Stress and Performance Testing in Virtual Environments
Charlatans Abound

Oracle accused of stifling HP TPC benchmark
Too good to show
By Chris Mellor - Get more from this author
Posted in Servers, 11th March 2011 12:41 GMT
Free whitepaper – Schlumberger uses IBM System i
Oracle has been accused of stifling the public release of its own SPARC SuperCluster workload, indicating its own SPARC SuperCluster workload more per transaction than a similar test on a Sun SuperCluster. From Oracle's own website, the SuperCluster has a record TPC-C benchmark result is held by a

TPC slaps Oracle on benchmark claims
Watchdogs to Larry: ‘You lie!’
By Timothy Prickett Morgan - Get more from this author
Posted in Servers, 29th September 2009 22:34 GMT
Free whitepaper – ASCI uses 10 GbE grid computing and hi-def media streaming
Oracle let its marketing mouth get ahead of its brain with the Exadata 2 cluster system. Today, the Transaction Processing Council, which administers the TPC family of transaction and data warehouse processing benchmarks, slapped Oracle with a fine and a muzzle order relating to claims it has been making in advertisements about how its Exadata 2 is better than alternatives such as IBM’s Power 595 behemoth.

ATI ‘cheating’ benchmarks and degrading game quality, says NVIDIA
By Justin Robinson
16:08 Sep 15, 2010 | 36 Comments
Tags ATI | AMD | NVIDIA | FP16 | Denotation | FP10 | FP24 | FP32 | image | quality | comparison | Far | Cry | Oblivion | DoW | II | Dawn | War | Need | Speed | Shift | NFS | GT5450 | 6170
Why Do We Test?

- To drive an application stack to emulate production like workloads
- Being able to repeat the tests to confirm results and or changes introduced
How Do We Test

- Define what you want to test
- Have an environment that allows you to repeat those tests
Types Of Testing

- Proof Of Concept
- Peak Load Simulation
- Stress Test
- Duration/Soak
- Customised Tests for specific uses
Virtual Changes Everything?

- Virtualisation *accelerates* your ability to make changes
- Stress environments are *all about change*
It's A Technology, Not An Excuse
“We Fear Change”

- Educate
- Train
- Involve
Wheels Within Wheels

More moving parts
More tuning
More knowledge
More instrumentation
Real Life

- The Thundering Herd
- Reporting Skew
- Steal
- Hypervisor Overhead
- When to Give Up
Lies, etc

- Your in-guest view is wrong
- 2.4 Kernels were terrible
- 2.6 Kernels are much better
- Inaccuracy still creeps in
steal – threat or menace?
Neither!

- Steal is the hypervisor doing its job!
- Steal is not always a problem!
- Worry about user experience, not steal!
Hitting the Redline

- Not all hypervisors are equal
- Degradation can be dramatic
- Symptoms can be non-obvious
When To Give Up

● What are your gains worth?
● What are you spending to get them?
● 5% on 1 environment is nothing
● 5% on 300 is huge
Any Questions?