

Saturday, January 31, 2009

links for 2009-01-31

Virtual Geek: A Multivendor Post to help our mutual iSCSI customers using VMware

(tags: iscsi reference storage vmware tips ESX san)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, English at 12:00

Peter Galvin about Storage Analytics

Peter Galvin publishes a column in the ;login: magazine - a publication of the USENIX and often an really insightful read. This time he wrote about the Storage Analytics part of our new storage appliances - Galvin.info: My latest column at ;login:Overall, the use of the analytics component of the Sun Storage 7000 NAS appliance is amazing, allowing exploration of every aspect of the performance, load, and status of the system. [...] On the whole I'm glad to leave behind the Middle Ages of performance analysis and look forward to the new tools of the modern age

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 10:22

Successful maintainance of the EAL 4+ Evaluation for Solaris 10 05/08

The certification of an evaluation of an evaluation target is only valid for a certain security target in conjunction with a certain evaluation target. Thus when you update your evaluation target, the certification isn't valid for your updated product. Thus you have to re-evaluate the new version (this takes a really long time) or you have to check if the changes would lead to a different result in the evaluation than with the the original target of evaluation. (for example for Solaris 10 11/06).

For Solaris 10 05/08 Sun choosed the second way, thus Sun renewed the EAL 4+ certification for Solaris 10. So the evaluation Solaris 10 05/08 is now certified as well to conform with the EAL 4+: All changes to the TOE were bug fixes. Through functional and regression testing of Solaris 10 Release 05/08 assurance gained in the original TOE certification was maintained. As all of the changes to the TOE have been classified as minor, it is the conclusion of the CB that the maintained TOE is appropriate for assurance continuity and reevaluation is not required.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 09:10

Brendan Gregg about L2ARC in the Sun Storage 7000 series

Storage Analytics in the Sun Storage 7000 series is a great tool to monitor performance and to search for optimizations in your storage configuration (making your job easier). But this is only the customer side of the medal. There is a second one - albeit not so interesting for most people: It's much easier to visualize the effects of certain developments in ZFS in presales and in blogs (making my job easier). Instead of showing boring numbers, you can show a nice chart to make you point clear. Brendans screenshots will definitely make it into my S7000 presentation (i don't use the company ones as my presentation style is pretty much different to the official one)

Brendan used the possibilities of Storage Analytics to write a really great article about the L2ARC discussing the effects to performance (really fsking great), the price you have to pay for it (you have to warm the caches) and the impact on designing storage architecture with focus on performance (forget mirroring, hello wide striping - not for all workloads, but for many ... and you have to pay the price mentioned before). And obviously: It shows to you the strength of Storage Analytics to dig down into performance data. So ... i strongly suggest, that you read Brendans new article about L2ARC in his blog. It's worth a read and as L2ARC is available for OpenSolaris as well you can transfer the informations to that operating environment as well.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 08:26

Friday, January 30. 2009

Sun Storage 7000 for Oracle

Jeffrey T. Wright and Sridhar Ranganathan wrote an excellent whitepaper about the Sun Storage 7000 series for Oracle. It's really worth a read for everybody thinking about databases on NAS: Sun Blueprint - Configuring Sun Storage 7000 Systems for Oracle Databases.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 12:43

links for 2009-01-30

VDI3 EA2

Dennis Maher about Virtual Desktop Infrastructure 3 - Early Access 2
(tags: virtualisation desktop)

Open Source Drives The New Sun

(tags: sun opensource OSS)

40 Gigabit Ethernet and 100 Gigabit Ethernet Technology Overview
Overview issued by the Ethernet Alliance
(tags: ethernet)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, English at 12:00

Morgendliche Laune

Was soll man von einem Tag halten, den man mit einem Lied, das unter anderem diese Textzeilen enthält, in Dauerrotation beginnt: Es blendet uns zu sehen und schmerzt uns, Dir zu Lauschen
Doch scheint es so, als wuerd es hier nichts geben mehr als Rauschen
Schliess die Augen sanft, mein Kind und bleib in meinen Armen
Ich trage Dich hinweg durch diese alte WeltAu weia

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Music at 09:27

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Frankfurt - train station of the airport

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Photographie at 21:57

The Mysql deal in the hindsight

This article of Matt Assay is a nice answer to all this RedHat versus Sun talk of the recent time because of similar market capitalisation: Perhaps Sun Microsystems' valuation of MySQL wasn't too far off. Sun acquired the open-source database leader in January 2008 for a whopping \$1 billion, a sum that many rational people thought was way too high. Perhaps they were wrong; \$1 billion is beginning to look like a bargain. [...] That is phenomenal growth, and it puts MySQL on a fast track to catch up and perhaps surpass Red Hat, in terms of sales. The article is a really interesting read.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 18:14

Future datacenter fabric: QDR IB or 40/100GbE?

There are several people thinking that the search for future data center fabric technology is already decided for Ethernet. I don't think so. I still think of Infiniband as a quite capable contender in this discussion. 40 GB/s Infiniband is already available whereas 40 GBit/s Ethernet is still in discussion. With the current surge of virtualization the datacenter is in need of faster protocols with lower latency right now connecting lots of servers to build a compute fabric ... today, not in 2010. Thus the enterprise datacenter of tomorrow isn't much different to the HPC datacenter of today and HPC is a stronghold of Infiniband.

Seeking Alpha puts another viewpoint into this discussion: David Gross notes in "Will New QDR InfiniBand Leap Ahead of 40 Gigabit Ethernet?", that the costs for respective 40 GBit/s variants of both technologies are really in favour of Infiniband: What's been impressive about QDR InfiniBand is not the fact that it's here, but its cost, under \$500 a port, or less than a 10GBASE-SR transceiver module. OC-768 data ports still cost the same as they did seven years ago, about \$600,000, and will need a lot more than the 100+ ports AT&T (T) has purchased for its MPLS core in order to come down in price. Moreover, OC-192 Packet-over-SONET ports still go for well over \$100,000, even with intermediate range 1310nm optics. In the case of 40 GBit/s I'm not really sure if we will see a similar cost reduction like in other Gigabit variants. Optical 40 and 100 GBits are based on wavelength division multiplexing. Even the less complex CWDMs are quite expensive, not to speak about DWDMs necessary for 100 GBit/s. The cabling concepts for both don't like really much different in terms of complexity and ease of use than at Infiniband. The Ethernet Alliance Technology Overview states on page 11: The effective data rate per lane is 10 gigabit per second, which when 64B/66B encoded results in a signaling rate of 10.3125 gigabaud per second. Thus, the 40GBASE-KR4 and 40GASE-CR4 PMDs support transmission of 40 Gigabit Ethernet over 4 differential pair in each direction over either a backplane or twin axial copper cabling medium, while the 100GBASE-CR10 PMD will support the transmission of 100 Gigabit Ethernet over 10 differential pair in each direction for at least 10m over a twin axial copper cable assembly. Ethernet can't play with the advantages of former generations of Ethernet (simplicity, smaller acquisition costs) that killed ATM, FDDI et al in the 90ies. So Mr. Gross annotation speaks a true word: Sharing so many components, including LVDS signaling, 8B/10B encoding, SerDes transceivers, integrated Clock Data Recovery, and now Clos switching, the economics of deploying a particular link layer protocol are increasingly a function of connection distance, configuration, and transceiver reach, not the name of the framing technology. At 40 GBit/s we have a different field, we have a leveled field for the next round of the game. The discussion about the future datacenter fabric will be an interesting one.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 16:41

links for 2009-01-29

Boeing still doesn't get it - Plane Talking

(tags: boeing dreamliner)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 12:00

Sun Storage 7000 for providers

The Canadian provider iWeb writes in his blog: iWeb just acquired the Sun Storage 7410 Unified Storage System to fulfill its needs in large volume storage. To be specific, it will be used to support the email system in shared hosting, instead of the previous data servers NetApp F740 and F820. Nice to see the first companies to announce their acquisition of Sun Storage 7000 series systems.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 07:22

Rock is alive

I tend to say it on a regular schedule in this blog, i say it to my colleagues and everybody who ask me: "Rock is alive and is doing well". But just in case you don't believe me ... Jonathan said the same on an analyst conference yesterday. TPM wrote about this at TheRegister - Sun will Rock in 2009: "I think we've said to plan on it for later this year, and we are still on track," Schwartz said. Hey, the signs for upcoming Rock based systems are as large as the Alps. Okay, when you know where you have to look, for example in the caselog for OpenSolaris. I've hold back this link for some weeks now, but now someone has already published it in the Register comment section... so i assume it's save to publish it here (I'm still not an official leak). ARC 2008/761 is a really interesting link: 4.1.1. Supernova platform names

Supernova platforms will have the following root node "name" and "banner-name" properties.

"name"

Type: Prop-encoded-string

Contents: Root node name property for Supernova platforms

Values:

Value: "SUNW,SPARC-Enterprise-AT7480" for Silver-II

Value: "SUNW,SPARC-Enterprise-AT7880" for Platinum-II

"banner-name"

Type: Prop-encoded-string

Contents: Banner name for Supernova platforms

Values:

Value: "SPARC Enterprise AT7480" for Silver-II

Value: "SPARC Enterprise AT7880" for Platinum-II

This was the stuff i've talked about when someone asked me about Rock in the comments section and i've said "It's doing, well but i can't talk about it". There are several other ARC cases pointing to Rock-based systems ... but hey ... search on your own ... may be you will find other interesting features on the course But don't hold your breath you can't order the systems now.

PS: This is one of the cases where you think "Why do you need NDAs when your fellow colleagues in development write parts of the NDA stuff in their ARC cases and in their code?" I'm glad they didn't more specific stuff about the systems But i assume, you have to live with it, when your operating system is open-source.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 06:38

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Security Alert for a vulnerability in Solaris 10 IPv6

Sun issued an Security Alert for Solaris 10: A Security Vulnerability in Solaris IPv6 Implementation (ip6(7p)) May Cause a System Panic: An insufficient validation security vulnerability in the Solaris IPv6 implementation (ip6(7p)) may allow a remote privileged user to panic the system using a crafted packet. This is a type of Denial of Service (DoS). A workaround and an Interim Security Relief patch are available. There are two possible workarounds: Switching off IPv6 by ifconfig -a6 down or inserting block in quick all with short in your IPFilter configuration.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 19:08

Katalysatoren raus?

