

Re: SMP on FreeBSD 6.x and 7.0: Worth doing? freenx@deweyonline.com

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- *From:* User Ota <ota@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 22 Dec 2007 14:07:34 -0500
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On Sat, Dec 22, 2007 at 01:40:00PM +0100, Claus Guttessen wrote:

It appears, though I'd need to instrument the code more to be sure, that the slowdown is coming from file I/O. Could it be that there less concurrency or more overhead in FreeBSD file operations than there is in Linux? Even with SoftUpdates turned on, the cache volume mounted with `-noatime`, and `aufs` (which uses `kqueues` — a FreeBSD invention — to optimize multithreaded disk access), the benchmark shows FreeBSD losing out. Why?

I have noticed an entry in `GENERIC` called

`device cpufreq`

Could this have any influence on the performance (on FreeBSD)?

I saw this device late in the 7.0 release-process and I since I'm accustomed to comment out any devices and options I don't need I have commented this out as well. So I haven't performed any tests with and without this device.

`Cpufreq` is for CPU frequency scaling. In the linux world, the `cpufreq` daemon allows you to control your cpu speed and voltage using power profiles and such, which makes it a definite power saving tool for

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laptops. The cpufreq driver is already included with the Linux kernel, so I'm going to assume that they've just implemented the cpufreq driver in the kernel recently :)

If enabled, it probably would have an impact on performance, however I have lost the ability to test such a function since my laptop decides not to POST anymore.

Yes, I did figure out what the purpose of this device was. :-) My point was that this could lead to lower benchmarks on servers if GENERIC is used.

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regards
Claus

When lenity and cruelty play for a kingdom,
the gentlest gamester is the soonest winner.

Shakespeare

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Oh, yeah, I see what you mean now. We have GENERIC and SMP kernel configs, with the cpufreq driver now, there should be like a LAPTOP kernel config file with laptop-specific options :P

Once I get my laptop working again, though, I'll try testing it out when 7.0-RELEASE comes about.

Russell Doucette

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