

FreeBSD Can Compete With Ubuntu Linux, Windows 8

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Created *01/08/2013 - 4:48am*

Submitted by srlinuxx on Thursday 1st of August 2013 04:48:42 AM Filed under [BSD](#) [1]

Yesterday I published results that show NVIDIA's Linux driver is very competitive with Microsoft Windows 8 when it comes to OpenGL gaming performance. It turns out that the NVIDIA BSD driver, which is still mostly shared common code with Linux and Solaris and Windows, pairs very well with FreeBSD's Linux binary compatibility layer. The NVIDIA BSD performance is very good for OpenGL as shown in this article with a comparison of Windows 8 vs. Ubuntu 13.10 vs. FreeBSD 9.1. In fact, for some OpenGL workloads the Linux games are running faster on FreeBSD/PC-BSD 9.1 than Ubuntu!

FreeBSD (and some other BSD distributions) offer Linux binary compatibility support for being able to run native Linux binaries on BSD. This feature was covered at length two years ago on Phoronix when talking about FreeBSD as a fast Linux gaming platform. The binary compatibility relies upon a FreeBSD kernel module for Linux plus ported Linux run-time libraries (pulled from Fedora 10 RPMs at present). That aforelinked Phoronix article has more details on the Linux emulation / binary compatibility support for those interested in the low-level details.

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