



Xen Summit Spring 07

Xen-PPC

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Overview

- **Current Status**
- **Porting Difficulties**
- **Porting Issues**
- **How you can help?**

Current Status

- **Ready for 3.0.5**
 - Virtual IO
 - SMP Xen and Domains
 - ≤ 4 CPUs box
 - ≤ 32 VCPUs per domain
 - XM and XM Test
- **(well sort of)**
 - Still running older, separate Linux
 - Save and resume in unreleased Linux Kernel
 - No Ballooning
 - No live Migration
 - Oprofile soon

Porting Difficulties -- Real Mode Area

- **Domain takes exceptions in real mode**
- **970: RMA must be minimum 64MiB in size and must be naturally aligned**
- **Dictates minimum domain size**
- **Special pages (shared, console) are placed in this region so they are available while xlate is off**
- **Cannot balloon this area... ever!**
- **Same problems as large page mappings...**

Porting Difficulties -- Large Pages

- **Kernel linear map always uses largest page size**
 - Performance gain is too much to pass up
 - Mapped “pinned” at startup.
- **970: Capable of 16MiB large page size**
- **Makes ballooning difficult (if not impossible)**
- **Grant Mappings are always 4K**
 - All IO requires real page descriptors
 - Use memory hot-plug to define a “foreign” memory area
 - Manage area separately in Xen specific paths
 - Grants manage foreign PFN->MFN
 - Pre-grant mappings and Post-grant unmappings

Porting Difficulties -- Auto Translate

- **Always on**
- **PTE hcalls are (VFN to PFN)**
- **Xen responsible for PFN to MFN**
- **hcalls referring to MFN directly are flagged**
 - MFN mappings are for dom0
- **Always requires IOMMU hcalls**
 - Even Dom0 does not know PFN to MFN

Porting Difficulties -- `start_info`

- **Uses “flattened devtree”, from Open Firmware**
- **`/xen` node indicates you are in a Xen VM**
 - Node contains properties describing relevant `start_info` like information
 - Console device
 - Special pages (shared, console, foreign)
- **Other standard nodes and properties used for and machine specific stuff**
 - CPUs
 - Memory
 - Host bridges

Porting Issues

■ Atomic operations

- Only performed on 32-bit and 64-bit quantities
 - Bitmaps are long arrays in Linux:
 - Even on x86, but !x86_64 :-(
 - Different in XM (32-bit) than in Kernel and Xen
 - Cannot `cmpxchg()` and `xchg()` a char or short
 - Requires “align down”
 - Load-Link/Store-Conditional
 - As do Alpha, MIPS, and ARM (are we misfits!?)
 - Vs. Compare and Swap

■ Xencomm

- Used by IA64 but forked, needs to “commonize” again

How can you help? Always....

- **Use DECLARE_BITMAP() for bit operations**
- **Use atomic_t counts (even for boolean)**
- **Stricter interfaces to restrict with 8/16 bit atomics**
- **Consider Endian, don't pack manually**
- **Consider type safety**
- **Consider alignment**
- **Avoid using __packed__ (add -Wpacked)**
- **<http://kegel.com/crosstool/>**
 - Run it and gain cross compilers to find easy issues
- **I use x86 :-)**