

Thursday, May 31. 2007

links for 2007-05-31

Â» FSF political discoloration | Paul Murphy | ZDNet.com
(tags: FSF GPL CDDL OSS licenses)

smf(5) by Fintan Ryan
Presentation about Solaris SMF
(tags: solaris opensolaris smf)

Howto upgrade Debian 3.1 Sarge to Debian 4.0 Etch stable | nixCraft
(tags: administration blog howto linux sysadmin upgrade sarge etch debian)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:21

iowait

Also mittlerweile glaube ich an einen Hardwareschaden. Auch mit Debian 4.0 steigt hier in unregemässigen Abständen iowait auf 90% und load auf 150 bis 200. Und ich habe nicht den Hauch einer Idee, was es noch sein koennte. Raaehbaeh. Ich will VTS, ich will Dtrace, ich will Solaris.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 12:20

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Notbetrieb

Ich musste heute ohne weitere Vorwarnung leider das komplette System neu aufsetzen. Bis zur vollständigen Wiederherstellung kann es noch dauern.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 22:51

Solaris for real time

Many people think of Linux as real-time unix. Or about hard real time operating systems like vxworks. Not so many people know: The plain Solaris is a really capable real-time operating system, too. James Litchfield made some interesting latency tests to quantify the the RT capabilities of Solaris. And in the light of this results: It plays in the same ballpark as hard-RT operating systems with overall reaction times of 4 microseconds at average and 32 microseconds worst case.

(via: Marc Hamilton)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 14:02

The Inquirer about Power6

Interesting article about IBMs step back to "in order architectures":What do you get out of it performance wise? If you look at the specfp2006, Power5+ at 2.2GHz reached 14.9 specfp2006, while Power6 reaches 22.3 specfp2006 at 4.7GHz - but of course, in an adapted Power5 machine. In summary, just under half additional speed at well over twice the clock.The Power6 was something like the bogey man in the RISC world, but after all it's a good evolution of their Power architecture. But's by far not the "kill-all-other-proc" IBM and some analysts wanted to make us believe.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Work at 13:23

The real objectives of analysts

Tom Yager about Sun, analyst and the real objectives of analysts in The two technology markets: Sun Microsystems isn't folding up its tent on SPARC because it doesn't stand a chance against POWER and x86, any more than it's planting and reading over Solaris because of the looming threat of Linux. Sun doesn't make strategic decisions based on analysts' manipulation of short-term stock market investors, and that's one of the reasons that I hold the company in such high regard.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 09:10

Tuesday, May 29. 2007

Unstable operations of this blog

I finally found the reason for the instabilities: The mysql database was corrupted out of unknown reasons. Since the correction the system seems to be stable.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General at 15:23

Angsthasen

Mich hat gerade eine SMS erreicht, in der berichtet wird, dass der Karstadt in der Hamburger Innenstadt gerade geräumt wurde und weitere weiträumige Absperrungen errichtet worden sind. Wovor haben die Aussenminister bitte solche Angst, dass sie es nicht wagen, in die Nähe der Leute zu kommen, die Basis Ihrer Macht sind?

Update: Ich nehme alles zurück ... es hat dort laut Hamburger Abendblatt gebrannt ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in policy of ... at 13:37

The LPARS conundrum

Whenever you talk about technological advancements in operating systems in Solaris, you get the "But IBM has LPARS"-comment. Besides of having such a technology with LDOMS now and with XEN in the future, there is a major conundrum in this: How can a technology eating away up to 40% of your processor (IBM self-admitted in an withdrawn red book) have such a huge success as an emotional sales argument?

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 12:32

A thought about Solaris and AIX

"Vista is compared to Mac OS X what AIX is compared to Solaris. Starts to be a cheap rip off"

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 11:57

Thursday, May 24. 2007

Testing methods for I/O

Ben Rockwood wrote an excellent article about measuring I/O bandwidth: IO Benchmarking: How, Why and With What.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Toolbox at 13:38

links for 2007-05-24

Hanlon's razor - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(tags: Wikipedia)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:19

AIX6 open beta

AIX has it's own beta programm. It's open. But no OpenAIX so far. But there is no real kicker in the new version so far: Workload Partitions ? Looks like Solaris Zones. RBAC is in Solaris since Solaris 8. RBAC in LDAP? For years now. Caching of name server requests. This is pretty much state of the art in all operating systems since since the last century. Probevue ... there is not much information about it. So i can't really say anything about it. Looks like idea similar to dtrace.

