

Re: Tuning Gigabit

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/performance/2003-06/0142.html>

From: Martin Nilsson (*martin_at_mullet.se*)

Date: 06/30/03

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To: David Gilbert <dgilbert@velocet.ca>

David Gilbert wrote:

> *Well... I don't have any disk controllers to test, but I've verified
> this behaviour with em, bge, sk, and nge chipsets. Of these, as I've
> said before, the em shines.*

I have made some simple speed testing of gigabit NICs too. My results are that Linux 2.4.18+ is usually faster and have much lower CPU load than FreeBSD 4.8. I have tested the following NIC:s em (1000/XT,Anvik), nge(32/33), bge (Altimia 1002), ti (Netgear GA620T).

For FreeBSD I've found that use nothing beats the ti with its special firmware.

> *The bge has good performance, too ... but
> we've seen a lot of corrupted routed packets ... it has some
> interaction with some motherboard chipsets.*

The VIA chipsets often have very poor PCI bus performance if you don't load the 4 in 1 drivers (windows only). The max PCI speed I've been able to get with (semi old ~1.5years) VIA chipsets are about 70MB/s measured with a SCSI disk array on a 32/33 bus. The intel, SiS and serverworks chipsets perform as expected, I haven't tested any Nvidia boards.

> *It's in the back of my mind. I don't think I'll have time for this
> BSDCon, but maybe soon thereafter. It's getting to the point where we
> should have a BSD Journal.*

I would be interested in helping to test this, I have a bunch of lab boxes with 64/66PCI or PCI-X slots and NICs to work with. I'm able to get access to most new motherboards and chipsets to test chipset specific performance. What I need is someone to help me develop useful things to test, validate results and to check testing methodology.

/Martin

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