

Selecting CPU/architecture for new system?

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Hi,

I'm currently in the process of selecting hardware for a FreeBSD system having the main task of collecting network statistics via MRTG or RRDtool. In addition the machine in question should be used to collect netflow statistics plus providing a web-interface for displaying them.

To give you an impression about the workload to be expected: Currently the system is a dual Xeon machine with 3GHz-CPU's reaching work loads (top) of 7 to 9. Disk-IO btw is not the problem.

For the new system I thought about a 4-CPU machine, 4GB RAM – with either 32- or 64-bit architecture.

Here are my questions:

- o) Should I stick with a 32-bit architecture (i386) or go for any of the 64-architectures?
- o) Is FreeBSD 6.1 considered equally stable under the i386 architecture as under any of the 64bit architectures?
- o) Are SMP-systems with 4 CPUs supported in i386?
- o) Are SMP-systems with 4 CPU supported in any of the 64-bit architectures?
- o) Anything else to consider in this context?

Thanks much in advance for any clue,
-ewald

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