Analyzing Computer System Configurations Using Valgrind

Selma Karasoftić and Amina Brković January 12, 2025

Abstract

In this project, we analyze three distinct computer configurations designed for different use cases: gaming, word processing, and data processing. We used three different computers to evaluate performance, running a custom game we created, AbiWord for word processing, and GNU Octave for data processing. Using Valgrind for performance profiling, we measured the efficiency of each configuration under these specific workloads. Our analysis allowed us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each setup, and based on our research, we provide tailored recommendations for the optimal system setup for gaming, word processing, and data processing tasks.

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	System Configurations 2.1 Gaming Configuration	4
3	Use Case Scenarios 3.1 Gaming	11
4	Valgrind Profiling Results 4.1 Memcheck Results	
5	Analysis 5.1 Gaming Configuration	29
6	Recommendations	31
7	Conclusion	32

1 Introduction

This project investigates the performance of three distinct computer configurations, each performing specific tasks: gaming, word processing, and data processing. The primary goal is to show how well each configuration performs under realistic workloads and identify areas for optimization. To achieve this, we used Valgrind's profiling tools: Memcheck, to analyze memory usage and detect leaks or errors, and Cachegrind, for testing CPU and cache performance. These tools gave us insights into how efficiently the systems handled different applications.

The programs selected for evaluation represent real-world use cases. A lightweight terminal-based game was used to simulate gaming tasks, AbiWord served as the word processing application, and GNU Octave was employed for data-heavy computations. By running these programs on each configuration, we aimed to uncover strengths, weaknesses, and potential areas for improvement in memory and CPU performance.

Our research does not stop at providing performance insights; we have included logs and outputs for all the tests we did. These logs provide detailed evidence of the issues that were identified and the strengths observed, giving us a better analysis of the configurations. Some of our analysis was concluded on the full log (memcheck or cachegrind) which we will include in our submission. We did not include the screenshots of entire logs because some of them were too long, but the analysis was conducted considering the long log.

The findings and recommendations presented in this submission are intended to guide the optimization of these configurations, making them better suited for their intended tasks. By addressing identified inefficiencies and leveraging the strengths of each configuration, users can achieve higher performance, stability, and efficiency in their specific applications.

2 System Configurations

In this section, we provided detailed specifications of the three chosen computer configurations.

2.1 Gaming Configuration

• **CPU:** Intel Core i5-10300H 2.5 - 4.5 GHz

• Memory: 8GB DDR4 RAM

• Cache: 8MB L3 Cache

• Graphics Card: NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1650

2.2 Word Processing Configuration

• CPU: Intel Core i3-3217U 2 CPU cores running at 1.8- GHz

• Memory: 6GB DDR4 RAM

• Cache: 3MB L3 Cache

2.3 Data Processing Configuration

• CPU: AMD Ryzen 7 6800H with Radeon Graphics 3.2 GHz

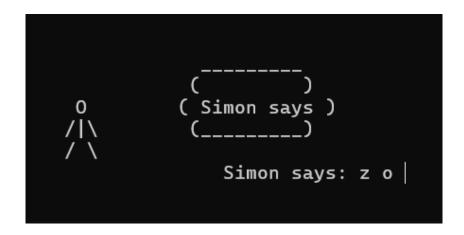
• Memory: 16 GB DDR5-4800 MHz RAM.

• Cache: 16MB L3 Cache

3 Use Case Scenarios

Each configuration was evaluated by running a representative program for its respective use case:

3.1 Gaming



We created the game - Simon Says: Memory Challenge, that is a lightweight terminal-based game designed to test memory and attention span. The use case scenario involves using the CPU for real-time input handling, sequence generation, and display, which makes it suitable for testing efficient CPU memory access and moderate computational tasks. Although lightweight, the game uses simple terminal-based graphics (e.g., drawing the character and cloud) to test how the CPU handles frequent screen updates and character rendering efficiently.

