

# Re: How to develop a random number generation device

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2007-09/msg03354.html>

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- *From:* Spehro Pefhany <[speffSNIP@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:speffSNIP@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 17 Sep 2007 23:03:01 -0500
- 

On Mon, 17 Sep 2007 19:24:48 -0700, the renowned John Larkin  
<[jjlarkin@xx](mailto:jjlarkin@xx)> wrote:

On Mon, 17 Sep 2007 20:43:03 -0400, krw <[krw@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:krw@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

In article <2thte3hom8nmbma5udd2spqliinpbdlubl@xxxxxxx>,  
[jjlarkin@xx](mailto:jjlarkin@xx) says...

On Sun, 16 Sep 2007 18:53:09 -0700,  
ChairmanOfTheBored  
<[RUBored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:RUBored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Sun, 16 Sep 2007 18:45:45 -0700, John  
Larkin  
<[jjlarkin@xx](mailto:jjlarkin@xx)>  
wrote:

On Sun, 16 Sep 2007  
18:31:16 -0700,  
ChairmanOfTheBored  
<[RUBored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:RUBored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

On Sun, 16  
Sep 2007  
14:37:02  
-0700, John  
Larkin  
<[jjlarkin@xx](mailto:jjlarkin@xx)>  
wrote:

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

On  
Sat,  
15  
Sep  
2007  
09:59:35  
-0700,  
ChairmanOfTheBored  
<RUBored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote:

On  
Sat,  
15  
Sep  
2007  
07:30:27  
-0700,  
MooseFET  
<kensmith@xxxxxxxx>  
wrote:

And  
XP  
occasionally  
crashes  
when  
a  
user-level  
process  
screws  
up.  
Not  
as  
often  
as  
'98  
type  
systems,  
but  
it  
still  
happens.  
And  
Patch  
Tuesday  
has

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

become  
a  
ritual.

You're  
an  
idiot.

So  
you  
didn't  
put  
in  
the  
patches  
LOL!

An  
idiot  
that  
applies  
patch  
"every  
Tuesday"  
is  
just  
as  
retarded  
as  
one  
that  
runs  
"defrag"  
more  
than  
once  
or  
twice  
a  
year  
when  
they  
have  
no  
apps  
that

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

cause  
severe  
fragmentation,  
like  
a  
database  
app  
or  
such.

Patch  
Tuesday  
is  
Microsoft's  
practice  
of  
accumulating  
a  
bunch  
of  
patches  
and  
releasing  
them  
on  
the  
2nd  
Tuesday  
of  
each  
month.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patch\\_Tuesday](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patch_Tuesday)

I  
certainly  
don't  
update  
that  
often.  
I  
like  
to  
let  
the  
patches  
mellow  
for  
a

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

month  
or  
so,  
because  
Microsoft's  
patches  
are  
so  
stupid  
they  
often  
break  
more  
than  
they  
fix.

"The  
second  
problem  
affected  
large  
deployments  
of  
Windows,  
such  
as  
can  
be  
found  
at  
large  
companies.  
Such  
large  
deployments  
found  
it  
increasingly  
difficult  
to  
make  
sure  
all  
systems  
across  
the  
company  
were  
all  
up

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

to  
date.  
The  
problem  
was  
made  
worse  
by  
the  
fact  
that,  
occasionally,  
a  
patch  
issued  
by  
Microsoft  
would  
break  
existing  
functionality,  
and  
would  
have  
to  
be  
uninstalled."

Damn,  
you  
actually  
\*don't\*  
know  
much  
about  
this  
stuff.

Fuck you. I  
have  
administered  
networks  
before.

The  
company I  
currently  
work for  
has several

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

thousand  
computers  
and  
several  
hundred  
laptops, and  
that doesn't  
even count  
the lab use  
machines.

We do not  
experience  
the  
horseshit  
you allow  
yourself to  
succumb to.

You don't install OS  
patches? How do you  
manage that?

It's interesting that you  
didn't know about Patch  
Tuesday.

What is interesting is that you actually think  
that is how it is done.

Perhaps the  
hardware  
you choose  
is shit,  
therefore  
the results  
you get  
are shit,  
shithead.

I just bought a dozen HP  
ML350 "server" boxes;  
ECC memory, redundant  
power supplies, redundant

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

BIOS, redundant fans,  
hot-plug RAID drives.  
The layout, packaging, and  
cabling are superb. How's  
that?

Overkill. You likely won't manage those  
worth a shit... either.

There's not a lot I can do about Windows (I have to run it for  
some of  
the apps I use) but it's certainly worth \$3K to have reliable  
hardware  
and drives. Every time a Dell dies, it costs me or one of my  
people a  
week or two to get everything back to where it was, and  
we're surely  
worth more than \$3K a week.

The cool thing about raid hot-plug is that I can occasionally  
plug in  
a blank drive, and my C: drive gets cloned, OS and all. I  
stash the  
clone in a baggie. If my machine dies for any reason, I grab a  
spare  
box from down the hall, plug in the copy of C:, and I'm back  
online in  
5 minutes.

And, once a year maybe, I plug a brand-new drive in one of  
the raid  
lots, so my drives never die from shear wear-out.

You're probably better off going quite a bit longer than that between  
replacements. Believe me, there are two ends of a bath tub. They  
gave me a new Dell (hmm, maybe there is a common thread here) on my  
first day. The disk drive died that afternoon and I lost a couple of  
days work (couldn't get it replaced right away). It could have been  
far worse though.

Actually, with RAID, I can just let one of the drives fail, and pop in  
a new one when it does. No panic.

John

Re: How to develop a random number generation device

Have you actually tested this? What happens if you don't have the same kind of drive available? I don't think it will work until you replace the drive.

Best regards,  
Spehro Pefhany

—

"it's the network..." "The Journey is the reward"

speff@xxxxxxxxxxxx Info for manufacturers: <http://www.trexon.com>

Embedded software/hardware/analog Info for designers: <http://www.speff.com>

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