The more interesting point is: I strongly believe, that IBM is in fear of Solaris. For a long time AIX was something like an unwanted child. Linux was the way to go. Commercial Unix systems lost their appeal in comparision to Linux. But then Sun revived Solaris with Version 10. And now there is a technological advanced enterprise class Unix. It left IBM without a competitive operating system for their high-end-server franchise. AIX 6 looks like a reaction to this. But in most fields Sun has years of advantages. When AIX6 comes to market, even the newest anticipated features in Solaris are in their third and fourth iteration.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 12:32

Tuesday, May 22. 2007

IBM starts benchmarking - today: TPC-C

Okay, it was too obvious to be surprised: IBM starts it's benchmarking run for Power6. And they start with the most useless benchmark: TPC-C. As some wise people said: TPC-C is a function over the amount of harddisks, not a benchmark about processor speed. And this baby had many disks in the benchmark configuration. 3312 36 GB harddisks to be exact. This configuration is worth for 1,616,162 transactions.

And now the kicker: Look into the benchmark about the old P5 1.9 Ghz p570. 809.144,09 transactions. But with only 1600 harddisk of the same size and the same speed.

With an twoandahalf-fold clock frequency increasement and two times the amount of harddisks i would expect more than twice the performance. Interestingly the amount of transactions per second is proportional to the amount of harddisks.

So IBM have only the choise to admit two things: Ether the TPC-C is not a benchmak with a significant message of system performance or their new Power6 baby doesn't scale. At least not with AIX 5.3

So: This benchmark is not an archivement. It's an embarrasment.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 10:25

Monday, May 21. 2007

DTrace for Ruby

Joyent published their integration of Dtrace into Ruby and Rails. It's a handy tool when you optimize your Rails application.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 14:19

Solaris migration and instabilities

1. The instabilities of the last few days came from massive load peaks out of mail filtering. The system runs still with Linux, so
2. The Solaris migration is postponed until further notice. A test migration of a diskimage left the target system unbootable. I'm still searching the reason.
3. To circumvent some problems, i will move the system towards Debian in the next few days.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General at 13:44

Sunday, May 20. 2007

links for 2007-05-20

ZEIT online - Leben - Fernsehen : Die Simpsons sind Amerika
(tags: Simpsons)

gesche.online: die Konferenz re:publica 07 - Leben im Netz
(tags: re:publica)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:19

Moderne Gedanken

Modernität ist keine Frage des Geburtstages, sondern der Geisteshaltung: Wie könnte es sonst sein, das Rita Süßmuth sich in Interviews als moderner erweist, als grosse Teile ihrer viel jüngeren Parteigenossen.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in policy of ... at 12:31

Friday, May 18. 2007

links for 2007-05-18

Sun, allies broaden open-source chip push | CNET News.com
(tags: Sun hardware chips microelectronics)

Elgato turbo.264 - H.254 Video Encoder Hardware
(tags: video h.264 encoding hardware mac apple appletv cool encoder gadgets)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:20

Opensolaris on mainframes - revisited

A somewhat underdone statement from the german spokesman of IBM. He said in essence: It's not an official port, it's done by an ISV, but we look at it. But the original statement said this already. The more interesting point is: It looks like an unauthorized announcement of the mainframe business unit that draw too much attention. Looks like that the departments didn't speak with each other.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 13:02

Letters to your neighbour

Nathan Brookwood of Insight64 describes one of the stranger idiosyncracies of the Core2Duo architecture in one sentence: "It is as if you wanted to talk to your neighbour in your apartment building, and the only way to do it was to mail them a letter," he said of Intel's architecture. But when you really think about it, this comparison is a defamation of the postal service. The postal service is a highly efficient routed system for large scale data transport.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 11:56

Opensolaris for Mainframes?

According to the german IT newspaper Computerwoche, the manager for the SystemZ product line in germany announced the development of Opensolaris for mainframes. Okay, from the technological standpoint this are great news. But i don't believe this will have any impact: At first, when you need mainframe class computing for your applications you would buy something like the M9000 or the the SunFire 25k. This is the real stuff. You can get thousands of supported application for it. Supported 3rd party enterprise applications for Linux or Opensolaris on Mainframe: Zero, nada ... or almost in this range. When you have a single application that only runs on Solaris: You should use a cheap SPARC or x86 server. This systems are dirt cheap for their value. Even when you buy them from vendors with less then 4 letters in their name. And you have higher performance.

But the biggest waste of money is the usage of a mainframe for applications that were designed with small workgroup servers in mind. And, in my personal opinion, a mainframe is a complete waste of money, unless you have some applications you don't want to port. For new applications or for revised applications, you should use something more cost effective. But i see the advantage for IBM: It's the next attempt to solve their nuclear submarine problem at mainframe computing.