- The game heavily relies on **CPU** cycles for random sequence generation (rand()), input processing, and rendering in the terminal using escape sequences (gotoxy and clear_screen).
- Real-time processing (via kbhit() and getch()) ensures that the system is stressed, simulating CPU-intensive scenarios.

The code for the game:

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 #include <unistd.h>
5 #include <termios.h>
6 #include <time.h>
9 void reset_terminal_mode();
void set_terminal_mode();
int kbhit();
12 char getch();
void clear_screen();
void gotoxy(int x, int y);
void draw_guy_and_cloud(int score);
void generate_sequence(char *sequence, int length);
void display_sequence(const char *sequence, int length);
  int get_user_input(const char *sequence, int length);
  void game_over(int score);
19
20
  struct termios orig_termios;
21
  void reset_terminal_mode() {
23
      tcsetattr(STDIN_FILENO, TCSANOW, &orig_termios);
24
25
26
  void set_terminal_mode() {
27
      struct termios new_termios;
28
      tcgetattr(STDIN_FILENO, &orig_termios);
29
      atexit (reset_terminal_mode);
      new_termios = orig_termios;
31
```

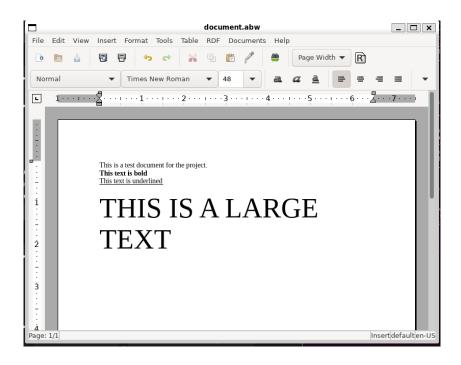
```
new_termios.c_lflag &= ~(ICANON | ECHO);
32
       tcsetattr(STDIN_FILENO, TCSANOW, &new_termios);
33
34
35
  int kbhit() {
36
       struct timeval tv = \{0L, 0L\};
37
       fd_set fds;
38
       FD_ZERO(&fds);
39
       FD_SET(STDIN_FILENO, &fds);
40
       return select(STDIN_FILENO + 1, &fds, NULL, NULL, &tv);
41
42
43
  char getch() {
44
45
       char c;
       if (read(STDIN\_FILENO, \&c, 1) == 1) {
46
           return c;
47
48
       return '\0';
49
50
51
  void clear_screen() {
       printf("\setminus 033[2J");
       fflush (stdout);
54
55
56
57
  void gotoxy(int x, int y) {
58
       printf("\033[\%d;\%dH", y + 1, x + 1);
59
       fflush (stdout);
60
61
62
63
  void draw_guy_and_cloud(int score) {
65
       gotoxy (10, 10);
66
       printf(" O ");
67
       gotoxy (10, 11);
       printf(" /|\\");
69
       gotoxy (10, 12);
70
       printf(" / \\ ");
71
73
       gotoxy(20, 8);
74
       printf("
75
       gotoxy(20, 9);
76
                             )");
       printf(" (
77
       gotoxy(20, 10);
78
       printf(" ( Simon says )");
79
       gotoxy (20, 11);
80
```

```
printf(" (_____)");
81
82
83
       gotoxy(0, 0);
84
       printf("Current Score: %d", score);
85
       fflush (stdout);
86
87
88
89
   void generate_sequence(char *sequence, int length) {
90
       const char commands[] = { 'x', 'o', 'y', 'z'};
91
       for (int i = 0; i < length; i++) {
92
            sequence[i] = commands[rand() \% 4];
93
94
95
96
97
   void display_sequence(const char *sequence, int length) {
98
       gotoxy (25, 13);
99
       printf("Simon says: ");
100
       fflush (stdout);
101
       usleep (500000);
       for (int i = 0; i < length; i++) {
104
            printf("%c ", sequence[i]);
105
            fflush (stdout);
106
            usleep (800000);
107
108
       usleep (500000);
109
       gotoxy (25, 13);
       printf("
                                        ");
111
       fflush (stdout);
112
113
114
115
   int get_user_input(const char *sequence, int length) {
116
       char input;
       gotoxy(25, 13);
118
       printf("Your turn (Press Enter to exit): ");
119
       fflush (stdout);
120
       for (int i = 0; i < length; i++) {
122
            input = getch();
124
125
            if (input = '\n') {
126
                return -1;
            }
128
```