Wohl nicht ... aber es klingt schon widersinnig, was wie sich das Gesetz zur neuen KFZ-Steuer liest. Denn die Abgasnorm wird demgemäss steuerlich nicht mehr berücksichtigt. Momentan werden Autos mit Kat dadurch gefördert, das die Einhaltung einer bestimmten Abgasnorm in die Bemessung der Steuer Eingang findet.. Das würde bei der ausschliesslichen Berücksichtigung des CO2-Ausstosses wegfallen.

Ein Kollege hat mich allerdings darauf hingewiesen, das seit 1993 nur noch Fahrzeuge mit Katalysator zugelassen werden. Insofern werden deswegen jetzt nicht die Katalysatoren rausgeworfen. Zudem gilt, das Neufahrzeuge bestimmte Abgasnormen eingehalten werden müssen, momentan Euro-4. Sicherlich kein gutes Signal, aber auch nicht so böse, wie ich initial dachte man muss hier wohl mehrere Normen und Gesetze in ihrer Gesamtheit sehen. Das wirklich unschöne ist, das dadurch das bei Einhaltung von Euro-4 jetzt eigentlich eher einen Anreiz zur Reduzierung des CO2-Ausstosses gibt, denn zur weiteren Reduzierung anderer Schadstoffe.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General, German at 14:23

Offline Google Mail via Google Gears

Techcrunch reports about the availability of an offline version of Google Mail. Nice ... really ... but what happened to IMAP and the IMAP client of personal choice? I thought, "offline mail service" was a problem solved in in the last century ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Technology at 13:24

links for 2009-01-28

Psychologie des Erfolgs: Think negative! - Arbeitswelt - Beruf und Chance - FAZjob.NET

(tags: career)

Translating gcc/g++/gfortran Options to Sun Studio Compiler Options

(tags: sun programming tips compiler)

McNealy: Hire Great People And Delegate - Forbes.com

(tags: hiring manager)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, English at 12:00

Q2 FY 2009

The results for the last quarter were published yesterday. It isn't nice, but better than everyone expected. And under the current economic circumstances this i think of it as a good result. The revenue of the last quarter was \$3.220 billion, a

decrease of 10.9 percent as compared with \$3.615 billion a year ago. But you have to take into consideration that Q2FY2008 was one of the last quarters, before the economic world just gone downhill to it's actual crisis. Compared to last quarter, Sun managed to increase the revenue by 7.7 percent.

Net loss for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 on a GAAP basis was \$209 million, or \$(0.28) per share on a diluted basis, as compared with a net income of \$260 million, or \$0.31 per share, for the second quarter of fiscal 2008, and compared with a net loss of \$1.677 billion, or \$(2.24) per share, for the first quarter of fiscal 2009. The loss includes charges as large as \$222 for the announced restructuring. As bad as the reductions are, i have to assume it's the right decision for such economic circumstances like now. Well. The cash-flow of operational business is still positive and the Sun has still plenty of money to weather the current economic climate: Sun ended the quarter with a cash and marketable debt securities balance of \$3.008 billion and generated cash flow from operations for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 of \$36 million. Several other figures were positive as well: CMT up 31 percent year over year, Software 21 percent up YoY, x86 year over year, Open Storage up 21 percent year over year. Especially the last number is excellent, as we announced the Sun Storage 7000 line in the middle of this quarter ... i assume, the effect of this systems will give us even higher increases in the next quarters, but that's an personal opinion (albeit a pretty obvious one from my perspective).

PS: It looks like i'm not the only one, who thinks about this result as a positive development. In After Hour trading the stock jumped to \$4.26 ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 05:20

Tuesday, January 27. 2009

The missing application

At last ... all the unsolved Rubik cubes out there have a chance to get back in their solved state:

Mom, Dad ... i need my cube next time i visit you

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, lost and found at 21:23

Virtual Desktops ... lots of virtual desktops

What could you do with a Sun Fire X4600M2 ... well many things, but a nice usage would be the consolidation of 160 XP desktops on one single system as shown by this test made by Veritest. The system wasn't even at it's maximum capacity as the storage wasn't configured to support more desktops. However, the testing demonstrated that the X4600 M2 can comfortably support 160 VMs, and given the workload WorldBench administers, could likely support close to the currently maximum number of VMs supported by ESX 3.5 of 192. But this wasn't the only system benchmarked: The X4450 was able to support 120 virtual desktops in the same test (in this test the CPUs were saturated)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 19:57

Sun Cluster 3.2 01/09

Sun announced the availability of Sun Cluster 3.2 1/09. Several interesting features found their way into this release:

Cluster Configuration Checker

Data Service for Informix

Exclusive-IP Zones Support

Global-Devices Namespace on a lofi Device

IPsec on the Cluster Interconnect

The cluster interconnect transports a lot of data depending on the configuration, for example due to the PxFS. So it's not unreasonable to encrypt this interconnect.

Optional Fencing

PostgreSQL WAL Shipping Support

With this feature you can build a cluster without shared storage. You work with synchronized databases via Log Shipping and you switching over to a independent database. So you don't need a SAN to build a database cluster

Quorum Enhancements

Software Quorum

This one is interesting for devices unable to use SCSI reservations for the quorum. With a software quorum you can use any harddisk you can attach at the cluster nodes

Quorum Monitoring

New Automated Response to a Change in Quorum Device Status

Solaris Containers Clusters, or Zone Clusters

ZFS Root File Systems, Except the Global-Devices Namespace

You will find the release note of Sun Cluster 3.2 1/09 at wikis.sun.com

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 18:08

2 TB hard disks

A while ago, i've published a draft to a presentation regarding the end of RAID5. This was largely based on an article published by Robin Harris about the problematic nature of RAID5 in regard of large disks. He suggested that hard disks would reach 2 TB in 2009, thus RAID5 stops to work (it has something to do with the error probability reaching it's sure occurrence in a resync event, but look at the preso or read Robins blog article). Well ... Robin is right: WD announced 2 TB in a single disk drive - Western Digital Caviar Green 2TB hard drive - WD20EADS (vendor datasheet).

By the way ... such large disks have a nice business modell. You have to buy two or three of them, even if you just want 2 TB - at least for SoHo use. There isn't a decent home user backup technology for such disks besides additional hard disks.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 15:30

links for 2009-01-27

A louder voice for the fault manager - Edicts from CLUSTRON

(tags: solaris FMA monitoring snmp)

Coffee Linked to Lower Dementia Risk - NYTimes.com

(tags: research health dementia coffee brain food)

RISK Mismanagement - What Led to the Financial Meltdown - NYTimes.com
How risk management led us in to the current financial crisis...

(tags: riskmanagement)

What is Sun xVM Virtual Desktop Infrastructure 3.0? - Sun xVM Central

(tags: sunray sun vdi)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 12:00

Monday, January 26. 2009

PCPro reviews Sun Storage 7110

The PC Pro UK did a review of the Sun Storage 7110 and was really pleased by the system - Sun Storage 7110 Unified Storage System: The 7110 delivers a complete network storage solution with no hidden catches. Both NAS and IP SAN are supported, performance is very good, and Sun won't be beaten on value. They awarded a recommendation to the system, too.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 19:07

Rails

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Photographie at 17:51

links for 2009-01-26

Gegen die neuen Konservativen | Spreeblick

(tags: politics)

Posted by del.icio.us at 12:00

Sunday, January 25. 2009

Matt Asay got it

Matt Asay got the rational behind Suns Open Storage move. He writes about it in "Sun's Open Storage play: Do unto others...". OpenStorage was introduced to do to the storage vendors just the same as x86 and Linux did to us. Plain and simple. It worked once, it will work again. Some people may say "Oh, Open Storage can't compete with my favourite brand of storage". Well ... we said the same about Linux and x86 some years ago in regard of servers ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 20:40

Saturday, January 24, 2009

About Sun, Redhat and a wacky stock market

Friday was strange day. It was the first time, RedHat had a higher market capitalization than Sun (albeit just for a short time). At that day several newsoutlets reported about this ... for example Matt Asay, who speculated about the "inauguration" of the linux market. Well ... i have a different perspective to this.

I already hear: "Obviously. You are working for Sun". But my opinion has a different source. I'm observing Sun for quite a while now. Longer than i work for them. I worked in a startup and used Sun systems there. So i know Sun since its glory dot.com days. My personal opinion about the market capitalisation reaches back in that time. In the dot.com days Sun could do everything and the analysts and the press cheered, albeit some of the issues at Sun reached back into that time (our belated entry to x86 market e.g.). Many people invested their money into Sun and well ... with the .com bubble burst they lost their money. Those people hate us now for the lost money. I wasn't invested in Sun at that time. But i would react in the same way. You don't touch a hot surface twice, unless you are really confident it has cooled down. You don't buy stocks of a company, that lead to lost money, when you are not confident about it, and even when you are confident about that, you think twice, just because you remember the hot surface. That's psychological phenomenon.

BTW: I assume some journalists hate us because the stock performance proofed their cheerings wrong. Other journalists just need a good headline. And then there are a certain amount of hidden-agenda-driven journalists or analysts. My personal view to the IT news world is that some journalists are as vendor independent as the author behind this blog. But that is just my personal perspective.

Today we do most things right. But the analysts just do fingerpointing to other issues as soon we iron out an issue. No positive lookout. I tend to say: "When we announce 'Sun cures all kinds of cancer' tomorrow morning, our stock wouldn't skyrocket, we would punished by the analysts and media with 'Sun not focussed enough'".