So ... nice news, but big news would be an officially supported port of Opensolaris to the pSeries.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 10:05

Gefühlter Montag

Das Blöde an gefühlten Sonntagen, ist die Tatsache, das darauf meist ein gefühlter Montag folgt.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump at 09:47

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Sunrays for Windows

Nice article about SunRay-based desktop virtualisation for Windows at Verizon: The decrease in PC support has several components. One is simply fewer problems. "We went from an average of about 100 'break-fix' trouble tickets a month to less than 40," Eberling says. That translates into less demand for IT tech support, and greater uptime, and hence productivity, for the call center reps.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 20:21

Buyback

A more sensible action to use the 5.4 billion dollars We buy back some of our stocks. First time im the last 6 years. A \$3 billion buyback would represent about 16.5% of the company's current \$18.2 billion market capitalization. One of the more interesting effect: Less shares means higher EPS (earnings per share) means more value for the shareholder.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 20:01

London

Sorry, das hier gestern garnichts passiert ist. War in London. Es scheint übrigens so zu sein, das das die halbe Porsche Chayenne Produktion in der Innenstadt von London rumsteht.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Business Travel at 11:28

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

ARM licenses Sun technology

Looks like a good move to create Sun Microelectronics. ARM licensed some technologies from Sun

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 21:21

A little known fact

Jonathan in an article about patents and open source: Net result? Our contributions, from Java to OpenOffice to Gnome and Mozilla, now account for in excess of 25% of all lines of code within your average Linux distribution
Or to overstate slightly: There is more Sun in Linux than Linus

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 13:44

Greg Papadopoulos abot software patents

Mads pointed me to this good article written by Greg regarding software patents: Will we stop pursuing software patents on our software? Can't do that yet. That's simply because our competitors will still go for them, and unless our system changes, we'd have fewer "trading stamps" and end up paying even higher rates to indemnify the users of our software. At the end, the patent systems gone wild somewhere in the past in the software space. Even when you don't like it, you have to go for it, as other would do it. And nobody would step back first, as all participants are in fear that all other market participants would use this as the competitive weapon. It's the classical mexican standoff.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Technology at 06:56

Monday, May 14. 2007

Ist die BILD ein Blog?

Ich greife nur ungern zu solch starken Worten (*prust*), aber ich habe selten so einen reaktionären Bullshit gelesen, wie jenen den Herr Keese in einem Interview bei der sueddeutschen.de. Aber was erwartet man auch von jemanden, unter dessen Chefsredakteursägide die FTD die Empfehlung 2002 für den Edmund gegeben hat.

Ich mag zwar da Gelaber von der "starken Blogosphäre" auch nicht, die irgendwann mal die alten Medien obsolieren werden. Aber wir befinden un momentan an einem Punkt, an dem sich der Umgang mit Informationen und Meinungen grundlegend ändert. Wohin sich das bewegen wird, vermag ich nicht zu sagen, aber die Medienwelt wird eine andere sein, vielleicht nicht heute, vielleicht nicht morgen, aber in zwei oder drei Jahren. Und das fängt auch schon bei der älteren Generation an: Meine Eltern kaufen keine Zeitungen mehr. Wozu auch? Die gleiche Information gelangt über Internet schneller in die vier Wände. Die Gegenprüfung durch Infomrationsquellen mit bekannt divergierender politischer Positionierung geht schneller und umfassender. Und sie lesen Blogs, und zwar nicht nur das meine ...

Also wenn noch nicht mal die ältere Generation davor zurückschreckt, den Medienkonsum gründlich zu überdenken, dann ist das , was da an der Tür klopft die die nächste Revolution der Medienrezipierung. Weg vom Voralysieren und Vorkauen einer Meinung hin zur Darreichung von Informations- und Meinungsfragmenten, die zusammen mit dem Vertrauen, das man der einzelnen Quelle zumisst ein persönliches Bild der Welt da draussen darstellt. Ohne die Einfärbungen, die Chefredakteure in das Bild einbringen.

Aber mal von diesen Grundlegenden Dingen ab. Eine Frage habe ich dann doch an de: Herr Keese, sie sagen in dem Interview Was am Ende in der Zeitung oder online erscheint, ist Teamarbeit. Genau das erwarten Leser von uns: ein sorgsam begründetes Urteil aufgrund sachlich korrekter Informationen.Und jetzt erklären sie mir doch bitte mal die BILD aus ihrem Hause. Oder ist das auch nur ein Print-Blog von einigen durchgeknallten Redakteuren?

(via: turi2)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Blogosphere at 22:43

ScamSat 1

I knew that, many of this scam mails come from nigeria connection. But i wasn't aware of the massive amounts of bandwidth needed for this : Nigeria launched it's first communication satellite (with chinese help)into space.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Fundsache at 22:01

235 bullets

Microsoft states, that Linux violates 235 of their patents. I assume, that this number is greatly exaggerated. But: Even when your enemy has 235 bullets, one is sufficient to kill you. And the interesting question is: Can you dodge 235 bullets? Interesting times ahead.

