

Re: Ultra 5/10 vs Ultra 60 for workstation.

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.sys.sun.hardware/2006-01/msg00101.html>

- *From:* "Dave (from the UK)" <see-my-signature@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 17 Jan 2006 04:07:12 +0000
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dion_b wrote:

SCSI is faster, but don't overrate the performance difference. ATA has max 2 drives per channel, with one drive on a channel you get 33MB/s for that drive, which is definately not U320 performance, but more than many IDE hard disks more than two years old can manage (far more than the abominable 9.1GB Seagate drive originally shipped with the U10).

Plus the U10 has PCI, so you can get SCSI easily enough...

True.

In fact, I have a dual Sun SCSI card here, which I had to remove from my Ultra 80 when I run out of PCI slots. I tried selling it on eBay, but could not get sufficient to make it worth my while going to the post office. Perhaps I am glad now!!

I've also got a single channel IBM SCSI card, which I believe will work. It uses the same chip set as the Sun ones.

The U10 does have another advantage too - I can add a cheap DVD writer. I'm not sure how practical that is in a U60, being only SCSI. Perhaps one can add an IDE card (or SCSI->IDE converter) but I don't have one of them, whereas I do have a SCSI card.

But PCI is the main reason to choose the U60:

It has a 64b PCI bus as opposed to the 32b bus on the U10. That means better throughput on your SunPCI II (not that that will be too noticeable), but also on the SCSI controller and it allows Gb Ethernet to actually approach the Gb mark. Even though it seems to get a better throughput out of the PCI bus than several newer PCs I own, the 32b PCI on my U10 is

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definitely the limiting factor for I/O.

Another interesting point I was not aware of.

Summing up, so far I seem to have:

* Advantages of a U60 *

Dual processors

Max 2 GB RAM

SCSI disks

Faster (64-bit) PCI bus

More expansion space.

Bigger cache

More RAM slots, so you are less likely to need to get rid of ram in order to add RAM.

Possible to add bigger disks, although these are expensive.

* Advantages of the Ultra 10 *

IDE - cheap disks, upto the limit of 137 GB.

Less noisy

It's not a run-away win for the U60, but I think on balance it seems the better of the two, despite the fact that several of its advantages (more RAM, dual processors), is not something I really want.

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Dave K

<http://www.southminster-branch-line.org.uk/>

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