An example for the negative press: We open sourced the core of the Sun Java System Web Server recently. The press didn't concentrated on the fact, that we opensourced the core of proven, high-end webserver with a lineage back to the venerable Netscape Commerce Server. No, they just concentrated on the parts we ripped out of it, without asking why we did it. It's hard to counter such comments. BTW: This is one of the reasons, why this blog exists.

Further you have to take into consideration, that the stock markets isn't really a market as most assume. It's a melange of psychological influences, speculation uninterested in the real world as long they could win a tenth of a cent by buying stocks in New York and selling them a tenth of second later in London.

At many broker houses there aren't any brokers in buy/sell decision ... computers using chart analytics and expert systems analysing the press decide. Earning money with stocks got too fast for humans. A computer doesn't understand the importance of decision directed in future. Non-IT people doesn't understand the importance of decisions for the future. But both influence the stock price. Example: Many analysts wanted us to give up Solaris. Without Solaris, no ZFS, without ZFS no Amber Road, without Amber Road no Sun Storage 7000 series, without Sun Storage 7000 no new inroad to the storage market. Try to explain this to an analyst or to a computer broking system (well, i assume it's easier to explain this to second one). I assume it's absolutly impossible to explain to an analyst that you must start an development some years before you can get money from it, when the attention horizon is just a two or three quarters in the future.

There are many people who says: The stock market is a bet on the future. But who makes the the bet? People without any knowledge in IT. The probability of error at predicting the future is 1. The question is just the the time scale. But it's even hard for experts in a certain matter to predict the future correctly about a time of two or three years. How can you expect a better quality from journalists or analysts? So ... at the end the stock market is just a consequence of more or less educated guesses in conjunction with a really large heap of emotions and feelings. The stock of IBM doesn't go up because the people understand the business model of IBM or the strenghts and weaknesses of IBM ... it just goes up, because the earnings give the people a warm and fuzzy feeling about their money.

There is no other explanation why a company that sells goods worth half a billion is much as worth as a company selling goods in the worth of 13 billion. There is no logic behind it.

That's the very reason, why the stock is down. It's not an inauguration of anything. It's just a sign how mad our stock markets got. I don't assume that this will change. The stock markets will be dominated by speculators, not by knowledgeable investors.

But i'm sure the outlook for Sun will change at a point in the future. So Matt Asay is right in his comment: Given enough time for its open-source strategy to play out, Sun's market capitalization will likely recover and outpace Red Hat's.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 21:55

links for 2009-01-24

TP: GroÃbritannien: "It's finished!"

(tags: uk economy currency recession)

Cocoa Samurai: Announcing the DTrace TextMate Bundle Beta 1 (Updated)

(tags: macosx DTrace)

Cocoa Samurai: Coming Soon... DTrace Bundle for TextMate

(tags: macosx DTrace)

Cocoa Samurai: Debug Cocoa with DTrace Guide & Embedding DTrace into Xcode Video

(tags: macosx DTrace)

Mac Developer Network » Blog Archive » LNC Episode 038: DTrace

(tags: DTrace)

Data Mining with R: learning by case studies

R is a really excellent tool ... i use it to analyse performance data from tuning sessions

(tags: reference tutorial programming statistics)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 12:00

Friday, January 23. 2009

Cool DTrace hack

The destructive mode of DTrace is a really interesting way to do cool things - for example triggering a ZFS snapshot whenever you an application uses the rm. Brian Nitz describes such a dtrace script in his article [Anti-destruction destructive dtrace script and y2k9](#). And Bernd Finger describes, how you can keep short-living processes alive for a deeper analysis by intercepting the exit calls.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 15:08

Correction to "Massive - literally"

I've corrected the article "Massive - literally". The 1300 laid-off people were the global count, not the number of India. I was so shell shocked about the 1,5 million, that i didn't crosschecked the number with the already known number of global number of Sun lay offs. Thus I have to apologize for this error to you, my readers. Sorry. As i wrote in the original article: This throws an different light on the article mentioning 1,5 million layoffs in the Indian IT. I hope this is as wrong as the number for Sun.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 12:29

links for 2009-01-23

TP: Die weissen Suempfe von Wittmar
Kris hat recht mit seiner Einschaeztung ... dieser Artikel macht wirklich wuetend ...
(tags: environment nuclear energy telepolis)

Seaplane Pilots Association Honors Flight 1549 Pilot Sullenberger @ AMTOnline.com Top News
(tags: aviation)

Apple OS X Desktop On Sun Ray - The S Word Blog
(tags: macosx sunray)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, German at 12:00

Groschen gefallen

Nach einem kilometerweiten Fall ist dann auch mal bei mir der Groschen gefallen, warum die vor einigen Wochen angelaufene Serie auf dem Terminator-verse in Deutschland "Terminator - S.C.C" heisst. Immerhin heisst die Serie sonst überall anders. Der ausgeschriebene Name is ja dank einer Dame mit inverser r/l-Aussprechschwäche, aus Delmenhorsts stammend, die ihre Heirat und ihr Beziehungsleben im Fernseh zelebriert, halt total verbrannt. Der ausgeschriebene Name ist Serie ist ja "The Sarah Connor Chronicles".

PS: Obwoooooohl Marc Terenzi, Mark T.... das ist wahrscheinlich nur der Deckname eines T0815-Terminators ... oder um es mit Arnie zu sagen "eine polymimetische Schmusepopschmalzschicht auf einem Kalkskelett mit einem Fremdschämgenerator als Primärbewaffnung"

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 10:38

More bad news - Qimonda

According to this report at Reuters, Qimonda had to go to the bankruptcy judge today as the company has become insolvent after the saxonian state government denied a second 300 million bailout.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 10:18

Intel+Opensolaris

Two years ago, Intel announced to support Opensolaris. Dave Steward summarizes the developments and help from Intel in an interesting blog article: Sun + Intel + OpenSolaris + 2 Years = The Year of Core. The list of contributions is long and will be even longer in the future: Looking forward to 2009, the team is hard at work in a number of areas: preparing for the next generation of Intel servers, working ahead at enabling features in future roadmap processors, further developing in our key areas of power, virtualization, performance and reliability. And of course, a raft of new device drivers.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 10:02

Massive - literally

I've got this link from a colleague this morning: Sun Microsystems to lay off 1300 Indians, other software companies panning massive job reduction – no new hiring in 2009-10. And massive has to be understood as "really fscking massive": International software and hardware companies operating in India will lay off more than 1,500,000 jobs in 2009. By the way: The line headline above isn't correct ... 1300 is the global number of employees that were laid off. I was so shell-shocked about this 1,500,000 number, that i'm directly posted a short article about it without crosschecking.

I was already researching for it while getting the anonymous comment, as this number for Sun looked much to high for Sun and i already knew the global number and this was the same number. Sorry for that. Obviously this throws an different light to the 1,500,000 number ... i hope it's as wrong as the numbers for Sun India as 1,500,000 million looks more like a global number, everything else would be just a disaster.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 09:21

Thursday, January 22. 2009

links for 2009-01-22

Flight Level 390: Dual Engine Flame Out, continued...

(tags: aviation)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 12:00

History repeats itself

Bryan points out to an interesting fact. The business plan of NetApp at it's start was clearly targeted against Sun. Even more interesting: The competitors of the ending 00 decade - Sun is only one of them, there are others like Greenbyte or Nexenta Systems - use Netapps own business ideas against NetApps. Just with swapped names. I'm sure it will work again, as the market mechanics are pretty much the same, too. When you make the same mistakes, this is just a logical development and you should not be that astonished when you look at the same barrel you've pointed to others.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 11:57

Finale Agenda für das erste Treffen der HHOSUG

Hmmm ... bei Xing habe ich gerade mal wieder ein klassisches "Wrong button - send too early" gebracht ... peinlich. Aber ich möchte auch hier die finale Agenda für das 1. Treffen der HHOSUG am 4.2.2009 posten:

17:45 Beginn und Begrüssung

18:00 Die HHOSUUG

- Warum?
- Wohin?
- Ideensammlung
- Diskussion

19:00

Vorträge

- Opensolaris internals (30 min)
- Crossbow - der neue TCP-Stack in Opensolaris (30 min)

Ich hoffe, diese Agenda macht Euch neugierig genug, um Euch dann am 4.2. begrüßen zu dürfen. Anmeldung ist natürlich weiter möglich, entweder per Mail an mich oder über die Xing-Gruppe, die Ihr über ein Klicken auf das Hamburg-Wappen oben links erreichen könnt.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, HHOSUG at 09:05

LKSF live bei den Frühjahrsfachgesprächen 2009 der GUUG

So, das Programm ist nun veröffentlicht, somit kann ich hier noch eine Ankündigung machen. Auf den Frühjahrsfachgesprächen der GUUG wird es dieses Jahr ein zweitägiges Tutorial "Less known Solaris Features - live" geben. Das Tutorial findet Dienstag, 10.03.2009 10:00-18:00 und Mittwoch, 11.03.2009 10:00-18:00. Das Tutorial ist wirklich zweitägig, der zweite Tag ist keine Wiederholung des ersten. Ich hoffe, das ich bis dahin auch die deutsche Version des LKSF-PDFs fertig gestellt habe und verteilen kann.

PS: Es sind eine Vielzahl weiterer interessanter Vorträge im Programm ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Solaris at 07:48

c0t0d0s0.org at CeBIT

I'm at the CeBIT in Hannover this year. I don't have a working place. As i'm halfway fluent in all areas, my job is being a jumper. So if you have time for a cup of coffee - just pass by

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in About this blog, English at 07:37

The new US government, McNealy and open source

Scotty was asked by the new administration to help on a strategy to use open source for government purposes. The BBC reports in Calls for open source government: The secret to a more secure and cost effective government is through open source technologies and products. The claim comes from one of Silicon Valley's most respected business leaders Scott McNealy, a co-founder of Sun Microsystems. He revealed he has been asked to prepare a paper on the subject for the new administration.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 05:12

Wednesday, January 21. 2009

Change - from a different perspective

Just minutes after his inauguration, the website of the website was changed. Besides all the obvious changes there is a not so obvious change: Despite of having a more than 2400 lines long robots.txt the new one is just 2 lines long as Jason Kottke points out in "The country's new robots.txt file". While I suspect technical reasons for the long robots.txt at the old website, the new one is nevertheless a nice symbol for the nerdier people in the world.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, lost and found at 08:15

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

links for 2009-01-20

Pairing your Apple Remote with your computer

(tags: Security remotecontrol remote tips pairing)

Orbicule | TheftSensor

(tags: tools software Security privacy mac MacBook protection theft sensor)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 17:32

Alarm

Just thought of an alarm screensaver. In normal mode the screensaver just display "ANTI THEFT ALARM" in various languages. Obviously the screensaver must deactivate the sleep mode. When the screensaver is activated and the power cable is removed, the notebook starts to make noise as loud as possible with the small speakers and sets it in a mode to connect to every available unencrypted network just to send an image from the iSight. Or is there already an application doing this tasks?