There even seems to be a raging cold war regarding this topic. Roger Parlof of Fortune wirtes in Microsoft takes on the free world:So if Microsoft ever sued Linux distributor Red Hat for patent infringement, for instance, OIN might sue Microsoft in retaliation, trying to enjoin distribution of Windows. It's a cold war, and what keeps the peace is the threat of mutually assured destruction: patent Armageddon - an unending series of suits and countersuits that would hobble the industry and its customers.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 21:26

Bei Schröders

Gute Idee: Zum Schutze der Privatsphäre den Klarnamen als Künstler geheimhalten wollen und alles bis hin zur Wikipedia niederklagen, was auch nur ansatzweise den echten Namen veröffentlicht.

Auch noch eine gute Idee: Die Wortmarke Atze Schröder beim Deutschen Patent- und Markenamt anmelden.

Schlechte Idee: Die Anmeldung mit dem Klarnamen durchführen.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Fundsache at 18:14

Dr. House seziert

Den in loser Folge vergebenen Marjorie-Award bekommt heute: Polite Dissent für ein Blog das Woche für Woche die Dr.House-Folgen auf die medizinische Plausibilität hin prüft.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 17:03

Sch... Duisburg

Duisburg ist wohl eine der haesslichsten Städte dieses Planeten. Zumindestens an zwei Dingen gemessen. Der Bahnhof ist schlichtweg schrecklich und auf der anderen Seite ist hier gerade einem Bettler entgegengeschallt, das er doch zu den Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund gehen möge. Die würden ja in Geld schwimmen (Die Wortwahl war natürlich eine andere). Sagt mal ... gehts noch ??? Keinen Fussbreit in diese Stadt.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Business Travel at 13:36

links for 2007-05-14

Compilers and More: Precision and Accuracy
(tags: hpc programming)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:20

Sunday, May 13. 2007

Homeoffice

Ich beschäftige mich ja aus gegebenen Anlass schon länger mit den Erfahrungen, die andere mit Homeoffice machen. Interessanterweise gibt es kaum wirklich aussagekräftige Beispiele in Deutschland, die über Angebote hinausgehen, die von wenigen Leuten genutzt werden. Ich glaube, ich habe einen weiteren Hinweis darauf, warum Amerikaner total begeistert sind von Homeoffice-Konzepten, Deutsche sagen wir aber mal das nicht so hemmunglos übernehmen möchten. Es hängt mit dem doch sehr unterschiedlichen Städtebau in den USA und in Deutschland zusammen. Ich habe in Masoods Blog folgenden Punkt gefunden:

In major American cities, workers have to drive long distances (of the order of 80 - 200 km / day) from home to work and back, and a significant increase in gas prices, without a similar increase in better communications technologies (that allow people to reduce trips to work to compensate for other losses) or a similar increase in energy efficiency of automobiles (at the same unit price) can cause perturbations towards lower growth rates. Es ist klar, das man einen Mitarbeiter leicht davon begeistern kann, das von zu Hause arbeiten eine tolle Sache ist, wenn er jeden Tag etwa die Distanz zwischen Bremen und Hamburg pendelt (ich bin ein halbes Jahr zwischen Oldenburg und Hamburg (Tagesfahrstrecke 320km) gependelt und wäre wahrscheinlich der erste gewesen, der ein Homeofficeangebot angenommen haette).

Hier in Deutschland sind die Distanzen aber in der Regel wesentlich kürzer. So etwa in der Groessenordnung 10-40 km (bei mir sinds 4 km hin und zurueck, aber das ist das andere Extrem). Da hat zur Folge, das viele der positiven Effekte einfach in Deutschland nicht vorhanden sind. Klar geht die Worklife-Balance den Bach runter, wenn man 200km die Highways in der Bay Area mit 55 Meilen runterjuckeln muss. Aber in Deutschland, das bei weitem nicht über diese Flächenstädte verfügt? Wer sich mal Los Angeles aus der Luft angeguckt hat, wird so ungefähr einen Eindruck haben, was ich meine. Ich glaube, das Los Angeles schon auf halben Wege Richtung Las Vegas wäre, wären da nicht die Rockies im Weg. Man muss auch Bedenken, das die meisten europäischen Städte auch über über bessere öffentliche Nahverkehrssystem verfügen (Wer die BART kennt, weiss die Hochbahn zu schätzen).

