## rdtscp

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- 1. Reads the current value of the processor's time-stamp counter (a 64-bit MSR) into the EDX:EAX registers and also reads the value of the IA32\_TSC\_AUX MSR (address C0000103H) into the ECX register. The EDX register is loaded with the high-order 32 bits of the IA32\_TSC MSR; the EAX register is loaded with the low-order 32 bits of the IA32\_TSC MSR; and the ECX register is loaded with the low-order 32-bits of IA32\_TSC\_AUX MSR. On processors that support the Intel 64 architecture, the high-order 32 bits of each of RAX, RDX, and RCX are cleared.
- 2. IA32\_TSC\_AUX is initialized by kernel with "(node << VDSO\_CPUNODE\_BITS) | cpu"; arch/x86/kernel/cpu/common.c:1854: but kernel will not change this.
- 3. rdtscp in non-root: RDTSCP. Behavior of the RDTSCP instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control:
  - If the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control is 0, RDTSCP causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any other exception the instruction may incur.
  - If the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the settings of the "RDTSC exiting" and "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution controls: If both controls are 0, RDTSCP operates normally.
  - If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 0 and the "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution control is 1, the value returned is determined by the setting of the "use TSC scaling" VM-execution control: If the control is 0, RDTSCP loads EAX:EDX with the sum of the value of the IA32\_TIME\_STAMP\_COUNTER\_MSR and the value of the TSC offset.
  - If the control is 1, RDTSCP first computes the product of the value of the IA32\_TIME\_STAMP\_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC multiplier. It then shifts the value of the product right 48 bits and loads EAX:EDX with the sum of that shifted value and the value of the TSC offset.

In either case, RDTSCP also loads ECX with the value of bits 31:0 of the IA32 TSC AUX MSR.

- If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 1, RDTSCP causes a VM exit.
  - 4. kernel will not change IA32\_TSC\_AUX after boot up, and normal process won't modify it ether;
  - 5. guest has vCPU and has different IA32\_TSC\_AUX, and need to modify it according to vcpu topology;
- 6. in kernel code, rdtscp's IA32\_TSC\_AUX is ignored, so when guest exit to kernel code, IA32\_TSC\_AUX is not needed to be restored, but when return to user code(program may use rdtscp), it should be restored;
  - 7. before entering guest, the guest IA32 TSC AUX is loaded, before return to user code, host IA32 TSC AUX is loaded.