Posted by [Brian Jackel](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 21:32:15 GMT
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Hmmm, interesting.

We just got a 1.6Ghz AMD and 1.2Ghz Pentium.
Both running Windows2000 Professional. The
STREAM benchmarks (<http://www.cs.virginia.edu/stream/>)
claim that the AMD is *much* faster, while
IDL timetests indicate only a slight advantage
for the AMD.

I wonder what's up with the Linux version?

Brian

Robert Stockwell wrote:

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> 1.2Ghz Pentium win2000 IDL.
> For instance, a process that takes ~7 minutes on the laptop
> takes ~15 on the athlon.

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> I'm not sure why.
>
> Cheers,
> bob

Subject: Re: AMD CPU
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2002 21:34:05 GMT
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"Richard Tyc" wrote

> Huh. Win2K recommended.

Yes, very much so even if you are working with NT4. I used to run win98se and when I started developing with objects IDL would lock up often. This was due in part to poor memory management on my part but take the same un-debugged program and work with it in IDL on win2k and you can happily consume all of the free ram you like. IDL has only crashed on me maybe 2 or 3 times in 2 years of heavy daily use.

>> MAke sure you have W2K and it will be just fine.

I disagree with Pavel in that I don't think you *need* to run win2k if you have an AMD processor. I have had no problems on AMD+win98+IDL configurations in the past. I think you would be much happier... but who are we to tell you how to run your life :)

>>> I thought it was a non issue, but the salesman at the computer store did
>>> mention that some customers using "high end graphics and video editing
>>> software" have experienced problems on AMD based PC's compared with
>>> Intel's.

The only thing that he could be referring to is the AGP cache coherency problem where "The problem lies in conflicting accesses to a block of memory by both the AGP processor and the CPU. The problem is more likely to occur with a 4MB page size, I assume because the large page size makes it more likely for the CPU's memory mappings to collide with the AGP processor's ones." This problem was resolved a while back when AMD issued a registry patch that forces windows to use 4k pages and a workaround has been floating around for AMD based linux systems too.

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/3/23749.html>

-Rick

Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Robert Stockwell](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 00:13:11 GMT

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Brian Jackel wrote:

> Hmmm, interesting.
>
> We just got a 1.6Ghz AMD and 1.2Ghz Pentium.
> Both running Windows2000 Professional. The
> STREAM benchmarks (<http://www.cs.virginia.edu/stream/>)
> claim that the AMD is *much* faster, while
> IDL timetests indicate only a slight advantage
> for the AMD.
>
> I wonder what's up with the Linux version?
>
> Brian
>

I'll check out the benchmarks and post more info
when I get a chance.

Cheers,
bob.

Subject: Re: AMD CPU

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2002 17:54:39 GMT

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Rick Towler wrote:

>
> I disagree with Pavel in that I don't think you *need* to run win2k if you
> have an AMD processor. I have had no problems on AMD+win98+IDL
> configurations in the past. I think you would be much happier... but who
> are we to tell you how to run your life :)

Oh no, I didn't try to say you *have* to have W2K on an AMD machine. I
ran 98SE with IDL for a long time on that Duron. I had no problems at
all, except those generally experienced by 98 users. I can't say I had
more problems running IDL than anything else under 98.

I just tried to say that the upgrade to W2K showed me how much more stable a Windows machine can be.
Pavel