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, English at 15:53

Introduction to "IPMP re-architected"

Steffen Weiberle wrote a great introduction to the rearchitected IPMP: IPMP Re-architecture is delivered. Worth a read, as it covers the old configuration style as well as the new one.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 10:41

Thoughts about the Turbo Boost feature in Intel Nehalem

While sitting in a workshop meeting, my thoughts went away from the meeting and circled around the Turbo Boost feature of the Nehalem processor. Too make it clear at the beginning: Turbo Boost is a good feature. It helps to use the existent potential of the CPU instead of the expected potential. Overclockers have shown in the past, das most CPU have more performance potential as the print on the heat spreader says. But while I think this is a good idea, this will open some interesting benchmarking tricks.

There is an interesting whitepaper about Turbo Boost at the Intel Website: Intel Turbo Boost Technology in Intel Core Microarchitecture (Nehalem) Based Processors.

I hope that i didn't overlooked something that gives all processors the same overclocking potential. But i take here my own overclocking experience into consideration. Even at the same type there are series that doesn't run stable even with a modestly increased frequency where as there are units that accept vastly higher frequency without needing a pipeline to your preferred vendor of liquid nitrogen.

There are several problems with it: The first problem is the TDP definition. I wrote before the problem in regard of another article: Just because a processor is labeled as for example 65W TDP it doesn't mean that it will take 65W. Just to repeaT: Let's assume you have three defined TDP: 50,65 and 80 Watts. When you assign the 50 Watts TDP to it, it means that it dissipates 50 watts at maximum. 65 means : It wasn't good enough for the 50 Watts TDP sticker, but it took unter 66 W, so it's a 65 W TDP proc.

Now you have to take into consideration, that the activation of the Turbo Boost is done on the foundation of the actual temperature, the power consumption and the current consumption. As long the processor is in it's specification limits, the processor overclocks itself and clocks down again if the processor is outside this defined operational envelop.

Let's assume that the 65W TDP range goes from 51W to 65W. Now let's assume we run the benchmark with a unit that that was barely in this range and not in a higher one. The factory installed limits for temperature are reached fast so the system clocks down to normal speed. The performance gain is small. Now let's assume that you get an 51W version. The system can stay much longer in a higher speed bin.

My expectation: The vendors with a tendency to benchmarking will take a few hundred procs and test them for units that failed the criteria for the lower TDP by a watt or so and they will use this hand-selected CPUs for their benchmarks. But that twist makes benchmarks absolutely absurd: You can't repeat them with your home system as long you don't have the luck to have such an CPU as well. As nonsensical some benchmark loads like TPC-C are: they are repeatable (okay ... there are some side conditions as having several thousand disks) but at least they are not dependent from the temperature.

Even the intake air temperature of the system is important to the performance: With such mechanisms it's a difference if you cool down the intake air to 16 degrees celsius or to 23 degrees celsius. I would think it's even a difference in performance, if you have a rack full of those systems or just a single one in a rack as servers tend to dissipate heat not only by air, but by radiation from the server chassis, too.

Perhaps it's a good practice to do two benchmarks with Nehalem based systems. One benchmark without TurboBoost to get a repeatable result. On the other side there should be a result with activated TurboBoost. For the turboboosted mode it should be mandatory to publish exact environmental data and a list of the state changes of the processor throughout the time.

To find the upside on this development: Turbo Boost has a nice side effect. Good chassis and cooling design directly translates into performance advantages. The better your system design is, the cooler your system runs, the longer BIOS keeps the CPU in the boosted modes. There are some people who told us in the past, that our Galaxy-class systems are overdesigned just for x86 servers. Well, may be it was the right decision with Nehalem in sight.

Furthermore the TurboBoost technology will introduce some interesting challenges to the design of schedulers in operating systems. Under certain circumstances it would be an sensible choice to give up locality and to migrate processors from a core to other CPUs to allow TurboBoost to increase the frequency as the other cores are idling. But you can't do that by default, as this performance impact comes at a price. You would increase the power usage of the system as you can't power down the CPU. To think in benchmarking terms: A performance-biased scheduler would hurt at power consumption benchmarks, and a power consumption biased scheduler would hurt at performance benchmarks.

And by the way: The schedulers of an operating system must be much more intelligent in the future. A scheduler unaware of the nature of Turbo Boost may yield different result as well depending from it's scheduling decision. If it's scheduling all processes on the same CPU the execution time of the benchmark will be slower as when it spreading the load on separate CPUs.

As you see: For the benchmark community the TurboBoost feature will be a can of worms. I think i will do some more research on this topic in the next few days.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 08:35

Monday, January 19. 2009

Fassade

Es ist alles nur Fassade. Staffage. Einfach nur ein äusserer Schein. Jene höchstens wenige Millimeter dicke Schicht verschiedener Gewebe, die wir auf unserer Haut tragen. Darunter sind wir alle nackt. Und so wie wie man sehr schnell aus dieser Kleidung schlüpfen kann, so kann man noch schneller die Rolle verlassen, die mit der Kleidung einhergeht. In vielen teuren Anzügen samt der teuren Schuhe und pastellfarbenen Hemden , in vielen Businesskostümen mit schwarzen Nylons und hochhackigen Schuhen, steckt doch letztlich nur ein Rüpel ohne Benehmen. Es reicht der kleinste Anlass um das schlechte Benehmen hervorzuholen, und sei es nur eine Schlange bei der Sicherheitskontrolle. Oder ist es nötig zu Drängeln, ueber Absperrungen zu krabbeln nur um einige wenige Momente schneller zu sein.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Business Travel, German at 10:32

Sunday, January 18. 2009

The ditch switch

When an A320 wants to take a bath in a river, you have to prepare the plane for it, as there are many inlets for air. An article in a forum describes the procedure: There is really a "Ditching" switch you can use to close all inlets below flotation line at once. A source near to Airbus told me a few minutes ago, that all newer planes have such a switch. I'm still searching on my A380 cockpit poster ...

PS: When you look at this photo of the overhead panel ... the switch is in the third row from below the third one from the right side

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 19:45

16,1 Prozent

16,1 Prozent?Für die FDP ? Sagt mal, kann man ein Bundesland eigentlich auch irgendwie loswerden?

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in policy of ... at 19:37

Saturday, January 17. 2009

Landing on Hudson Airport - Video

A camera of the Coast Guard was able to film the landing. The aircraft is really small, but later on they zoom onto the plane.

I assume, those people will celebrate an second birthday from know on. And guardian angels fly at least as fast as an A320

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 18:11

links for 2009-01-17

DATA ACCESS CHARACTERISTICS AND OPTIMIZATIONS FOR SUN ULTRAPARC T2 AND T2+ SYSTEMS (application/pdf-Objekt)

Notes on Web Server Open Sourcing : Jyri Virkki
Some facts about the released code
(tags: sun webserver)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, English at 12:00

www.iknowwhereyourcarparks.com

When you look at the Web 2.0 ecosphere, you will recognize, that the most unlikely services wins. Or did you really expected that one of the most used services allows you to send 140 chars in a time when 10 GBit/s per lamda is quite normal? Well ... i have an idea for a Web 2.0, too: It's called <http://www.iknowwhereyourcarparks.com>. It's a solution for a worldwide problem: Your girlfriend or your boyfriend found a new significant other and you need the position of the car to proof your eternal love by cutting a heart into the tyres of the car? You want the job of a colleague thus you have to mob him out of his job and want to place some horse shit on his car when the sun burns? No problem <http://www.iknowwhereyourcarparks.com> is the solution.

You just place a request into the service: At first you describe the car. License plate, colour, type, exact model of the car and possible locations. As much as possible. But just the licence plate and the colour is displayed to others Then you specify a reward and you pay it via PayPal to the service. Interested people can lookup searchrequests in their region. When they find it, they have to describe the car. When all conditions match, the money is transferd to the account of the finder. The service is financed by a service fee of 5% per transaction.

To further leverage the user base a second service comes to my mind: www.letsbreakit.com. In the standard, free version you just the tutorials for immobilizing the car. The premium subscription version provides tutorials for spectacular sabotage. Obviously there must be a webshop with special knives even for durable tyres or tools to cut the pipes of the braking system. Or special sugar for the gas tank.

PS: Just in case, you didn't got it already ... this was a joke

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Mindfuck at 08:09

Friday, January 16. 2009

1204 subscribers

A nice start into the weekend. c0t0d0s0.org was able to reach more than 1200 subscribers:

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 17:33

Hell freezes over - Mac Users want feature from OpenSolaris.

I didn't thought, that i would read this in my lifetime: An author of the german mobile-macs.de blog writes that he wants a Timeslider-like recovery functionality in MacOS X.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 16:14

Surströmming

In unserer Küche hier im Büro hat jemand gerade einen Fisch zubereitet, der eigentlich nur in Laboratorien der Klassifikation "Biosafety Level 4" verarbeitet, zubereitet und verzehrt werden darf. Der Gestank war zeitweise unbeschreiblich. Sollte der Herr auf dem Heimweg in der Hamburger S-Bahn rülpfen, wird wahrscheinlich ABC-Alarm ausgeloesst.

