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
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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