

Serendipitous computer repair

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There was a thread not too long ago about computer memory; I haven't bothered to try to dig it up; it was just a long rambling discussion about error detection and stuff.

Well, this is a long ramble – maybe I should have signed it as "The Plainclothes Hippie", as I'm quite euphoriated, herbically, of course. A little alcohol can be quite synergistic with the herb, of course.

But that notwithstanding, I have an [possibly] interesting phenomenon to report here about computer memory. I have a pentium of some kind – oh, dangit! There's Rich The Pedant...

```
$ cat /proc/cpuinfo
```

```
processor : 0
```

```
vendor_id : AuthenticAMD
```

```
cpu family : 6
```

```
model : 4
```

```
model name : AMD Athlon(tm) Processor
```

```
stepping : 4
```

```
cpu MHz : 996.479
```

```
cache size : 256 KB
```

```
fdiv_bug : no
```

```
hlt_bug : no
```

```
f00f_bug : no
```

```
coma_bug : no
```

```
fpu : yes
```

```
fpu_exception : yes
```

```
cpuid level : 1
```

```
wp : yes
```

```
flags : fpu vme de pse tsc msr pae mce cx8 sep mtrr pge mca cmov pat pse36 mmx fxsr syscall mmxext  
3dnowext 3dnow
```

```
bogomips : 1985.74
```

```
-----
```

Oh, OK, it's an Athlon! Kewl!

Anyways, I was having no end of problems with Windoze – I've got my firewall configured so that the Windoze (W2K, actually) box can't even communicate with the internet – only the Samba

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server.

And I kept thinking, "What's getting through, breaking my system?"

And the one really, really annoying thing was that MDT6 (AutoCAD Mechanical Desktop, version 6 [la-dih-dah]) kept breaking. I'd have to reinstall, and it'd be good for one run. Then break.

But, I had set that aside for when I want to bother to take notes and go seek out answers and all that crap – what I have is "good enough" for now.

So, given that.

I was sitting musing about this memory stuff, and I remembered that I have a couple of memory sticks on my shelf – long story short, one of them is the same edge connector (3 bays – short, medium, long) as the one that's in this computer, so why am I not using it?

So I pull out the 256M stick, and plug in this other stick, boot up to Linux, and free reports about 56 MB of memory. Oh! Suddenly I remember why I had left it on the shelf. But, WTF, I think to myself – why not, now that that one's working, just slap in the other one and see what happens?

So I did. It booted, free in Linux reported >310MB (don't remember the exact ... goddammit!

```
$ free
total used free shared buffers cached
Mem: 312844 189672 123172 0 8780 33340
-/+ buffers/cache: 147552 165292
Swap: 1493960 236600 1257360
richrise@thunderbird:~
$
```

OK, 312844. How much more than 262,144 is that? I'm too lazy.

But, I haven't noticed any performance differences in Linux, but over in Doze-land, MDT6 hasn't died on startup since I installed the new 56M or whatever it is. 48M? 49152? Whatever.

I accidentally fixed something that I didn't even know that that was what would fix it.

Hope I don't dislocate my shoulder patting myself on the back. ;-D

Cheers!

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Rich

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