

Re: Intel PRO/10GbE CX4? General 10Gb tips?

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- *From:* "Jack Vogel" <jfvogel@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On 6/5/07, Alan Amesbury <amesbury@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Kip Macy wrote:

>> Sounds like the Intel hardware is the way to go, then. Performance is
>
> I'm not sure how you extrapolate that from the conversation to this
> point. The ix cards are not currently available so nothing is yet
> known about how they perform under FreeBSD and they may well come at a
> premium for being dual-ported.

Er, probably from the conversation I was having in my head and failed to get into writing. :-\ There are some other things which are important, e.g., having the drivers in 6.2-RELEASE, which I don't think I mentioned.

>> absolutely key (else why spend the money for 10Gb hardware, right?), so
>> a performance hit of more than 1-2% isn't going to be acceptable. I'd
>> be willing to consider vendors who provided native FreeBSD blobs but,
>> where possible and feasible, I tend to give preference to those who
>> release specs and driver source openly.
>
> I'm sure ix will be open. mxge(4) and cxgb(4) are open.

Andrew Gallatin was most helpful in providing some additional information off-list about the Myricom cards. We don't run 6-STABLE, so the driver he backported to 6-STABLE hasn't shown up on our systems. I rarely look at -CURRENT because--well, we don't use that in production. To look at 6.2-RELEASE and earlier, Intel is the only 10Gb hardware that works with FreeBSD. I'm glad to learn otherwise. :-)

> I answered this question previously. The only 2 vendors with both good
> cards and good drivers for FreeBSD at this time are Myricom and
> Chelsio. Maybe we can poke Jack to post some numbers for ix(4) soon.

You did, and thanks! I'm still looking for alternatives, but am already focusing on Myricom and Chelsio products. For our purposes, the Myricom hardware is looking more attractive than ixgb(4), as PCIe and support in 6-STABLE are extremely compelling.

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Thanks again for the help!

The ix or ixgbe driver (whichever it finally ends up being called) is currently running on CURRENT or is that stably running on CURRENT :), however I already have a customer requirement for STABLE so I plan to have a version for both. When I started on the driver only CURRENT had MSI/X so that's where I did development, but now we have it in STABLE as well, its only TSO that is lacking and that should soon be remedied as well.

Jack

freebsd-performance@xxxxxxxxxxx mailing list

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