

## Re: Damm Small Linux

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2004-11/7140.html>

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**From:** Guy Macon (<http://www.guymacon.com>)

**Date:** 11/29/04

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Robert Baer wrote:

- > *Concerning MMX, isn't that mainly to support sound and maybe partly*
- > *extend some low-level video functions?*
- >
- > *Then it is useless, as there are other processors that do far better*
- > *(and faster) off-CPU chip – namely a Creative Labs-like sound chip or*
- > *equivalent, and some very fancy video processors that make MMX functions*
- > *look stone-age.*
- >
- > *In fact, MMX was almost obsolete when it came out for those reasons.*

The particular difference between processors doesn't change my basic argument – that kernel recompiling will match the kernel to the CPU instead of a stock kernel that runs on everything from a 386 on up.

If you don't like MMX as an example, delete it and insert allowing SSE scalar floating point instructions, disabling the f00f bug fix, enabling extended prefetch, using K7 or Opteron extended instructions, enabling out of order memory stores, or doubling the amount of available registers on chips with separate execution units for 387 and SSE. The argument is the same no matter which optimization you pick as an example.