Sun Microsystems Solaris on x86

- Using Solaris x86 since June 1994 (2.4ea1).
- Have run 386BSD, FreeBSD, Linux, Plan9.
- Why Solaris on my PC?

  Compatibility with work is important to me.

  Access to calendar via rpc for calendar manager.

  Answerbooks at home while telecommuting.

  Same window system.

  NFS over PPP for e-mail. ;-)
- Solaris runs on x86, sparc and PowerPC.

sitongia@hao.ucar.edu

Desktop License

- Solaris
  SVR4
  Compatibility: XCU4, POSIX.1c
  NFS (v2, v3, over TCP), PPP, 4.4BSD telnet
  UFS, CacheFS
  GUI System Admin
  Graphics: XGL, XIL
  CDE (Common Desktop Environment)
  WABI (Windows)
  Device driver upgrades/support free off ‘net
  windowing ksh

Extras

- Source Code? Unlikely...
- Compilers (SunSoft C costs $2,195+)
- Administration Answerbook ($225)
- Support (call-in, patches, upgrades). ($35/month)

sitongia@hao.ucar.edu

Operational Topics

- Installation

  PC hardware: IRQs, et.al.

  disk partitioning easy. “GUI” installation program.

  530MB taken by /,/usr,/opt. Memory hungry: 32MB+.

  Oddly changeable hostid!

  Weird mouse/keyboard interaction after CDE exit.
- Drivers

  Reasonable hardware support. Not all graphics hardware modes.

  Hacked baudrates to get 115k.

  New drivers available free off ‘net.
- Stability

  2.4 was bad but 2.5 is very stable.
- Compatibility

  Source-compatible with SPARC Solaris.

  Many packages off ‘net compile easily. Perl, emacs, Tk, X-clients.
- Cost/Licensing

  Desktop costs $695, but educational rate is $99.

  Big bucks for compilers, but there’s always GNU.
- Web client/server software

  Mosaic, Netscape browsers.

  Any server with source code.

sitongia@hao.ucar.edu