

RE: Does FreeBSD 4.11-STABLE support the 8237R?

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Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2006-06/msg00192.html>

- *From:* Danial Thom <daniel_thom@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 3 Jun 2006 09:09:27 -0700 (PDT)
-

----- Mark <admin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-freebsd-questions@xxxxxxxxxxxxx
[<mailto:owner-freebsd-questions@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>]

On Behalf Of Danial Thom

Sent: vrijdag 2 juni 2006 18:28
To: Scott Hiemstra; 'FreeBSD-Questions

Questions'

Subject: RE: Does FreeBSD 4.11-STABLE support
the 8237R?

----- Scott Hiemstra <shiemstra@xxxxxx> wrote:

Did you say you are running a server?

That MB is only suitable for

desktop use, as it has the slowest

ethernet controller known to man

on a 32/33Mhz bus. Running this MB as a

server is like putting

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cheap, skinny tires on your porsche.

DT

Personally, I appreciate your dedication to maximum performance but

please notice this thread is in reference to swapping a MB for another

MB and coments like yours are not appreciated.

Would you prefer if I had stated?

"I have the same board in a crappy server running 4.11 (FreeBSD 4.11-STABLE #0) and no problems to report."

Please notice I never said what the box was doing nor did I ask for

your opinion of what MB/NIC I use in my systems. This SERVER is pur-

pose built and runs stable 24/7 as a low volume outbound mail server

so the performance of the NIC is not my primary concern. Please keep

your useless comments to yourself as they do nothing but waste disk

space, CPU time and the valuable time of people who attempt to help

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others on this list.

Scott

So if someone is planning on using a crappy
motherboard as a server its

not appropriate to mention that the
replacement is not suitable for the

task? So since you're replacing the MB, why
not take the opportunity to
use something suitable.

Because it means introducing a whole slew of
new, unknown variables. :)

When I first installed 4.10R, it did not even
support the 8237; and disk
performance on that board was limited to a
terribly slow Multi-World DMA 2
mode (I think it was that; very slow, at
least). So, imagine my delight
when 4.11-STABLE supported the 8237 at last.
Buying a newer type
motherboard for 4.11-STABLE (where would you
find one for socket 754, so
soon replaced by socket 939, anyway?) would
likely mean an unsupported
south-bridge chip, and being back to square
one. Nope. I'm gonna stick
with what works for 4.11-STABLE (as that is
still my preferred FreeBSD
version; and if I cannot find a new motherboard
after the new one dies, I
will just continue to run the whole thing in a
Vmware box).

As for the LAN, since I only have a 100 Mb
network, I see no reason to
assume even a less than ideal performing
gigabit LAN would slow things
down (unless its performance dropped below 10%;
and I'm sure it's not that
bad).

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In fact, not to be unnecessarily contrary, but I would ere say this motherboard is totally unsuited for desktop use (I have a shiny P5WD2 Premium for that), and that this board is rather ideally suited for a FreeBSD 4.11 system.

Well that's just stupid, but you're entitled to waste your money in any way you choose. We run FreeBSD 4.9 and I've never had a problem with hardware. Of course I know how to choose hardware and you don't :)

I never said "desktop". The MB isn't really suitable for anything that uses a LAN extensively.

Knowing ASUS (whose MBs I'd never use, btw), I'd guess that the ethernet controller on the P4WD2 is connected to a 1x PCIe which would be a joke.

What you don't "get":

- The slower the bus, the more CPU cycles it takes to do an I/O. Typically you are doing 1000s and 1000s of I/Os per second. Thats 100s of 1000s of cpu cycles wasted per second.
- inefficient controller = more CPU cyles per access. Maybe MANY more. This translates to degradation of your CPU. The more traffic, the more degradation. Whether you're on a gig network or a 100Mb/s network, the efficiency of the controller will still eat up your cpu. Of course if you're just doing IM or email, then you don't get enough iterations per second to make a difference. But on a server,or gaming machine or anything on a broadband connection, you're just killing your cpu using a crappy controller.

You'd be better off putting up an old 845 chipset MB with an fxp controller running a 2.6Ghz celeron than what you're running, for a lot less money.

DT

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