Das ist aber garnicht das interessanteste: Mein Kollege Gerd konnte aus dem ständigen Fundus schwedischer Eigenarten zu diesem Anlass etwas noch viel schlimmeres beschreiben: Surströmming. Ich wusste bis eben auch nicht, was das ist. Nach der Lektüre dieses Blogartikels weiss ich das. Lesebefehl

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, lost and found at 14:13

Hudson Airport

This photo was taken by Greg Lam Pak Ng right after the splashdown of the USair in the Hudson River before help reached the crash site:

When you look at the largest image version at Flickr you will see the people climbing on the wings. I'm still stunned that there weren't any fatalities besides the A320. I think this will be a full hull loss. Don't think you want to fly again in an airplane that took a bath in Hudson river.

(Photo by Greg Lam Pak Ng, hint to flickr by genevainformation, hint to genevainformation by Kris)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 12:38

HHOSUG - zweite Zwischenbilanz

Die Xing-Gruppe der Hamburg Opensolaris Group existiert jetzt seit 15 Tagen und doch haben sich schon 57 Leute in diesem Forum angemeldet. Das ist weit mehr als ich erwartet habe.

Was mir noch nicht so ganz gefällt, ist die Anmeldequote für das 1. Treffen der HHOSUG am 4.2. um 17:45. Bisher sind via Xing 8 Leute angemeldet und 3 (einer davon bin ich) kommen dazu, die sich nicht auf der Event-Seite bei Xing angemeldet haben. Nur Mut ... das wird kein Sun Marketingtermin Anmelden könnt ihr Euch hier.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Sun/Oracle at 10:00

Airbus Waterplanes Division

An emergency landing on water is a very rare condition. An emergency landing of a large commercial aircraft is almost impossible (there were 5 or 6 halfway successful emergency landing on water in the entire history of aviation). The pilots

of USAir flight 1549 was able to land an A320 on the Hudson river after loosing thrust on both engines without a single fatality. There were some comments, that bird strike took out both engines. More informations about it at CNN for example or at aero.de (german)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 08:01

SAP can use Java SE 1.4.2 for a longer time.

SAP and Sun signed an agreement about providing Java SE for Business support to Windows and Linux customers. This support prolongs the support for the aging 1.4.2 version of the Java SE used in Netweaver. This version was released in 2002 but is still in use in some implementations despite the release of Java 5 and 6 and the upcoming release of Java 7. You miss Solaris in the list? You don't need the coverage of the agreement here. The Sun website states:Java SE for Business ships with a no-cost license for individual and commercial use on Solaris and with other Sun software (see license with the product for specific terms and conditions). In addition, customers can obtain support for Java SE for Business consistent with existing Sun software service contracts with which Java SE for Business is used, per the terms and conditions of your service list.BTW: Is it just me, or is the Register overly negative in regard of Sun. Or a little bit bitchy in the recent time. Just look at this article. At first ... if the hike in support costs for SAP was made to pay Sun, the support for SAP on Solaris must be cheaper now, as it's out of scope of the agreement. And the free support for 1.4.2 was never announced as live long for free - don't know where they got this idea. The support for 1.4.2 would have ended already without Java SE for Business, with it you can get support for up to 15 years now.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 05:52

HPC at the University of Zurich

Sun seems to get more and more traction in the HPC market. Yesterday the University of Zurich announced, that Sun will deliver a new HPC system based on the Constallation System for the school of science and mathematics. It is based on Intel Xeon Nehalem and delivers 51 teraflops. 14 Terabytes of memory. 160 Terabytes storage, 576 blade server with 4608 cores. The pricetag of the system is approx. 3 million US dollars. You will find the press release (in german, sorry) on the website of university.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 05:27

Thursday, January 15. 2009

Flying like sardines

Air Austral and Airbus signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the purchase of two A380. But this aircrafts don't follow the "luxury to the max" concept of SIA, Emirates or Quantas. Air Austral wants to order them in the single-class configuration with 840 seats. "Our vision is to provide a low cost-high quality service on the heavy traffic route between La Reunion and Paris and the A380 allows us to make this vision a reality," said Gerard Etheve, President of Air Austral.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 15:03

Vortrag auf der NUBIT 09

Die meisten Vorträge halte ich ja bei Kunden. Somit sind dies mehr oder weniger geschlossene Veranstaltungen. Allerdings gibt es in nächster Zeit zwei öffentliche Vorträge von mir (in soweit öffentlich, als das man sich für die jeweilige Gesamtveranstaltung anmelden muss).

Der erste Vortrag findet im Rahmen der NUBIT. Dies ist die Hausmesse des Sun Partners NetUSE, die am 13. Februar zum zwölften Male stattfindet. Die Agenda ist insgesamt sehr interessant. Mein Vortrag läuft von 16:45 bis 17:15 und behandelt die weniger bekannten Features von Solaris. Dieser Vortrag wird ein etwas anderes Konzept zur Inhaltsfindung verfolgen. Lasst euch einfach mal überraschen. Ich hoffe mal, das ich dieses Jahr bei dem Vortrag soetwas wie eine Stimme haben werde und nicht wie Joe Cocker nach 2 Flaschen Single-Malt und einer Stange Zigaretten klinge.

Über Anlass und Ort des zweiten Vortrages werde ich demnächst noch einen eigenen Artikel im Blog schreiben. Das Programm dazu ist noch nicht veröffentlicht worden.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Sun/Oracle at 13:12

links for 2009-01-15

FUD You
The proverbial Amdahl mug - in color ...
(tags: FUD)

OpenSolaris 2008.11, Closing the cap or leapfrogging Linux? - Anatol Studler's Blog
(tags: linux opensolaris)

Golem.de - Bundesregierung: Biometrie taugt kaum zur Terrorabwehr
(tags: terror biometrie)

TA Frank: The change we need | Comment is free | The Guardian
(tags: usa politics cool funny satire humor news gore president)

Nvidia delays 40nm parts - The Inquirer
(tags: GPU nvidia)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 12:00

Es geht immer schlimmer

Wer denkt, das der heutige Tag schlecht began: Die Kaffeedealerin in der von mir bevorzugten Ausschankstätte ("Wie

immer?" ... "Wie immer!") hat heute morgen erstmal eine volle Flasche Caramel-Aroma fallen lassen, kurz nach dem ich den Laden betreten habe. Das ist wohl ein Maximalschaden: Eine Auswahl kleinerer und groesserer Scherben in einer höchst klebrigen Substanz. Also wenn der Bus heute vor den Augen weggefahren ist oder heute morgen irgendwas anderes nicht geklappt hat. Es hätte auch schlimmer kommen können.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 09:46

AMD Barcelona vs. Shanghai for SAP

Volker Wetter pointed me in his blog entry at SAPonSun to an interesting fact. You already know the stuff about the comparison between the 8-socket systems of HP and Sun because i wrote about it last year (here and here). But Volker points to the results of two 4600M2 with different processor generations at the end of his article.

The benchmarks for the certifications 2008061 and 2008070 test two identical systems with one exception: The first one is a AMD Opteron "Barcelona" (Quad-Core AMD Opteron Processor 8360 SE, 2.5 GHz, 128 KB L1 cache and 512 KB L2 cache per core, 2 MB L3 cache per processor) and the second benchmark was executed on an AMD Opteron "Shanghai" (AMD Opteron Processor 8384, 2.7 GHz, 128 KB L1 cache and 512 KB L2 cache per core, 6 MB L3 cache per processor).

The Barcelona-based system was able to yield 29,670 SAPS, the Shanghai-based system was measured with 39,270 SAPS. At 108% the clock rate the new processor generation was able reach a 132,3 percent higher benchmarking result.

It's safe to say, that Shanghai is a major step forward. I'm glad about this development as i'm the Account SE of Sun for AMD in Dresden. So i know many people of AMD Dresden IT in person. News get faces when you do customer visits on a regular schedule.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 08:06

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

1 TB SSD

I was sure, that SSD for standard drive bays would have more capacity than harddisks but i thought this would happen in 2011 or 2012. Well ... PureSilicon annouced an 1 TB SSD for an 2,5" drive bay.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 11:21

Open Web Server - revisted ... errr ... redirected

Obviously Thorleif is correct with its objection that Open Web Server needs a little bit more than just a few wiki pages to get known in the Web and Web2.0 crowd. So i've did one of my "doing not think"-stunts (hope that the people in the projects sorted out the trademark stuff) and i just purchased some domains and created a redirect: openwebserver.de, openwebserver.net, openwebserver.info and openwebserver.eu. should point to the wiki pages as soon the DNS servers got their updates

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 10:56

Open Web Server

In a recent project i've got the impression, that Apache is a good webserver, but as soon as you loose the frequently used trails, you are on your own and the quality of the code seems to deteriorate. But there alternatives like lighttpd and nginx, but those are lightweight webservers developed for some special use cases with their own share of issues (the fcgi integration wasn't stable enough for me to keep c0t0d0s0.org on lighty. The Apache one is more stable, but i found out at other sitations that the apache implementation isn't 100% stable as well but i found this problem at 1000 requests/second despite all tuning).

Many people doesn't now, that there is another alternative: The Sun Java System Web Server (SWSJS ... i hate this marketing name). Featurewise it plays at least in the same ballpark as Apache, many large sites use it for sites with extreme load.

Apache may run on more websites but SWSJS has a large share at the high profile/high load sites) You can download and use it for free at the Sun Website. At wikis.sun.com you will find a good source of information and documentation about this webserver. When you like it and you want to use it in production you can buy a license and support for it (but you don't have to).

In 2007 there was a good review of the SJSWS in Serverwatch:In summary, Sun Web Server is generally two times as fast as Apache. Both tests fetched a 44-byte document and ran on a slow Sun Netra X1 400MHz server. We had a SunFire X4600 available to test with, but it seemed more impressive to test this server on modest hardware. The Sun Web Server is fast, flexible, scalable, and a downright joy to run. Other Web servers may still have some benefits, mainly because of administrator familiarity, but if performance and ease of management are paramount, Web Server is the way to go.And for all this PHP lovers: You can compile PHP with NSAPI support or use the precompiled PHP add-on.