Ich glaube, das Homeoffice-Konzepte in Deutschland einfach nicht so richtig angenommen werden, hauptsächlich damit zu tun hat, das die städtebaulichen Grundlangen in Europa so vollkommen anders sind. Die Probleme der Mitarbeiter sind deswegen auch einfach andere. Wer sich 200km fahrt jeden Tag sparen kann, nimmt eben auch leichter Einschränkungen in der Kommunikation mit seinen Kollegen hin. In Europa fehlt der Vorteil, um sich den grossen Nachteil irgendwie ausgleichen zu können.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump at 12:56

Problems with AIX

The Register writes to the the delay of AIX 5.4: Most notably, IBM has shifted from an out of order design with Power5's integer units to an in order design with Power6. Such a drastic change will require first AIX 5.4 and then a full software recompile should customers want to see maximum performance. IBM has yet to say anything at all about the efforts underway to deal with this issue. This would be really interesting for ISV. It seems, you need a pre-Power6 version and a Power6-Version of your code to get maximum performance. I assume, this will lead to nice benchmarking tricks with performance levels unreachable for users with standard software from ISV.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 06:58

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Problems with AIX

IBM seems to have some problems to get AIX 5.4 out of the door. Now they backport some needed changes for Power6 to 5.3. But in the past you needed the latest update to get the performance out of new releases, although you was able to use older updates. Seems to happen again.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 16:47

Friday, May 11. 2007

links for 2007-05-11

good presentation about Solaris iSCSI
(tags: Solaris iSCSI)

Nokia E61 Blog » Nokia E61 SSH Client PuTTY
SSH-Client for an E61 handy
(tags: E61 ssh)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:21

Ben Rockwoods Opensolaris Presentation at Java One

Ben Rockwood of cuddletech made a presentation about Opensolaris at the JavaOne. Based on the slides, i conclude: Good presentation and he seems to like Apple Keynote,too.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Solaris at 07:12

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Bullets

Transitive announced the availability of QuickTransit® for Solaris™/SPARC®-to-Solaris™/x86. The target of this product is to enable migrations from SPARC to x86.

I have some problems with the real need for this product. It's extremely probable, that a vendor won't support an application on an emulated SPARC. There is one use case, where this can be of real use: You lost the sourcecode of a self-written program and the programmers of the stuff are already retired or on the grave yard.

But, TPM wrote the best explanation ever of Transitive's business model: In the spring of 2005, the company launched its products, and rather than sell QuickTransit as a product itself, Transitive decided that the best way to extract the most money out of the market was to sell bullets to all the platform vendors and get them shooting at each other.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 10:50

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Dokumentation

Ich denke, das die Vorkommnisse bei debate.welt.de an so vielen Stellen hochkochen, als als das man ohne Dokumentation des entsprechenden Inhaltes auskommen kann: Der komplette Text des Artikels von Alan Posener findet sich mittlerweile beim Turi.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Fundsache at 22:33

Screenshots vom Text von Alan Posener

Ich würde gerne die Screenshots online stellen, habe aber gerade leichte Zweifel, ob ich das darf. Schliesslich liegt das Urheberrecht bei herrn Posener. Und ich glaube, das zählt nicht mehr als zitieren.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Fundsache at 20:42

Springer und der Meinungspluralismus

Aus der Stellungnahme des Springerverlags zur Löschung eines kritischen Kommentars über die Bildzeitung im Allgemeinen und Herrn Diekmann im Speziellen: Bei Axel Springer gilt Meinungspluralismus, aber nicht Selbstprofilierung durch die Verächtlichmachung von Kollegen. Vielleicht sollte man im speziellen der Bildzeitung mal sagen: In der deutschen Gesellschaft gilt Meinungspluralismus, aber nicht Auflagensteigerung durch die Demontage, Verächtlichmachung und den Entzug der Privatsphäre nach Gutdünken der Bildzeitungsredaktion. Ist schon blöd, wenn es einen mal selber trifft.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Fundsache at 18:18

War ja irgendwie klar ...

Der Kommentar von Alan Posener über Kai Diekmann ist verschwunden. Passte wohl nicht in politische, sorry redaktionelle Konzept. Bei Interesse ... ich habe noch Screenshots von diesem Artikel

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in policy of ... at 14:00

Kai Diekmann

Lesenswerter Kommentar von Alan Posener über Kai Dieckmann. Herr Posner ist übrigens Kommentarchef bei der Welt am Sonntag, eine Schwesterzeitung der Bild: (...) Die 68er haben K.D. gezwungen, als Chefredakteur der Bildzeitung nach Auffassung des Berliner Landgerichts „bewusst seinen wirtschaftlichen Vorteil aus der Persönlichkeitsrechtsverletzung Anderer“ zu ziehen. Die 68er zwingen ihn noch heute, täglich auf der Seite 1 eine Wichsvorlage abzdrukken, und überhaupt auf fast allen Seiten die niedrigsten Instinkte der Bild-Leser zu bedienen, gleichzeitig aber scheinheilig auf der Papst-Welle mitzuschwimmen. Die 68er zwingen ihn, eine Kampagne gegen die einzige vernünftige Reform der Großen Koalition zu führen, die Rente mit 67. Die 68er zwingen ihn... aber das wird langweilig. Hier die Kurzfassung: ich bin's nicht, die 68er sind's gewesen. Das ist jämmerlich. (...)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Fundsache at 11:12

