IBM Turns To More Optimizations For Linux On POWER10

With it appearing all the essentials are in place for IBM POWER10 Linux support, in recent days we have seen an uptick in patches from IBM engineers working on POWER10 performance optimizations.

The big one to call out this week are wake_affine improvements to sched/fair. After IBM found "the benchmark numbers on POWER10 were lesser than expected" they traced part of that back to the Linux scheduling code.

IBM?s Systems Business Awaits The Red Hat Effect

It is frustrating sometimes how IT vendors talk about themselves, particularly when it comes to public companies and those rare few who report financial results even though they are privately held. The summary data is compiled to give Wall Street and other investors the rosiest possible view of the company and a lot of detail that actually describes the business is missing. As such, we are always playing a kind of mathematical cat and mouse game, trying to catch the truth before it disappears into a hole in the baseboard.

IBM is no exception, particularly as it is trying to reposition itself after acquiring Red Hat for $34 billion back in October 2018 and spinning off managed infrastructure division NewCo ? now called Kyndryl ? by the end of this year. That hosting and outsourcing business might generate $19 billion in sales, against the remaining core IBM?s $59 billion, but not matter how Big Blue tries to avoid saying it, that business represents the past, a legacy, and what IBM very much wants to do is reposition the new Red Hat overlay on top of its System z and Power Systems platform businesses and its IBM Cloud (formerly known as SoftLayer), all supported by its vast systems software stack (including database, transaction processing, file system,
security, and application development software), as the future. Ironically, we think that IBM is one of the largest consumers of its own systems and related systems software, and when this Kyndryl deal is finally done, will probably be Big Blue’s largest customer.

- **Ex IBM sales manager, fired after battling discrimination against subordinates, wins $11m lawsuit** [4]

  On Thursday, a federal jury in Seattle, Washington, found that former IBM sales manager Scott Kingston had been unlawfully fired by the company and denied sales commission after challenging the treatment of subordinates as racially biased. And it awarded him $11.1m.

  The case dates back to 2017 when two IBM sales people within months of each other closed similarly large software sales deals that led to vastly different commission payments. Nick Donato, who is White, received more than $1m for a SAS Institute deal, while Jerome Beard, who is Black, was paid about $230,000 for closing a sale to HCL Technologies.

  Beard was paid about 15 per cent of what he should have received under his agreement with IBM, despite a company policy not to cap sales commissions.

  HP/HPE, IBM, and Oracle have all faced recent lawsuits over the practice of capped commissions, in which companies agree to pay a certain percentage of sales to sales reps and later adjust the sale value downward to reduce their payout obligations.

Red Hat

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