And since a few days there is another reason to use SJSWS: The core of it was released as open source as the Open Webserver under a BSD license.Open Web Server is derived from the core of Sun Java System Web Server 7.0. Open Web Server is a highly scalable multi-threaded HTTP engine capable of handling hundreds of thousands of simultaneous HTTP connections. Open Web Server includes common interfaces for adding dynamic content including SHTML, CGI, FastCGI, and its own native interface, NSAPI. With connector plugins Open Web Server can easily be used with popular Java application servers such as GlassFish, Geronimo, Tomcat, JBoss, and more. Open Web Server features support for access control, LDAP credential store, SSL, and Elyptic Curve Cryptography (ECC).You will find the projects website at wikis.sun.com, too.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, General at 07:48

Tuesday, January 13. 2009

Verrücktheiten

Es sind glaube ich die kleinen Verrücktheiten, die einem zeigen, das man noch nicht ganz erwachsen ist, das man sich noch nicht ganz auf dem Altar der Vernunft geopfert hat, das man irgendwo noch jung geblieben ist. Ich fliege mal fuer einen Tag einfach in eine andere Stadt, um neue Eindruecke zu sammeln ... so wie man es zu Studienzeiten gemacht hat ... nur halt nicht so weit damals, weil es noch keine Billigflieger gab. Oder man fährt einfach mal zu mehreren Konzerten eines Musikers in mehreren Städten (Peter Gabriel ist immer noch der Meister). Das ist so ein bisschen der Ausdruck des einfach mal Ausbrechen wollen, Spass haben ... und nicht nur einfach vorm Fernseher oder vorm Bildschirm des Computers versauern. Das kann man später noch genügend im Altersheim.

Ich dachte allerdings auch, das ich in meinem unmittelbaren Bekannten- und Freundeskreis mir die groesseren Verrücktheiten leiste ... aber eine Freundin von mir schlägt mich noch bei weitem. Ich glaube sie holt gerade einiges aus der Teeniezeit nach. Dazu muss man wissen, das die gute Dame der Dreissig näher ist als der Zwanzig. Ihr kennt vielleicht auch noch jenes Fantum aus der Jugend ... so mit Bildern sammeln, Informationen zusammensuchen und Dauerrotation von Liedern bis die Eltern entnervt an die Tür klopfen (Da faellt mir ein ... ich habe das garnicht gemacht ... ich habe bis zum heutigen Tag nicht eine einzige Bravo gelesen).

Egal: Die gute Dame macht genau das für eine Band, die ich schon vergessen glaubte: New Kids on the Block. Nur das da niemand entnervt klopft. New Kids ... ja ... genau jene Band, die in den 1980ern und 90ern die Charts bevölkert hat und ich abgrundtief gehasst habe. Was ich nicht wusste: Die Band gibt es wieder ... 2008 war die Reunion der NKOTB. Mit Konzerten, Tonträgern und dem ganzen Rest.

Und so stürzt sich jetzt auch diese Dame auf eben alles, was von dieser Band kommt und insbesondere, was von einem bestimmten Herrn dort gesagt, getan oder gesungen wird.

Ich frage mich ja so ein bisschen, wie man ausgerechnet auf diese Band kommen kann ... aber nunja ... Musikgeschmack ist nunmal nicht diskutabel. Man kommt nie auf einen Nenner. Obwohl NKOTB bun ein besonderes Hasspotential haben .. so wie einige andere Bands dieser Machart. Aber wie gesagt ... man kann nicht darueber streiten.

Es scheint aber durchaus so zu sein, das sie nicht alleine damit steht. Die Fanscharen sind nach all den Jahren der Nichtexistenz immer noch riesengross und die werte Dame hat es geschafft in einer Community mehr Kommentare zu bekommen als ich in viereinhalb Jahren Bloggen.

Also ... viel Spass im Verein der Verrückten und viel Spass beim Konzert hierzulande, noch mehr Spass beim Konzert in London und das mit Jordan wird schon klappen Und vergiss nicht: Man sollte sich zumindestens ein bischen London angucken. Wenigstens mal Buckingham Palace, Westminster und vielleicht die Themse zum Tower. Ich finde das gut ... solche Verrücktheiten sind jene Punkte im Leben, die einem aus dem Trott herausholen. Aber vielleicht wirts ja irgendwann dann auch mal eine vernünftige Band, deren Fan Du wirst

PS: Ich gehe am Ende des Monats übrigens mit Freunden wieder mal auf ein Konzert ... Reamonn ... habe mir sagen lassen, das diese Live extrem gut sind ... allerdings bleibe ich dafür in Hamburg ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 20:09

Combining SamFS and the Amazon S3 storage service

A while ago, i speculated about a combination of SamFS and a cloud storage service in SamFS at home. Yesterday i've read Angelos article about mouting Amazon S3 Buckets in OpenSolaris. You have to take into consideration, that SamFS on-disk archiving isn't much more than using directories in a filesystem to store the data in container files.

The integration of S3 buckets is done by using the s3fs as a userland filesystem with FUSE (there is an FUSE implementation available on opensolaris.org as it's foundation. Thus you can access the S3 service as a normal filesystem. The combination of both components (SamFS and s3fs) should give you the capability to archive your data into an S3 bucket while having the data in regular use in your SamFS cache.

PS: I hope i find some time to try this next weekend.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 19:25

links for 2009-01-13

List of AMD Opteron microprocessors - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(tags: AMD list)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 12:00

Monday, January 12. 2009

links for 2009-01-12

AirDisaster.Com: Eyewitness Report: United 232

(tags: reference aviation science article aircraft flight engineering)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 12:00

Sunday, January 11. 2009

Routing fish

At first ... i'm not aware of an upcoming OpenRouter product. But that means nothing. I'm not aware of all project, albeit i think i'm reasonably well informed. Enough disclaimer stuff. The discussion on the fishwork article lead me to an interesting thought. How about building a high performance router out of a 5120? Most of the stuff is already there ... The system has two 10GBe interfaces and four 1 GBe interfaces. The 10GBe interfaces are on die, directly coupled to the crossbar, so you have a low latency there. A nice configuration to start with. For more interfaces i would suggest the usage of a "router-on-a-stick" configuration: Activating VLAN-tagging on the 10GBe-Interfaces and use a normal switch as a fan-out unit.

So what can we do software-wise with the system: The standards ... obviously ... like routing or channel bundling. Furthermore: We have Crossbow with it's virtual nics, it's virtual switches and so on. We have Zones. So we could divide the router in seperate administrative domains. With Crossbow you can do traffic management as well and controlling bandwidth consumption.

There is Quagga as an open-source routing protocol suite available in standard Solaris: OSPFv2, OSPFv3, RIP v1 and v2, RIPng and BGP-4. There is a full-fledged IPsec suite in the OS and 8 crypto units in the CPU. It should be possible to build a decent highspeed SSL-Accelerator with kssl or apache2. There is a IPfilter firewall included in Solaris. The project to extend the networking subsystem with more dtrace probes is in it's full run. And we have this excellent GUI with Fishworks. Instead of measuring disk latency you would measure link latency.

Combining all this stuff should result in an really interesting package. Sound like a decent idea .. i thini i will invest some further thoughts on it ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 22:12

Opensolaris reviewed at a Linux community board

A nice conclusion, especially when you consider that this review was published on a website called linux-hardcore.com:OpenSolaris 2008.11 gave me a good impression. It's a system that works, even there are some compatibility issues which, according to the designers and developers, is in progressive solution. It's clean, neat, nice, well done, but without some software that is commonly used by most users. It's an operating system with a very promising future and may be not only able to replace the commercial operating systems, but also to compete with Linux and BSD. We need only give time to time. Congratulations to the developers!

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 12:22

links for 2009-01-11

Hoyt Hilsman: Why Barack Obama Needs To Fail

(tags: obama)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 12:00

Saturday, January 10, 2009

Fishworks and the future

So we got all this positive reviews about Fishworks. Especially Analytics gets really excellent reviews. But most of the reviews jump a step too short. Don't think of Analytics as a storage-only thing. It's DTrace. DTrace is everywhere in Solaris. It's in the networking stack, it's found it's way in many applications already, it's in tens of thousands of places. Every appliance using OpenSolaris could use Analytics. So: Don't think of OpenStorage, think of OpenAppliance.

Just imagine a dtracified Xen (This step is already done). Think of a virtualisation appliance capable of doing analytics like on our new storage appliances (This step hasn't been done so far). Or just take all this old and new networking stuff in Solaris, put a Fishwork GUI on it, and you have a capable router with really neat diagnostics included. Fishworks enables us to create other appliances with a great interface. So the impact of Fishworks will be much larger than just the storage business.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 14:59

links for 2009-01-10

TP: Banken und Moralverlust

(tags: finance wirtschaft finanzkrise geld politik banken)

Versichern Sie Ihre wertvolle Ausr stung gegen fast alle m glichen   Gefahren

(tags: photography photo versicherung)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, German at 12:00

Illuminata about Fishworks

Gordon Haff of Illuminata writes in "Shouting at Disks and Sun's Fishworks": Fishworks is a big part of the secret sauce and value-add of Sun's recently introduced Storage 7000 Unified Storage Systems. It also reflects Sun's new, or at least "tweaked," software strategy. While DTrace is open source (under the CDDL license) along with the rest of OpenSolaris, the GUI dashboard and other analytic software that makes use of DTrace is not. This is consistent with a more pragmatic approach to open source on the part of Sun that allows for keeping proprietary modules and components mostly aimed at large-scale production deployments.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 10:57

IP Multipathing rethought: Clearview IPMP

Nothing is that good, that you can't improve it. As a part of the Clearview project, the IP Multipathing in Solaris was rearchitected from the ground up to solve some design limitations of IPMP. The results of this project had their putback to Opensolaris 106 a few days ago: As the project name suggests, IPMP's inner workings have been rewritten from the ground up to address numerous longstanding architectural flaws. The most visible change is that each IPMP group is now modeled as a single IP interface that hosts a set of IP addresses that are dynamically bound to a set of underlying IP interfaces. There is a good overview in the projects documentation. (BTW: This is one of the things i like with Solaris. Good documentation is a mandatory deliverable with a new project.)

