

FreeBSD 5.x performance tips (ISC)

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Date: 01/13/04

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To: performance@freebsd.org

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So, as many of you know ISC hosts a quad-Xeon server running FreeBSD 5.1 (-p10 to be precise) which hosts half of ftp.freebsd.org, etc. Many of you helped out with some teething pains w/ virtual memory sizes, and kernel panics. Thanks :)

The issue with the system now is that while the kernel is SMP-aware, and as I watch 5.2-REL get downloaded today, this system is like the arm muscle that is developed to lift that barbell, but not enough blood is getting everywhere, so the barbell is slowly moving up while the muscle cramps like hell. In this case the system is ~70% idle, and around 150 processes are locked and the performance starts to seriously decrease at times. (Entropy stops getting collected, etc.) Not a pretty sight. The CPU's are all spinlocking on an I/O channel. so high I/O translates into artificial high cpu and load averages.

So where can I look for pointers on how I can squeeze better performance out of this configuration? I already have the usual sysctl entries installed. Any chance moving to 5.2 will help the situation?

Best Wishes - Peter

Peter_Loshier@isc.org | ISC | OpenPGP Key E8048D08 | "The bits must flow"

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