Re: numbers don't lie ...

Source: http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing−Lists/FreeBSD/hackers/2006−09/msg00126.html

- *From*: Pieter de Goeje <pieter@xxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Thu, 14 Sep 2006 19:43:27 +0200

On Thursday 14 September 2006 19:28, Gary Corcoran wrote:

> The confusing thing is that I thought 'real' time should be >= 'user' +
> 'sys'. But here 'user' is much greater than 'real' for both machines! The
> sense I got from the other messages in this thread is that 'user' time is
> somewhat meaningless (i.e. unreliable as a measure) in a multi−CPU and/or
> hyperthreading environment. Can you clarify?

user time = time spent in userland on all logical processors combined.

The right equation is: real * ncpus > user + sys, where ncpus = number of
active logical processors.
In the optimal case (perfect parallelism): real * ncpus = user + sys

− Pieter