

Re: Spinlocks

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On Tue, 18 Oct 2005 00:13:30 -0700, brankok wrote:

> *from concurrent access, so I decided to use spinlock mechanism. I've*
> *read about functions that work with spinlocks and I decided to use*
> *_irqsave versions of the primitives both in the interrupt and in the*
> *noninterrupt code. Now I'm wondering if I should have used spinlocks at*
> *all. Couldn't I have just disable interrupts in in the noninterrupt*
> *code, do the critical section and then enable interrupts? What am I not*
> *getting?*

An interrupt can happen on other CPU (or core, in multi-core CPUs) while interrupts are disabled in your current CPU.

Disabling interrupts across all CPUs requires cross-calls, which are very expensive when compared with local interrupt disabling.

— Pete