TI, Sparc and foundries

An interesting article about TI's future manufacturing strategy: TI tips foundry strategy; UMC wins Sparc business

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 09:55

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Better than expected

I assume, we will see market share rushing back to AMD in the next quarters: AMD to offer speed boosts on Barcelona Well, as i said on frequent occasions: Welcome to the game of leapfrogging ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 21:12

links for 2007-05-08

Solaris served on the Rocks | The Register
(tags: Sun Rock)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:20

Monday, May 7. 2007

Itanic slowed down

The Inquirer reports about problems with the Tukwila-flavour of the Itanium. At the moment this processor shows how long the money of a big chip company can keep an niche architecture afloat (I know, the statistics looked good in the last few quarters, but only with metrics like "%percent increase in high-end systems market between 48-64 sockets sold on friday between 10 and 11 o'clock)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in The IT Business at 14:03

links for 2007-05-07

AMD Opteron Processor Faster Than Xeon in SQL database test
(tags: performance benchmark)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:18

Der Terrorist und der Präsident

Ist eigentlich den ganzen wildgewordenen "Er soll sitzen bis er verfault"-Politiker, das sie Köhler fast schon dazu zwingen, Klar zu begnadigen, damit nicht der Eindruck entsteht, das der Bundespräsident sich durch Populismus und Medien beeinflussen oder gar steuern laesst.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in policy of ... at 10:58

Sunday, May 6, 2007

The number

When you search for a certain sequence of hex digits, you find will 1.32 million hits. The sequence is the processing key for HD-DVD. Even when the MPAA forces Google and Digg to delete all the pages from the indexes or delete all the comments in community forums, those pages must have had millions of pageviews the last few day. Any attempt to delete this key from the internet is senseless. This sequence must be on literally millions of hard discs.

And to add insult to injury: The hack, that led to this sequence hit the HD-DVD at it's most delicate spot. You can't revoke the mechanisms without collateral damages. Or as the Wired Gadget Lab Blog writes:How might the companies respond? The processing key can now be changed for future disks. However, the flaws inherent in the system make it appear easy to discover the replacement: the method of attack itself will be hard to offset without causing knock-on effects. For example, revoking player keys (in advance of obfuscating the keys in memory in future revisions of the system) would render current players unable to view future movies. Revoking the volume and processing keys that have been hacked would mean that all movies to date would not run on new players.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Security at 16:45

Proximity communication

Nice article about some technologies from Sun for the not-so-distant future:Sun's chip gurus theorize about obliterating IBM and Intel. This is to a part the explanation for my point, that even when TI doesn't go to 32nm, it's an non-issue for Sun.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 16:30

Ditto data blocks in ZFS

The ZFS implementation in ZFS build 61 contains an really interesting new feature: redundant copies for data. You can define an per filesystem basis, that zfs makes redundant copies of data besides of RAID protection. It's a quite powerful feature. One obvious use case are laptop: You have only one hard disk. So RAID is somewhat out of consideration. With a single command (zfs set copies=2 zfspool/homedirectories) you can configure a filesystem for your important data to ensure that every datablock of it exists twice on the hard disk, while easily recoverable data like the operating environment exists only one time on your harddisk. But before i generate a RECF (Redundant Explanation of a Cool Feature) i suggest, that you look at this excellent article in Richard Ellings blog:ZFS, copies, and data protection.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 13:37

Ich koche ... (Teil 2)

Ich habe mich gestern absichtlich vom Rechner ferngehalten. Oder genau genommen. Ich habe mich absichtlich von meinem Blog ferngehalten. Ich hätte mich sonst wahrscheinlich zu einem bitterbösen Artikel hinreissen lassen. Aber wie sagte mein ehemaliger Chef noch, wenn ich mal wieder dabei war, ballistisch zu werden: Jörg, beruhig dich. Schlaf erst mal drüber. Und lass die Finger von der Tastatur.

PS: Nein, ich werd nicht schreiben, worum es geht/ging.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump at 10:52

Saturday, May 5. 2007

Ich koche.

Innerlich. Vor mich hin ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump at 07:47

Friday, May 4, 2007

Layer violation

The ever reoccurring criticism that ZFS gets from some Linux luminaries and even more often from admins at customers sites is the fact, that we didn't use the well known layering (files to inodes to volume LBA to RAID LBA to disk LBA) and seemed to condensed all functionality into the filesystem. I want to make two comments to this .

At first i find this a little argument a little bit strange. Okay, it's a widely used and well known architecture. But It's not the only and true way to store data on rotating rust. Jeff can explain this much better.

