
Subject: Re: Sun vs PC Linux - Anyone making the shift?
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Mon, 11 Feb 2002 19:07:07 GMT
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- > Michael Lefsky wrote:
- >
- > Why are inexpensive PC architectures beating pants off of Sun
- > machines that cost twice as much (but not alphas)?

I think raw processing (floating point ops) is just plain straight dependent on the clock speed, as long as multithreading is supported. I/O is not well tested, so Sun's faster i/o is not really kicking in.

- > What are Windows machines ahead of PC linux machines? I would have
- > thought the opposite would be true.

Graphics/OpenGL is better on Windows, so any graphics operations are faster under Windows. Linux compilers are not yet optimized (this is what I've heard).

- > Has anyone gone in either direction (Sun to Linux or visa versa) and
- > what were your experiences?

We tried Sun vs. a Mac G4 and found G4 to be about 10% faster than the Sun. Of course, running Fortran models on a Sun is the normal practice, but getting a G4 for running IDL ad-hoc and testing the results was feasible given that the G4 costs 10% of what Sun does.
Pavel

Subject: Re: Sun vs PC Linux - Anyone making the shift?
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Mon, 11 Feb 2002 21:28:43 GMT
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- > Why are inexpensive PC architectures beating pants off of Sun machines
- that >cost twice as much (but not alphas)?

Because Sun can't scale their processors as quickly as AMD and Intel (their business model requires relatively long product cycles and lifetimes). Plus, they never had a superior design like the Alpha to begin with. That being said, their latest US-IIIcu processor at 1050 competes quite well with the latest offerings from AMD and Intel. I don't think you can get the new cu processors in your SunBlade though.

Ace's SPECmine has the details:

<http://www.aceshardware.com/SPECmine/index.jsp>

FWIW we are sticking with our Sun for the foreseeable future. It may not be nearly as fast as our x86 machines but it is the core system in our lab and the price was worth it. OS maintenance is simple and the hardware has been flawless.

Speaking of price, you should really look into their .edu deals. We got our ultra-60 direct from Sun for a steal by trading in an old IPC!

-Rick

Subject: Re: Sun vs PC Linux - Anyone making the shift?
Posted by [Gert Van de Wouwer](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2002 12:51:23 GMT
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ratio has turned in favor of pc's. Although it's not 'cool' to think so; aren't
we all suppose to say unix workstations&nbsp;are the best, windows pc's are for
kids...</FONT></DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>but I am surprised that linux pc's where not faster
than windows pc's.</FONT></DIV>
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<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>I used to work on HP unix stations (mainly c-code
with gcc-compiler), and now windows pc's.&nbsp;Althoug&nbsp;Microsoft's
not&nbsp;'cool', it works for me - and I like working with Visual studio much
better than&nbsp;fiddling around with emacs and gcc...</FONT></DIV>
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<DIV>Why are inexpensive PC architectures beating pants off of Sun machines
that cost twice as much (but not alphas)?</DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV>What are Windows machines ahead of PC linux machines? I would have
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