

POWER8 Announcements - What's New?

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The coming days (as I unfortunately missed the pre-release news) more and more will be revealed about what is new in POWER8. I am very curious of course.

One item that caught my attention - immediately - is the focus that was taken on improving the SMT thread (or logical CPU) performance of the processor cores compared to performance metrics that are based on all threads collectively - for maximum gain.

Why is this important? Because even today many applications are still single-threaded. Or, unfortunately most applications, even modern ones, do not utilize the benefits of super scalar multi-threading (POWER multi-threading is known as SMT - Simultaneous Multi-Threading whereas Intel is best known for HyperThreading).