Second: Most of the critics of ZFS seemed to look on it only in a cursory way. The vastly simplified administration of ZFS in regard of creating filesystem doesn't mean that we developed a filesystem with integrated volume manager. Think of ZFS as a data management system for use with multiple front ends. One of this front ends ist the ZFS Posix Layer, giving you a posix compliant way to access the pool as an filesystem. Another frontend is the zvol-Mechanism. With this mechanism you can use the datapool as an volume in parallel to filesystems that exists on the same datapool. It's perfectly valid use case to create an ufs filesystem (or via iSCSI even a ext3fs or NTFS filesystem) on a zvol, without loosing the advantages of ZFS. At the end, it would be even possible to connect applications directly to the data management unit, for example a mysql or a postgres directly accessing the pools. Thus you would circumvent all the semantics of volumes and filesystems, still without loosing the advantages of ZFS.

So it isn't a monolithic and undividable amalgam. It looks only this way to the cusory viewer who don't dig into the inner concepts, as there were a huge focus to augment the fundamental advantages of the concepts behind zfs (like no fixed one-volume/one-fs structur or no predefinition of the allocation of space to certain filesystems by the partition table) with a really easy administration. Most of the times, when you create a volume, you want a filesystem in it. So: Why should we not do this in one step? And even when you don't want to use the pool for filesystems, it won't hurt you. (I've even heard of someone who use this automatically created filesystem for storing the application using the zpools and docs that use the zvols in the zpool. Whenever she export/import the zpool to a different system, the applications and tools wander with the zpools. Neat idea.)

Nevertheless the new layering gives the upper layers more knowledge about the physical side of storing informations on discs, enabling such neat things like selective resilvering of used blocks as a simple example (think about a syncing of new disc in a RAID that syncs the most important files at first. While not implemented at the moment, it's perfectly possible with ZFS. With the old world order: Impossible, as the RAID-Controller has no knowledge of something like files)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 18:29

A sidenote to KludgeFS ... ChunkFS

This one is to good too leave it in the comments: Val Henson coauthored the ChunkFS paper, which states:A few file systems, such as ZFS[2], have gone as far as checksumming and duplicating all file system metadata, which reduces the frequency of fsck but not the overall time.According to her resume this seems to be the same person who stated in 2004 in her very own blog:The on-disk state is always valid. No more fsck, no need to replay a journal. We use a copy-on-write, transactional update system to correctly and safely update data on disk. There is no window where the on-disk state can be corrupted by a power cycle or system panic. This means that you are much less likely to lose data than on a file system that uses fsck or journal replay to repair on-disk data corruption after a crash. Yes, supposedly fsck-free file systems already exist - but then explain to me all the time I've spent waiting for fsck to finish on ext3 or logging UFS - and the resulting file system corruption.Kudos to Chad for pointing me to this one ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 09:42

Thursday, May 3, 2007

ChunkFS - solution or just a kludge

It's a well known problem in the computer industry, that the needed time for filesystem checking will reach sooner or later unacceptable dimensions. This was one reason, why we developed ZFS. A number of mechanisms in the filesystem ensures an always consistent state. The Linux community sees this problem as well.

But this solution looks more like a kludge: ChunkFS divides a filesystem into up to 256 chunks that gets transparently merged into one user/application-visible filesystem. Every chunk is an filesystem on its own. The idea behind this concept is, that you only need to check a few chunks and not the whole filesystem. This idea has some major drawbacks. At first I assume that in practice the fault isolation of chunkfs won't reach the level you need to save substantial fscking time.

It's only a short thoughtgame, but: The more write load you give to the filesystem the more chunks will be in "dirty state". The more write load you have on a filesystem, the more probable a inconsistent state will be, as the probability of disrupting an write operation in progress rises with the amount of write operations. So in my personal opinion you end with several "dirty" chunks and thus you won't get such an big advantage. The more you need the mechanisms to shorten fsck time, the less ChunkFS would help you.

The biggest advantage may be parallel fsck-ing of the chunks but this would pose a huge load to the storage systems although it would be interesting how to solve the dependencies between chunk (Imagine: Chunk A needs a consistent Chunk B, Chunk B needs a consistent Chunk A. How to solve this conflict without risking consistency of the whole filesystem) . Besides of this, it introduces new classes of problems like the creation of unique inodes over several file systems or the mentioned problem of interchunk dependencies.

At the end, there is only one solution to problem of the growing fsck run times: Obsoleting filesystem checking at all. The most reasonable way to do this is by copy on write and transactional writes. Net Apps saw the problem and invented WAFL, Sun saw the problem and invented ZFS. I think it's time for the Linux community to find a real solution and to step back of developing an questionable kludge.