```
printf("%c ", input);
130
            fflush (stdout);
131
132
            if (input != sequence[i]) {
                return 0;
136
       }
137
       return 1;
138
139
140
141
   void game_over(int score) {
142
       gotoxy(10, 15);
       printf("Game Over!");
144
       gotoxy (10, 16);
145
       printf("Final Score: %d", score);
146
       gotoxy (10, 17);
       printf("Press any key to exit...");
148
       fflush (stdout);
149
151
       getch();
152
153
154
   int main() {
155
       srand(time(0));
156
       set_terminal_mode();
157
158
       int score = 0;
       int sequence_length = 4;
160
       char sequence [8];
161
       while (1) {
163
            clear_screen();
164
            draw_guy_and_cloud(score);
165
167
            generate_sequence(sequence, sequence_length);
168
            display_sequence(sequence, sequence_length);
169
171
            int result = get_user_input(sequence, sequence_length);
173
174
            if (result = -1) {
175
                clear_screen();
176
                game_over(score);
177
                break;
```

```
}
179
180
181
            if (result == 0) {
182
                 clear_screen();
183
                 game_over(score);
                 break;
185
            }
186
187
188
            score += sequence_length;
189
            if (sequence\_length < 8) {
190
                 sequence\_length++;
191
            }
192
        }
193
194
        reset_terminal_mode();
195
        return 0;
196
197
198
199
```

3.2 Word Processing



For word processing, we ran **AbiWord**, a lightweight word processor, to simulate typical office work. The test focused on evaluating CPU efficiency and moderate memory usage during common word processing tasks such as text editing, formatting, and document navigation. We chose AbiWord because it has a smaller memory footprint and faster startup times compared to LibreOffice Writer. In this case, we did the following things:

- 1. **Opening and editing a document** to evaluate memory allocation and management during text operations.
- 2. Applying basic formatting (e.g., bold, underlined, and text size) to simulate typical office workloads.

This setup provided insights into how the CPU handled lightweight word processing tasks and how memory was utilized efficiently in real-time scenarios, ensuring a smooth and responsive experience for the user.

3.3 Data Processing

```
kselma@DESKTOP-5J9AHAP: × + ×

kselma@DESKTOP-5J9AHAP: * octave
GNU Octave, version 8.4.0
Copyright (C) 1993-2023 The Octave Project Developers.
This is free software; see the source code for copying conditions.
There is ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or
FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. For details, type 'warranty'.

Octave was configured for "x86_64-pc-linux-gnu".

Additional information about Octave is available at https://www.octave.org.

Please contribute if you find this software useful.
For more information, visit https://www.octave.org/get-involved.html

Read https://www.octave.org/bugs.html to learn how to submit bug reports.
For information about changes from previous versions, type 'news'.

warning: function /home/kselma/test.m shadows a core library function octave:1> exit
```

A GNU Octave script was used to perform matrix operations, simulating dataheavy computational tasks, and testing the CPU's ability to handle intensive workloads. The script leveraged Octave's efficient matrix manipulation capabilities to generate a random 100x100 matrix and perform various computations, including basic statistics, row and column operations, element-wise transformations, matrix normalization, variance and standard deviation calculations, and sorting. This approach utilized Octave's inherent matrix-centric design to efficiently process and analyze the data, providing a robust test of computational performance. The code that we used for this use case:

