

Re: Re: Scheduler fixes for hyperthreading

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To: Stephan Uphoff <ups@tree.com>, Colin Percival <cperciva@freebsd.org>

>> > *Beside benchmarking – is there any other real use for RDTSC ?*

>>

>> *Some (broken) software uses the TSC in combination with external events in*

>> *order to obtain entropy for cryptographic key generation. As a result,*

>> *disabling RDTSC could lead to non-obvious but very problematic breakage.*

>

>*Both bde and phk seem to agree with you that just disabling RDTSC is not*

>*an option :-(*

RDTSC is very useful for profiling. So given a choice for disabling RDTSC or disabling hyperthreading personally I'd have no doubts that disabling hyperthreading wins.

So far I've seen no use for hyperthreading whatsoever. If anything, it seems to make the machine slower due to I think extra contention for memory/cache, and probably due to the extra scheduling overhead. So I just get it disabled in the BIOS. Maybe I've just haven't seen the "right" kind of applications.

–SB

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