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Subject: Re: Hyperthreading

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 29 Oct 2003 17:18:50 GMT

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"trouble" wrote...

- > I'm about to purchase a new machine - has to be windows. I was just
- > browsing around the specs on new machines I see there is a (marketing)
- > revolution called hyperthreading.
- >
- > From what I understand, it mimics the effect of multiple CPUs. Has
- > anyone noticed if IDL can take use these hyperthreads to any
- > advantage?

IDL's multi-threaded functions will take advantage of hyperthreading (assuming you are running win2k or XP) but don't get too excited. As with dual-cpu configurations, the benefits are application specific and unless your programs make heavy use of IDL's multi-threaded functions you'll probably see little gain in performance. Check "multi-threading" in the docs for a list of IDL's multithreaded functions. That being said, you'll probably benefit in other ways. While IDL is crunching away your system will seem more responsive as other processes will get more processor time.

In most cases HT will not hurt but I wouldn't pay extra for it if I had a choice. And you do! Why don't you get a shiny new Opteron or Athlon FX system and let the world know how IDL runs on AMD's new x86-64 chip.

-Rick

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