

Re: Supercomputer OS's

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- *From:* Iwo Mergler <Iwo.Mergler@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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joseph2k wrote:

For the entire top 500 they are running a Unix variant or a linux variant. Linux "owns" the list with Unix claiming just 92 out of the 500 machines, Mac OS X on three of them and not a single one running any M\$ OS. This includes Japan's earth simulator, a vector machine (now ranked 14). IBM and HP are the top hardware vendors. Some interesting surprises for me.

<http://www.top500.org/stats/28/os/>

This is not as surprising as it sounds.

There are thousands of people worldwide capable of porting Linux to a new architecture, and the source code is readily available. For a new processor or new computer architecture, Linux is the obvious first choice.

You pick an already supported architecture similar to your own and make a few modifications. It's a few tens to a few hundred lines of code.

As we speak, Linux already supports about 50 different processor families, with hundreds of different implementations.

Can you imagine the amount of money required to get MS to port one of their OS'es to a computer of which less than 10 will be sold?

Regards,

Iwo

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