New in this rearchitected IPMP: The system becomes responsible for the distribution of data addresses among underlying interfaces. In the actual Solaris 10 implementation it's done by moving around virtual IP interfaces (automatically or by the administrator)

The ipmpstat tool is introduced as the principal tool to obtain information about IPMP groups.

The IPMP interface can be assigned a customized name to identify the IPMP group more easily within your network setup (vanity naming of interfaces).

Blog Export: c0t0d0s0.org, <http://www.c0t0d0s0.org/>

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 09:39

Friday, January 9. 2009

1. Treffen der Hamburger (Open)Solaris Users Group

Das erste Treffen der Hamburger (Open)Solaris Users Group findet jetzt am 4.2. um 17:45 in der Hamburger Geschäftsstelle von Sun Microsystems statt. Die Lokation ist im Nagelweg 55, 20097 Hamburg.

Die Agenda ist zunächst:

- Organisatorisches
- Ideen für die HHOSUG
- In welche Richtung soll sich die HHOSUG entwickeln?
- Technischer Vortrag: Opensolaris 2008.11 Internals (Timeslider, pkg, etc)

Zum zahlreiches Erscheinen wird gebeten! Ihr könnt euch auf Xing für dieses Event anmelden oder mir an joerg@c0t0d0s0.org eine kurze Mail dazu schicken. Dann kann ich absehen, welchen der Besprechungsräume ich brauche

Zur Orientierung: Die Einfahrt am Nagelweg 55 fast ganz hinuntergehen. Der Eingang auf der linken Seite hinter dem Bogen zum Innenhof ist der richtige. Für S-Bahn-Fahrer ist die S3 oder S31 bis Hammerbrook (City Süd) eure Wahl. Von dort die Strasse Sachsenfeld bis zur Post gehen, links abbiegen, die Einfahrt ganz runterlaufen (rechte Seite des Zauns), um die Ecke und der Eingang vor Euch ist der Eure.

Größere Kartenansicht

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General, German at 13:03

links for 2009-01-09

OpenOffice.org vs. Go-OO: Cutting through the Gordian Knot

(tags: sun openoffice Novell)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, English at 12:00

Thursday, January 8. 2009

An interesting Rfl in the aviation world ...

There is an interesting Request for Information on a website of the US government: The United States Air Force is conducting market research to identify potential sources that possess the expertise, capabilities, and experience to meet the requirements of the next generation Presidential fixed-wing aircraft. Or to say it shorter: The Air Force is searching for the next Air Force One. Would like to see President Obama in an A380 I don't think this is too far fetched ... can you really imagine, that the US president has a smaller plane than the heads of other countries? Dear Airbus ... just give the french and the german government an repainted A380 for their next visit in the US and the A380 is a sure sell

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 20:10

HHOSUG - Zwischenbilanz

Nach acht Tagen haben sich bereits 34 Leute fuer die Xing Gruppe der Hamburger (Open)Solaris Users Group gemeldet. Das ist mehr als ich erwartet habe Ich werde deshalb morgen einen Raum in der Hamburger Sun Geschäftstelle organisieren, um das erste Treffen der HHOSUG anzuleiern. Ich dachte dabei an einen Termin am frühen Abend so gegen 18 Uhr an einem Wochentag. Ich denke, dadurch können mehr Leute teilnehmen. Ich werde mich dann alsbald mit einem Terminvorschlag in der Xing-Gruppe melden

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Solaris at 19:13

MacBook Wheel - The notebook for the twitter generation

The Onion reports about the introduction of the new MacBook Wheel:

This is the notebook for the twitter generation - you don't want to type in messages longer than 140 chars this way ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Apple, English at 15:31

Why Intel doesn't like 12 inch netbooks

There is an article at tech crunch about the dislike of Intel in regard of a 12 inch notebook with Atom proc. I think it's not only the loss of sales for bigger mobile procs. The problem is more wide-ranging.

The cheap x86 procs for servers are largely subsidised by the desktop sales. It's almost the same die, thus the development costs are shared, the manufacturing costs are shared. It's classic economy of scale ... it's the reason, why a Intel Xeon is cheaper to produce than a RISC CPU. Without the desktop sales you have to increase the price of your server CPU or reduce the margins (server CPUs are an high-margin business)

Now let's assume you have a different architecture with different design targets, thus it isn't possible to share the development costs. This can severely disrupt your business modell. You can't share the costs of your server procs with all the desktop sales. As i wrote before: The current dominance of x86 servers are an result of the decision of a finnish computer science student and many gamers, because the fact that the dominant gaming os runs on it x86 only. Thus Intel has a vast interest in not selling Atom in all possible markets. I perfectly understand Intel that they don't like 12-inch netbooks. 10 inch displays are to small for many people, but 12 inch is a different story.

This the upcoming netbooks and nettops have may have an interesting effect to unrelated markets by changes in the cost models due to decreasing sales.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 15:08

It's slashing time ...

Recent layoffs (besides the Sun RIF):

Lenovo - 2500
IBM - 16000 (rumored)
Unisys - 1300
Microsoft - 15000 (rumored)
Logitech - 500
SGI - 225 (15%)
EMC - 2,400 (7%)
Dell - 1,900
HP - 24,600 (announced in September 2008)

Tough time at the moment ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 13:45

The Sell Rating from Goldman Sucks

Goldman Sachs put Sun on the sell list. The reasoning behind this move is interesting. Regarding to this article on a german financial news portal we are too focussed on telecom, banks and manufacturing. Thus the analyst (Mr. David Bailey) assumes we have more problems with the recession than other competitors with a wider customership. Let's assume he is correct with his assumption. Can somebody explain me, why a wider positioned competitor has any advantages about a focused company when the complete economy is on its way downhill to recession?

PS: Goldman Sachs was an investment banking not long ago ... no normal customers ... focused when you want to think so ... they got a different status, not by choice, they were forced to do so. When you sit in a glass house, you should choose the restroom in the basement.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 13:21

links for 2009-01-08

Compass » News » Should Britain now join the euro? asks George Irvin

(tags: politics economics)

macosxhints.com - Add an iPhone call log to iCal via AppleScript

(tags: productivity unix Ruby scripting review script phone scripts)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us, English at 12:00

Tweetdeck

Peter Reiser pointed me via a tweet to Tweetdeck.

Tweetdeck is a Twitterclient based on Adobe Air ... perhaps this is the reason why this UI looks a little bit like Lightroom. At the moment I use this client and don't want back to Twitterific.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Blogosphere, English at 10:24

WTF - JAVA above \$5 ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun/Oracle at 09:37

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Comment about Fishworks

Storagebod wrote an article about the various available virtual storage appliances. In Appliance of science he wrote about Fishworks the S7000 Storage Simulator (it's just that, and it's not optimised as a virtual storage appliance): Just recently, I've decided to give a few more a play; I've just built a Fishworks environment. Easy-to-use, easy-to-configure, a tad resource heavy but a really nice GUI. I think I could grow to really like this environment. I think I could get a decent amount of disk for me to use for my home environment, I need to reconfigure the virtual environment but definitely useable. [...] Actually Fishworks could give both EMC and NetApp a run for their money if it was shipped as a fully supported VSA. It could be very disruptive at the low-end to start with. Storagebod is the blog of a storage manager working for a large media company in UK, so he has some experience with storage stuff.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 19:50

I had a bad day

I didn't write an article yesterday and this morning, albeit there was much to report. For example the Q-Layer acquisition. Or about the new IPMP in Opensolaris as a part of the Clearview project. But I'm really frustrated at the moment ... disappointed by the mankind.

As I wrote before, I visited my parents at Christmas and friends for New Year's Eve in a city nearby. As I preferred to travel by train I asked my brother to take my luggage by car. So far no problem. But on his journey a thief targeted his car (we don't know when, why, where, we suspect on a rest stop). The consequence: A trolley with clothes (an expensive shirt and my best pair of shoes away, rest wasn't that expensive) and my CEC2007 backpack was stolen from the luggage compartment. The real neckbreaker was the bag: 1 Wii, 2 Wiimotes, 3 games, 2 Nunchuks ... damage round about 400 Euro. Interestingly they left the balance board in the car. 2 minutes later a shock hit me as I remembered that I've put my camera in this bag as well: A Canon 40D, a wide-angle (stabilized - read: expensive) and a tele-photo (stabilized - read: expensive) lens, one tele-converter stolen. At the end all the stolen parts have a summarized value of .. well ... round about 3000 Euros. I hope you understand, I wasn't in the mood to blog yesterday. BTW: It's really disturbing, that there weren't any signs of a break-in at the car except of a sluggish lock.

Dear thief, I hope the stroke will hit you while sitting on the toilet and the curse of everlasting stinking socks may hit your family for the rest of time. I hate you!

