CS:APP Performance Lab

Directions to Instructors

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This directory contains the files that you will need to run the $\operatorname{CS:APP}$

Performance Lab, which develops the students's understanding of the performance impact of caches and code optimizations such as blocking and loop unrolling.

1. Overview

In this lab, students work on a C file, called kernels.c, that contains some image processing kernels. The students are asked to use the concepts they have learned in class to make these kernels run as fast as possible.

Students evaluate the performance of their kernels by linking kernels.c into a driver program called driver.c. Students can register

different versions of their kernel functions with the driver. When the

driver runs, it will execute, measure, and report on the performance of each registered function. This is a very useful versioning feature that allows students try out different approaches and do side by side comparisons.

You should strongly encourage your students to take advantage of this versioning feature in the driver.

2. Files

Makefile Builds the entire lab

README This file

src/ Driver code that runs and measures solutions perflab-handout/ Handout directory that goes to the students

grade/ Autograder code

writeup/ Sample Latex lab writeup

3. Building the Lab

To build the lab, modify the Latex lab writeup in ./writeup/perflab.tex for your environment. Then type the following in the current directory:

unix> make clean unix> make

The Makefile generates the driver code, formats the lab writeup, and then copies the driver code to the perflab-handout directory. Finally, it builds a tarfile of the perflab-handout directory (in perflab-handout.tar) which you can distribute to students. The command:

unix> make dist DEST=<DIR>

will copy the tarfile and copies of the writeup to directory $\langle \text{DIR} \rangle$, where the students can access it.

4. Autograding the Lab **********

There is an autograding script that automatically grades the lab. See $\,$

 $./{\tt grade/README}$ for instructions.