

Are Processors Free? Impact on RDMA and Protocol Off-load Technologies

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ABSTRACT

The growing prevalence of multi-core and multi-threaded processors combined the rapid commodization of hardware raises numerous questions about how best to utilize this processing power. Will the cost of a processor core drop to a point where processors are considered free? Will such a cost point enable processor cores to be cost-effectively dedicated to platform-specific services such as storage and inter-processor communication infrastructures and applications? What impact might this trend have on RDMA (Remote Direct Memory Access) and protocol off-load technologies such as InfiniBand and RDMA/TCP (aka iWARP)? This presentation will examine the potential impact and how these technologies might evolve in the coming years.