

freebsd-performance: Re: ten thousand small processes

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Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/performance/2003-06/0097.html>

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Date: 06/26/03

Date: 26 Jun 2003 02:27:22 -0000

To: freebsd-performance@freebsd.org

I want separate processes for the memory protection. Each process is chrooted under its own uid, so it can't write to disk except through supplied file descriptors, and it can't hit other processes. (If I had a portable way to cut off other communication channels, such as creating new sockets, I'd do that too.)

I'm willing to sacrifice one page per process for the sake of memory protection; I realize that it's hard to do better than that. But I'm not willing to casually piss away large fractions of a gigabyte of RAM. Not this decade, anyway.

The lack of memory protection is exactly why I can't use threads. It's also why I'm not surprised to hear that processes are *_slightly_* less efficient than threads. But something is seriously wrong if processes are *_much_* less efficient than threads.

---D. J. Bernstein, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, University of Illinois at Chicago

freebsd-performance@freebsd.org mailing list

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