```
matrix = rand(100, 100);
3 disp ("Calculating basic statistics...");
4 mean_value = mean(matrix(:));
_{5} \text{ max\_value} = \max(\text{matrix}(:));
6 \text{ min\_value} = \min(\text{matrix}(:));
  disp(["Mean value: ", num2str(mean_value)]);
disp(["Max value: ", num2str(max_value)]);
disp(["Min value: ", num2str(min_value)]);
  disp ("Calculating row and column sums...");
12 \text{ row\_sums} = \text{sum}(\text{matrix}, 2);
column_sums = sum(matrix, 1);
14 disp("First 5 row sums:");
15 disp (row_sums (1:5));
disp("First 5 column sums:");
  disp(column_sums(1:5));
19 disp("Applying element-wise transformation...");
transformed_matrix = \log(\text{matrix} + 1);
21 disp("Displaying a portion of the transformed matrix:");
disp(transformed_matrix(1:5, 1:5));
```

```
disp("Normalizing the matrix...");
normalized_matrix = (matrix - min_value) / (max_value - min_value);
disp("Displaying a portion of the normalized matrix:");
disp(normalized_matrix(1:5, 1:5));

disp("Calculating variance and standard deviation...");
variance = var(matrix(:));
disp(["Variance: ", num2str(variance)]);
disp(["Standard deviation: ", num2str(std_dev)]);

disp("Sorting matrix values...");
sorted_values = sort(matrix(:));
disp("First 5 sorted values:");
disp(sorted_values(1:5));
disp("Last 5 sorted values:");
disp(sorted_values(end-4:end));
```

4 Valgrind Profiling Results

For this part, we used memcheck and cachegrind tools of Valgrind. We tested all use cases on every device and recorded every log that we got. Memcheck is a tool within Valgrind designed to identify memory-related issues in C and C++ applications. It shows errors such as leaks, incorrect memory accesses, usage of uninitialized memory, redundant frees, and memory corruption. Running Memcheck on our code enables us to spot issues like buffer overflows, errors with handling of the dynamic memory, and problems with variables. Cachegrind is a tool within Valgrind is used for testing activities related to the CPU. It simulates the behavior of L1, L2, and other cache levels, giving us insights into cache hits, misses, and their respective rates. Additionally, Cachegrind tracks success and failure rates. Cachegrind helps us to enhance performance and remove bottlenecks in software applications with substantial memory dependencies. Cachegrind covers all the logs that callgrind does too so the final summary is the same for both.

4.1 Memcheck Results

Gaming Configuration:

Result for Game program

```
==1640== Memcheck, a memory error detector
==1640== Copyright (C) 2002-2022, and GNU GPL'd, by Julian Seward et al.
==1640== Using Valgrind-3.22.0 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
==1640== Command: ./GameStart
==1640== ==1640== in use at exit: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==1640== total heap usage: 1 allocs, 1 frees, 1,024 bytes allocated
==1640== ==1640== All heap blocks were freed -- no leaks are possible
==1640== ==1640== For lists of detected and suppressed errors, rerun with: -s
==1640== ERROR SUMMARY: 0 errors from 0 contexts (suppressed: 0 from 0)
```

```
Calculating basic statistics...
Rean value: 8.49681
Rax value: 8.49681
Rax value: 9.9997
Hi value: 8.49681
Rax val
```

Word Processing Configuration:

Result for Game program

```
==1497== Memcheck, a memory error detector
==1497== Copyright (C) 2002-2022, and GNU GPL'd, by Julian Seward et al.
==1497== Using Valgrind-3.22.0 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
==1497== Command: ./GameStart
==1497==
==1497==
==1497== in use at exit: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==1497== total heap usage: 1 allocs, 1 frees, 1,024 bytes allocated
==1497==
==1497== All heap blocks were freed -- no leaks are possible
==1497==
==1497== For lists of detected and suppressed errors, rerun with: -s
==1497== ERROR SUMMARY: 0 errors from 0 contexts (suppressed: 0 from 0)
```

