IBM posts leadership 2-processor score for HX5 blade server on SPECvirt_sc2010 benchmark

BladeCenter HX5 with MAX5 memory delivers leadership performance for a 2-processor server running virtualization applications

May 18, 2011 ... IBM® today announces a SPECvirt_sc™2010 benchmark result for the IBM BladeCenter® HX5 blade server. The HX5 achieved an overall performance score of SPECvirt_sc2010 2,144 @ 132 VMs—a leadership score for a 2-processor server. (1) SPECvirt_sc2010 is the first-generation SPEC® benchmark for evaluating the virtualization performance of datacenter server consolidation.

The HX5's score easily beat—by more than 17%—the two recent scores published by HP on similarly configured systems:

- 17% better than the HP ProLiant BL620c G7's score of SPECvirt_sc2010 1,820 @ 114 VMs achieved with Red Hat Enterprise Linux® 6.1 and Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM) hypervisor.

- 18% better than the HP ProLiant BL620c G7's score of SPECvirt_sc2010 1,811 @ 114 VMs achieved with VMware® ESX 4.1 U1.

The HX5 achieved this score using the new Intel® Xeon® E7-2870 10-core processor (2.40GHz with 30MB L3 cache per processor—2 chips/20 cores/10 cores per chip), and Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server 6.0, and Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM) hypervisor. The HX5 used a total of 640GB of memory with 256GB in the server and 384GB in the IBM MAX5 memory expansion unit. (2)

The IBM BladeCenter HX5 leverages eX5, the fifth generation of IBM Enterprise X-Architecture®, and combines exceptional processing power, memory capacity, and I/O bandwidth in a blade form factor. The scalable HX5 blade server provides maximum utilization, performance, and reliability for compute- and memory-intensive workloads such as database, virtualization, business intelligence, modeling and simulation, and other enterprise applications. With memory capacity of up to 640GB in a double-wide 2-socket HX5 with MAX5, the HX5 is the premier blade platform for virtualization. Clients can consolidate their datacenter on HX5 to increase utilization, simplify systems management, and help reduce operating costs.

Results referenced are current as of May 18, 2011. This SPECvirt_sc2010 result has been accepted by SPEC and is posted at http://www.spec.org/virt_sc2010/results/. View all results for SPEC benchmarks at http://www.spec.org.

(1) Comparison based on best-performing, 2-processor systems published at www.spec.org as of May 18, 2011.
(2) The HX5 model as configured for this benchmark is planned to generally available May 27, 2011.