
Subject: Re: How does one size a HN? Is RAM or CPU more important?

Posted by [rickb](#) on Wed, 21 Feb 2007 11:27:40 GMT

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Thank you for the information, truly a valuable post. I have some further questions if you have time.

What sector readahead value are you using with blockdev? Default on my card is 256 (blockdev --getra /dev/sdX), the pdf suggest 16384 secs.

I am using ext3 but am not using any tuned values beyond noatime. Have you found and performance gains from optimizations on the fs level?

I am using the cfq io scheduler, because after reading and unofficially testing it, it seems to deliver the best io response time for a shared resource system. Although deadline may offer better overall io performance, fairness is more relevant in a shared resource environment. What are your thoughts on this?

My servers with this card have 8GB of ram, and I have created 8GB of swap; after 63 days of uptime, the system stays constant with ~2.5GB of swap utilized. I have read that adjusting the amount of swap in the system can positively effect performance. Do you have any ideas there?

```
[root@gallium ~]# free -m
```

	total	used	free	shared	buffers	cached
Mem:	8029	8004	24	0	97	1586
-/+ buffers/cache:		6320	1709			
Swap:	8000	2609	5391			

My primary indicator of "disk performance" in a shared resource environment is a (lower) iowait value over time (vmstat, sar, iostat, etc). Do you find this relevant?

-Rick Blundell