Subject: large memory server (32GB) :: 64bit kernel advantageous?
Posted by rickb on Fri, 10 Aug 2007 18:46:43 GMT

Hi, I have a new server with 32GB of memory, my VEs are all 32bit and always will be. In this situation is there any performance or other benefit to running a 64bit kernel?

thanks!
Rick

Subject: Re: large memory server (32GB) :: 64bit kernel advantageous?
Posted by vaverin on Sat, 11 Aug 2007 08:30:35 GMT

Hi Rick,

In general we can recommend to use 64-bit kernel for 32-bit-only VEs.

You really should have some performance benefits (I heard about ~20%, but of course it depends on usage scernario).

However you will have some drawbacks too:
- memory consumption overhead. Pointers in _kernel_ structures will be 64-bit now vs 32-bit on 32-bit kernels. I.e. kmemsize on true 32-bit kernels and on 64-bit kernels can vary.
- you have some risk to find some new issue in 32-bit compat layer on 64-bit kernels. This chance is really very low but it is a greater than one to find some new bug on plain 32-bit kernels.

thank you,
     Vasily Averin