

Linux-Kernel: Re: Failing back to INSANE timesource :) Time stopped today.

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Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2004-04/4421.html>

From: john stultz (johnstul_at_us.ibm.com)

Date: 04/20/04

To: "Maciej W. Rozycki" <macro@ds2.pg.gda.pl>

Date: Tue, 20 Apr 2004 14:18:44 -0700

On Tue, 2004-04-20 at 05:40, Maciej W. Rozycki wrote:

> On Tue, 20 Apr 2004, Niclas Gustafsson wrote:

>

>> I've now been running the system since last week, about 6 days now with

>> sometimes quite high load, both in regard to CPU usage and network

>> traffic.

>> And it seems to be running just fine with the patch from Maciej.

>

> I'm glad to read this.

It appears to be working here in our labs as well.

>> I've got a couple of questions,

>>

>> When was this bug introduced? Was it 2.6.1 (or rather somewhere in

>> 2.5)? Or was it already present in 2.4?

>

> Well, the bug has been introduced by IBM in their firmware (SMM code).

> ;-) The patch only works it around. Functionally the changed code is the

> same for your configuration.

>

> If you are asking about the problematic code, then it's there since

> 2.3.x, so it's in 2.4, too. It's a part of the NMI watchdog support,

> though it's used for ordinary timer interrupts for certain systems as

> well.

Are you saying that 2.4 will exhibit this problem as well, or that 2.4 already has an equivalent workaround?

>> When will this patch be merged into the 2.6-tree? I don't have to

>> stress the impact of this problem on IBM servers as they are rendered

>> quite useless.

>

> Apparently there are problems with the workaround on certain AMD

> Athlon-based systems. I suppose they need to be resolved somehow first.

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Can you point me to any threads on this issue. I'd like to do what I can to help get this workaround in.

> > *Which other IBM models are affected? Can I run 2.6.5 on my 345:s or
> > 335:s? Do they use the same buggy SMM firmware?*
>
> *Ask IBM. The reason is an incorrect handling of PIC (8259A) state
> saving/restoration.*

I'm following up w/ our hardware group about this issue.

Thanks so much for the help!
-john

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