IBM publishes leadership 2-processor score for SPECvirt sc2010 benchmark

IBM Flex System x240 Compute Node demonstrates leadership performance for virtualization applications

April 4th, 2013 ... IBM® delivers leadership performance on the SPECvirt_sc2010 benchmark with the publication of the overall highest score ever achieved by a system using 2 processors. The IBM Flex System x240 Compute Node delivered an overall performance score of SPECvirt_sc2010 2,741 @ 168 VMs. SPECvirt_sc2010 is the first-generation SPEC® benchmark for evaluating the virtualization performance of datacenter server consolidation.

The Flex System x240 Compute Node was configured with the Intel® Xeon® Processor E5-2690 (2.9 GHz with 20 MB of L3 cache per processor— 2 processors, 16 cores, 8 cores per processor), 256 GB of memory, and 2 disk drives (600 GB each). The x240 Compute Node ran Red Hat Enterprise Linux® 6.4 and Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM) hypervisor.

This is the first SPECvirt result to use Fibre Channel over Ethernet. The x240 compute node was configured with two IBM Flex System CN4054 10 GbE Virtual Fabric Adapters, which allow Fibre Channel storage access over an Ethernet network, eliminating the need for separate Network and Storage topologies. This result also features the IBM Flex System V7000 Storage Node, a modular storage system designed to fit into the IBM Flex System Enterprise chassis.

The Flex System x240 Compute Node score of SPECvirt_sc2010 2,741 @ 168 VMs exceeds all other 2-processor SPECvirt_sc2010 scores published. Notably, the x240 Compute Node score is 36.3% higher than the highest-performing competitor's 2P blade system—the HP ProLiant BL460c G8 with a score of 2010 @ 126 VMs. (1)

The IBM Flex System x240 Compute Node offers leadership performance for virtualization with new levels of processor performance and memory capacity, and flexible configuration options. It is part of IBM PureFlex System, a new category of computing that integrates a choice of IBM compute architectures (POWER or x86), networking, storage and system management capability into a single system that is easy to deploy and manage. IBM PureFlex System has full "built-in" virtualization support of compute, storage, and networking to speed provisioning and increase resiliency. In addition, it supports open industry standards, such as operating systems, networking and storage fabrics, virtualization, and system management protocols, to easily fit within existing and future data center environments. IBM PureFlex System is scalable and extendable with multi-generation upgrades to protect and maximize IT investments.

For more information about IBM PureFlex System, go to http://ibm.com/pureflex.

Results referenced are current as of April 4th, 2013. To view all SPECvirt_sc2010 results visit the SPEC results page at http://www.spec.org/virt_sc2010/results/

(1) Vendor system with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.2. View the full result at http://www.spec.org/virt_sc2010/results/res2012q4/virt_sc2010-20121002-00047-perf.html