

Reduce to integer factorization. If  $n = \prod_i p_i^{q_i}$ , then the answer is  $\prod_i (q_i + 1)$ , which only depends on  $q_i$ . This shows after finding all prime factors of  $n$  that  $\leq n^{\frac{1}{3}}$ , we only need to determine whether the remaining number  $n'$  is a prime or the multiple of two primes, which can be done using primality test.

The running time for brute force is  $O(n^{\frac{1}{3}})$ , for [pollard-rho](#) is  $\tilde{O}(n^{\frac{1}{6}})$ , and for [elliptic-curve](#) is  $L_{n^{\frac{1}{3}}}[\frac{1}{2}, \sqrt{2}]$ . However, the current fastest algorithm [general number field sieve \(GNFS\)](#) is not improved, which has running time  $L_n[\frac{1}{3}, \sqrt[3]{\frac{64}{9}}]$ .

On the other hand, the following links indicate that this problem is probably not easier than integer factorization:

<https://crypto.stackexchange.com/questions/68158/is-it-possible-to-check-if-a-number-is-the-product-of-two-primes-without-factoring-it>

<https://mathoverflow.net/questions/3820/how-hard-is-it-to-compute-the-number-of-prime-factors-of-a-given-integer/10062#10062>

## References