CDEV-NT : PORTING THE CONTROL DEVICE INTERFACE TO WINDOWS NT

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In recent years the rapid increase in processing power of the personalcomputer has made it a significant competitor to high end workstationsfor experimental applications. When the decreasing price of the PC andthe availability of inexpensive commerical software is also considered,NT becomes a very attractive alternative to traditional UNIX systems.In order to simplify the integration of Peronal Computers into ouroperating environment, we have ported the Control Device (CDEV)Interface to Windows NT. By supporting CDEV on this platform, we canprovide routine access to our existing control system. Additionally,CDEV allows us to create an interface from our UNIX workstations toWindows NT applications (such as databases) that are significantlyless expensive on the PC.This paper will detail the pitfalls that we encountered during thesoftware migration and will provide direct comparison between theperformance of CDEV applications on UNIX and NT. Particular attentionis provided to network performance which represents most of theoverhead of this transition. We will also describe the performancedifferences involved when using EPICS through CDEV-NT to communicatewith control system devices.