But to see the good things in the disaster: I thought about switching to Nikon ... now I can do the switch ... all left from my DSLR are two inexpensive primes. I'm glad that I postponed the switch to the L-class lenses again and again...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Persoenliches Pech at 12:47

Tuesday, January 6. 2009

links for 2009-01-06

How to Configure a Standby Interface for an IPMP Group (System Administration Guide: IP Services) - Sun Microsystems

(tags: network)

tcpdrop for Solaris

(tags: tools solaris sysadmin)

BigAdmin Submitted Tech Tip: A Tool to Drop TCP Sessions for the Solaris OS: tcpdrop

(tags: solaris sysadmin linux network bsd)

Posted by del.icio.us in English at 12:00

Monday, January 5, 2009

links for 2009-01-05

The Irish Economy's Rise Was Steep, and the Fall Was Fast - NYTimes.com

(tags: financial europe crisis economy ireland)

Would You Pay \$103,000 for This Arizona Fixer-Upper? - WSJ.com

(tags: politics article economics subprime Market financial)

blogbeebe: An Inconvenient OS Truth

(tags: linux os)

Eventually Consistent - Revisited - All Things Distributed

(tags: storage design programming s3 distributed Grid replication scalability systems)

Posted by del.icio.us in English, General at 12:00

DTrace in FreeBSD 7.1-RELEASE

From the release notes of FreeBSD 7.1-RELEASE:>The DTrace, a comprehensive dynamic tracing framework and dtrace(1) userland utility have been imported from OpenSolaris. DTrace provides a powerful infrastructure to permit administrators, developers, and service personnel to concisely answer arbitrary questions about the behavior of the operating system and user programs.(via Tim Bray)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 06:33

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Crossbow by examples

Ben Rockwood wrote a great article about the usage of Crossbows vnics and virtual switches in conjunctions with zones: Crossbow Experiements and Elation. A must-read.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 18:24

What will be after Linux?

An tweet on twitter lead me to some thoughts. The question in this tweet was "What will be after Linux?" At first this seems as a question of a Solaris fanboy and obviously you would expect that i would opt for Solaris in this article. I have my opinion but i won't discuss it here. I won't even give a hint because honestly spoken, i have no idea. It's relatively easy to look 6 months in the future, it's much harder to do this for 12 month and it's outright impossible to do this for a point in time in a 5 years interval (okay, when you make your predictions in a generic way, it's easy).

When we look into the history of computing, we see many technologies with a vast amount of market share having problems later on. Mainframes are such a example. Yeah ... Sun is such an example ... nobody expected in 1998 that Solaris would have the role of something else than the market leader in web services 10 years later. Many thought of Longhorn as the next big thing killing all other OSes. We've got Vista. In ten years we will think about Vista in the same way as Windows 98SE. Otherway round we see many systems which were almost dead with a bright future today. Think about MacOS 9 and MacOS X. Apple was pretty much a few years ago and today the market share on notebooks looks as near to 50%, at least when you walk through the train between Hamburg and Berlin. Other way round: 5 or 6 years ago the Palm Pilot was the unconquered leader of it's market ... today ... the complete market was sucked up by cellular phone vendors and the vendor of a mp3-player on steroids. Apache vs. lighttpd or nginx. Sendmail vs. Postfix. Ingres vs. Oracle. CP/M vs. DOS. dBase vs. Access et al.

This example should show us one thing: There is no thing in IT that keeps it's lead forever. Comebacks are possible. Complete removal from the market place is possible. It's foolish to assume that any piece technology is exempted from this rule.

So Linux will encounter the same lifecycle. Think this is impossible? What would happen, if Linus Torvalds decides to take his midlife crisis and starts to do research on real penguins in a polar station. What would happen, if one of the large proponents (Red Hat, SuSE, Canonical) would collapse under the weight of this or the next recession? That's not a linux-only thing ... just think about the "Steven Jobs is ill/dead/the new iGod" rumours.

In my opinion Linux is already on the downward path. There wasn't an innovation in Linux that gave me the thought "Wow, that's cool" for a long, long time (And to be honest: For many features i thought as cool features in Linux in my early UNIX years i've learned later on that they were implemented somewhere else (IRIX, Solaris, some old BSD et al) before) ... but your perspective may vary as your milage. This is nature of opinions. Dbase was moved out of market by other competitors making a faster transition to Windows. lighttpd is used by admins, who think that Apache httpd has grown to far to result into a stable and efficient webserver.

Furthermore: The user communities in the open source world are more fluid. The Microsoft ecosphere is a little bit different. Microsoft is only able to survive it's constant underdelivery in regard of their operating system because of their applications. You have to use Windows, if you want to use MS Word or MS Excel. But as i wrote a while ago: In Open Source the binary of an application is just a Makefile away. Thus there is no application-enforced vendor lock-in. When people don't like their old OS (out of whatever reason) anymore or just want features of another OS, it's just an rsync to the new away. Commercial IT would take a little bit longer because of already existing runbooks and processes. But Unices aren't that far away from each other to make this impossible.

Despite what many want to think: Linux isn't immune to this. So the interesting question is ... what will be after Linux? LinuxNG, OpenSolaris, BSD, Windunix? That's an interesting question and i have no answer to it. Just an opinion. It the next Linux a already known operating system. Or a completly new operating environment?

What would be the path of Linux after such an downward path ... it's a community development. The next interesting question is: Are highly dispersed development communities capable to restart a franchise? Like other restarts: MacOS 9

to X (non-opensource), like Solaris 9 to 10 (opensource). Both restarts were triggered from large companies with a large interest in the restart and deep pockets to pay developers. Or would the community just move to another preferred development platform moving Linux into a niche, like the BSDs today?

After writing this article i had an additional answer to the question of a customer: "Why does Sun still develop Solaris instead of supporting Linux the development" aside from all the technological and commercial reasons: Because Linux needs Solaris. Without a strong, innovative competitor the downward spiral (as the innovation would be just limited to supporting new hardware) would just go faster and this would open an opportunity to other systems. The otherway round Solaris needs Linux ... Solaris 10 would look different without the large impact of Linux in the market and the balance of power between Windows and. Unix would look differently. It's the same with MacOS. The Apple developers were in need of an improving Windows to restart the MacOS franchise with X. Without it Apple would be a large part of computer history, but not of contemporary IT.

So, we should think about the time after Linux as well we should think how Linux gain strength in such a phase. But as i wrote at start, it's hard to think about it, when predictions are such a hard business.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 15:26

Saturday, January 3. 2009

Munich OpenSolaris User Group (MUCOSUG)

Es ist eine interessante zeitliche Koinzidenz, denn ich wusste nichts von dem Vorhaben, in Muenchen eine OSUG auf die Beine zu stellen, und ich glaube auch nicht, das die Münchener Kollegen davon wussten, das ich ähnliches für Hamburg angedachte habe, da ich vornehmlich im Hamburger Umfeld darueber diskutiert habe. Die Zeit scheint irgendwie reif fuer das dedizierte Netzwerken in der Solaris-Userschaft zu sein.

Sei es drum: Am 12.1. findet in der Sun Geschäftsstelle in München das erste Treffen der Munich OpenSolaris User Group statt. Für weitere Informationen konsultiert bitte die Webseite der MUCOSUG. Die Ankündigung des ersten Events findet ihr ebenfalls dort.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General, German at 16:45

links for 2009-01-03

True Marble Imagery - Free Download

(tags: photography photo photos pictures mapping maps world satellite)

Posted by del.icio.us in del.icio.us at 12:00

Friday, January 2. 2009

Ars Technica about OpenSolaris

Ars Technica writes in "A look back at the open source victories of 2008":Sun released the very first version of OpenSolaris this year. OpenSolaris, which emerged from Project Indiana, was created to build a user-friendly desktop distribution on top of the open source Solaris platform. Despite some early friction, the project shows a lot of promise. The second release, which occurred earlier this month, included some impressive functionality, such as a new ZFS snapshot visualization feature.Nice to see OpenSolaris in such an article

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 21:00

Moon

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Photographie at 18:45

756 vs. 662

The winner in the category "Most fix aircraft orders" is: Airbus. They were able to gather 756 orders whereas Boeing just got 662. But these numbers show another interesting trend: The boom seems to be over. This years order combined are just a little bit higher as the numbers of each of them last year (Boeing was the winner last year with 1.412 orders. Airbus had 1.342)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 16:18

Thursday, January 1. 2009

Paul Murphy about Sun 2009

Paul Murphy writes in his article "Predictions for 2009": Sun is an odd case: by any reasonable standard the company should be a big winner next year: in particular with respect to storage markets, web services markets, and HPC markets. In practice the company is often its own worst enemy: unable to cope with people manipulating its stock, unwilling to tell the mid market about its products, and collectively baffled by the tsunami of ignorance characteristic of the IT press writing for the Wintel industry. I hope the this year will be a better year than the last one for Sun. But i'm confident about that.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 18:44

Hamburg (Open)solaris User Group

Das neue Jahr hat begonnen, Zeit also die HHOSUG zu startenn. Obwohl die Usergruppe Hamburg im Namen traegt, ist das doch eher auf die Metropolregion Hamburg bezogen. Um erstmal einen gemeinsamen Kommunkationskanal aufzubauen, habe ich bei XING um die Einrichtung einer XING Gruppe gebeten. Gestern ist diese dan auch eingerichtet worden. Wer Interesse an einer Mitarbeit hat (ob aktiv oder passiv), wuerde ich bitten, sich in dieser Gruppe anzumelden!

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Solaris at 15:28

Latency impact of sonic waves directed to hard disk casings

When you really thing about harddisks, you could get the feeling, that this subsystem is a really delicate one. You read data from disk spinning at up to 15.000 rpm, trying to catch tracks as narrow as 50 nm, and you don't read the data from the hard disk, you read a waveform and compute the most probable data pattern out of it. All together it's a little bit of an sufficiently advanced technology indistinguishable from magic. But at the end the system "harddisk" is really susceptible for perturbations from outside.

Brendan Gregg was able to measure the latency impact of sonic waves hitting the casing of hard disks - with a low-tech approach as he wrote in Unusual disk latency.

I don't want to know how he found out about this effect ... perhaps a debugging session or a harddisk falling on his feet. Nevertheless it's an impressive usecase for the Analytics feature of our new 7000 series storage. Try to find such effects with the tools from our beloved competitors. Their products are susceptible for "Brendans war scream" as well (as they use hard disks, too) ... but you can't measure it.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 14:59

2009!

It's 2009. At least in my timezone. Happy new year. There is a lot of uncertainty around because of the economic problems, the unsolved problems of this world. And many start this year with fears: But i found a good quote in this book, that fits into this sitation: Your mission is the luminous path that you follow, no matter how dark the night around you. You can't change the world, but you can make the world at both sides of your path a less darker place.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, lost and found at 00:01