



Multiprocessing enhances system performance by allowing multiple processors to handle tasks separately. It is critical for efficiently managing large and complex workloads.

The different types are:

- i) Symmetric Multiprocessing
- ii) Asymmetric Multiprocessing
- iii) Massively parallel Multiprocessing
- iv) Non-Uniform Memory access
- v) Clustered Multiprocessing

Let's understand this further below as follows.

Symmetric Multiprocessing:

Widely used architecture where two or more identical processors share memory and I/O devices.

Advantages:

All CPU's in SMP are connected via a shared memory bus with cache coherence protocols ensuring consistency across processors. Additional processors can be added to boost performance.

Challenges:

Resource utilisation is inefficient as slave processor may remain idle while waiting for the master, if master crashes the system stops functioning.

This used in embedded systems where like signal processing devices where specific tasks are assigned to dedicated processors.

e) Massively parallel processing

Used for large scale computations involving hundreds of thousands of processors of its own memory connected via high speed network.

Architecture:

Each processor has its own memory and runs its own operating system communicating through message passing, it is highly scalable.

Advantages:

Highly scalable and fault tolerant as each processor operates independently, ideal for large datasets and complex computations.

Applications & challenges:

Requires special parallel programming techniques and communication between processors can introduce \pm latency.

Application:

Widely used in high performance computing environment such as scientific simulations, weather forecasts etc.

f) Non-Uniform Memory Access



g) Non Uniform memory access

Memory is divided into regions and each region has faster access to its local memory compared to remote memory.

Architecture:

It is grouped into nodes and processors have quick access to their local node memory. Access to memory in other nodes is slower. Use Intel Quickpath Interconnect (QPI) to link processors and memory.

Advantages:

Improves performance by reducing memory contention and keeping data close to processors. More scalability is possible.

Challenges:

Requires careful memory management and applications must be NUMA-aware to optimize performance. Performance can vary depending on how memory is allocated and accessed.

Applications:

Used in enterprise servers, large scale databases and systems where memory access patterns can be optimized for performance.

4) Asymmetric Clustered Multiprocessing:

Involves connecting multiple independent systems into a single cluster. Each node operates independently but shares workload across the cluster with a very high speed network.

Architecture:

Each node has its own processor, memory and OS. Nodes communicate through high speed network with cluster management can be made using commodity hardware.

Advantages:

Provide redundancy ensuring that if one fails, others can take over the workload. They are scalable with additional nodes increasing system capacity.

Challenges:

Managing cluster is complex, requiring specialised software to handle failover distribution and fault tolerance. Network bottlenecks can limit performance.

Applications: Used in Data centres, scientific research.

Conclusion: Multiprocessing is common in modern computing. Each different configuration has its own set of advantages disadvantages and applications.

Understanding configurations help us understand balance of system performance, scalability, cost and many demands of diverse computing environments.