

Re: Optimizations.

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/performance/2003-05/0005.html>

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Date: 05/15/03

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To: freebsd-performance@freebsd.org

On Thu, 15 May 2003 14:30:33 +0200

Pawel Jakub Dawidek <nick@garage.freebsd.pl> wrote:

- > *IMHO optimization in FreeBSD's code has too low priority.*
- > *Maybe is time to think about some 'optimization team' creation?*

The actual goal is to finish the "SMPng"-feature (and other new 5.x technologie). After that the "roadmap" (there's no official one, but if you read -current you read sometimes about what is written on the TODO lists) says something about optimizing those features. You know, premature optimization is evil, do you?

- > *value is. They should have experience in old-school optimization (there are*
- > *many places where '* (2^n)' could be changed to '<< n' and many places where*

Are you sure? Compare the produced code, if the value is known to be a power of 2 at compile time, this optimization gets already performed by the compiler. Regardless of the fact that todays compilers already do a good job with such easy optimizations, not every place where you could improve the produced code is worth to improve in such a way (if you improve the code by 1ms but the complete "action" takes 1000ms it isn't worth... and optimizing algorithms gives you most of the time much more bang for the bucks...). Personally I prefer readability of the algorithm instead of speed in such situations.

The actual performance difference between gcc and icc doesn't comes from such optimizations, its from using SIMD code and from scheduling the instructions in a different way (on a P4 you get huge benefits from this), so the time is better spend on improving those aspects of gcc instead.

Bye,
Alexander.

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The three Rs of Microsoft support: Retry, Reboot, Reinstall.
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freebsd-performance: Re: Optimizations.

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