PS: The section 8 of this shows a problem that seems to be common within the Linux development community: Vast misunderstandings about the inner function of ZFS. There is no filesystem checking at ZFS, as the filesystem don't need one, so . You can scrub the filesystem (in the widest and farthest sense similar to fsck, but this can be done online and it checks the validity of data and metadata by the checksums). As the people in the linux community tend to be intelligent to downright brilliant, I don't understand this misunderstandings ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Technology at 20:24

links for 2007-05-03

Apple - A Greener Apple
Steve jobs about environmental protection

(tags: apple environment stevejobs green jobs recycling mac blog hardware business)

ext3cow

An implementation of ext3 with the capabilities to do copy on write and snapshotting them. It seems that this tool wasn't developed with "always consistent" in mind. Instead of this it looks more into regulatory compliance topics.

(tags: linux fs sysadmin filesystems)

Scott Oaks's Blog: How to test container scalability
(tags: scalability benchmark glassfish tomcat)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 13:19

Maintenance Windows

There is one sore spot with this blog. It still runs on Linux delivered by my hosting provider. But not for much longer. So I announce three maintainance windows: On the next three weekends this site may be unreachable from Saturday 9 o'clock to Sunday 12 o'clock. I apologize for any inconvenience.

The mirrors of sunfreeware.com, blastwave and rfc are already out of operation.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General at 13:14

OpenOffice for MacOS X

At last: Sun Microsystems joins porting effort for OpenOffice.org for Mac.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 11:34

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Flash Messiah

According to the Register, Jesus manifested himself in 4 GBit flash memory chips produced by Samsung.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 21:19

Rock boots Solaris

Perhaps you remember, that i found it quite hard not to talk about something a few days ago: It was because Sun reached a really important keystone in developing the Rock processor. The developers of Rock were able to make a full boot of Solaris on the first prototypes of this new chip. Why is this such a great news: When an operating system booted it has executed vast amounts of code in two ways. You've executed a wide range of commands and you've executed many of them. So the silicon is at least reasonable stable. Doing so with the first silicon in such a short time is a good sign, that the processes and technologies used in the silicon are well understood and that all the assumptions in simulations were correct.

And most important for the analysts and our customers: With UltraSPARC III and IV we missed our timelines the processor for quite a time and got a bad reputation on execution in our processor business. Now we are even ahead of schedule. Niagara I was in or ahead of time. As far as i know, N2 will be in time. And Rock is ahead of schedule, too.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 19:45

Der Frühling, der ein Sommer war/ist

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Photographie at 19:10

Intels Jim Fister speculates about Rock

Quite interesting comment about other peoples view to the Rock processor in a blog normally dedicated to interconnect technologies. In the article headlined with "Geology of Sun" the author writes: Jim Fister, a senior technologist from Intel's Itanium group I interviewed recently, has been reading between the lines in Jonathan Schwartz's blog about the Sun Rock microprocessor. Jim believes Rock will handle all communications through embedded memory, including processor-to-processor links. That could open up a novel space for Sun as it uses Rock to build big symmetric multiprocessing machines for database servers. As usual, i won't confirm nor deny any speculations.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 15:54

New rumours about Power6

TPM of the Unix Guardian has some new rumours about the upcoming Power 6: One source says the launch is in May with initial shipments in June, and said further that his IBM salesman said the Power6 clocks would hit 4.5 GHz in these machines. (Obviously, they can also be lower.) Such a timeframe would really make sense. The upcoming Rock and SPARC64 VII processors set an timeframe, that's not so large to have an announcement in 2008. Rumours about Rock suggest a very successful project progression. Intel and HP won't stand still with their Itanium gear. At the moment, Power is a little bit in the defense on the performance side, despite of being the self proclaimed king of the performance since Power4 time. So from marketing side, the best moment for the announcement would be in the next few months, although i strongly believe that the announcement of N2 will dent away much of the theater thunder.

PS: Self proclaimed as many of the statements were based on overengineered benchmarks and i saw too many customer situations, where Sun gear won against IBM gear in real application benchmarks despite of being the slowest in artificial benchmarks. And well, at the moment an Itanium system is the king of SAP SD, hope that this will change soon with a M9000-64. IBM needs some new benchmark wins beside of TPC-C

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 13:21

War Mode?

What the heck is the war mode in the T1000? Elektronkind studied the release notes for a firmware patch and found:6510364 "War Mode" in ALOM-CMT is required by the US NAVY which is currently missing
Perhaps it's the Skynet mode (Elektronkind assumed this) or it's an automatic "Aye, sir" after hitting enter. I'm sure what i will do, when i'm back in the office. There is a miracle to solve.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 08:26

Tuesday, May 1. 2007

Informationweek about Sun processors

Interesting article in Informationweek about Rock and N2 and their successors:"All the features we will introduce in the Niagara and Rock families will keep the industry busy for the next five years. This is a very exciting period for people working on processors," Yen said.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun at 20:28