```
by %x62573AF: ??? (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x6270A50: ??? (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x628389: ??? (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x635A7C: g_type_class_ref (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgobject-2.0.so.0.8000.0)
by %x635A7C: g_type_class_ref (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgobject-2.0.so.0.8000.0)
by %x635A7C: g_type_class_ref (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgobject-2.0.so.0.8000.0)
by %x659A2E8: ??? (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x659A2E8: ??? (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x657A9C: rsvg_handle new (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.0.4200.10)
by %x69FD2C5: gdk_pixbuf_loader_close (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.0.4200.10)
by %x69FD2C5: gdk_pixbuf_loader_close (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgd_pixbuf-2.0.so.0.4200.10)
by %x69FD2C5: gdk_pixbuf_loader_close (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x65FD2C5: gdy_pixbuf_loader_close (in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/librsvg-2.so.2.50.0)
by %x65
```

Data Processing Configuration:

Result for Game program

```
==8068== Memcheck, a memory error detector
==8068== Copyright (C) 2002-2022, and GNU GPL'd, by Julian Seward et al.
==8068== Using Valgrind-3.22.0 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
==8068== Command: ./GameStart
==8068==
==8068== in use at exit: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==8068== total heap usage: 1 allocs, 1 frees, 1,024 bytes allocated
==8068==
==8068== All heap blocks were freed -- no leaks are possible
==8068== For lists of detected and suppressed errors, rerun with: -s
==8068== ERROR SUMMARY: 0 errors from 0 contexts (suppressed: 0 from 0)
```

```
Calculating row and column sums...
First 5 row sums:
46.343
50.347
56.945
45.943
49.601
First 8 column sums:
50.950
46.189 52.999 52.716 52.610
Applying lement—wise transformed matrix:
0.350-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0.450-950
0
```

4.2 Callgrind Results

Gaming Configuration:

Result for Game program

```
kselma@DESKTOP-5J9AHAP: ~ X
                                                                                       Mean value: 0.50211
Max value: 0.99994
Min value: 4.6073e-05
3.6733e-01
4.8403e-01
                                                                                                                                          4.4270e-01
                                                                                                                                         9.3928e-02
3.9379e-01
2.9101e-01
                                                                                                         4.8444e-01
                                                                                                         6.5567e-01
                                                                                                          4.6365e-01
7.9657e-03 4.5200e-01 1.0354e-01 4.636
Normalizing the matrix...
Displaying a portion of the normalized matrix:
3.7337e-01 8.1358e-01 7.9122e-01 4.436
4.3184e-01 8.4550e-01 1.5912e-01 6.226
1.6481e-01 2.7945e-01 6.8261e-01 6.236
2.4225e-01 9.2745e-01 5.6959e-01 9.266
7.9523e-03 5.7146e-01 1.0906e-01 5.898
Calculating variance and standard deviation...
Variance: 0.084331
Standard deviation: 0.2904
Sorting matrix values...
First 5 sorted values:
4.6073e-05
                                                                                                                                         5.5692e-01
9.8445e-02
                                                                                                        4.4388e-01
                                                                                                         6.2262e-01
                                                                                                        6.2328e-01
9.2649e-01
5.8989e-01
                                                                                                                                         4.8260e-01
3.3777e-01
5.3276e-01
        4.6073e-05
8.7590e-05
9.4152e-05
         2.9594e-04
3.3854e-04

Last 5 sorted values:

0.9995

0.9996

0.9997

0.9998

0.9999
         3.3854e-04
 octave:35> exit
321,743,078
1,915,845
34,112
0.60%
0.01%
 ==1927==
                                                            134,741,367 (91,764,371 rd
7,966,391 (7,544,903 rd
295,380 (137,051 rd
5.9% (8.2%
0.2% (0.1%
                                                                                                                                       + 42,976,996 wr)
+ 421,488 wr)
+ 158,329 wr)
+ 1.0% )
+ 0.4% )
 ==1927== D refs:
==1927== D1 misses:
==1927== D1 misses:
==1927== LLd miss rate:
==1927== LLd miss rate:
==1927== LLL miss late
==1927==
==1927== LL refs:
==1927== LL misses:
==1927== LL miss rate:
                                                                 9,882,236 ( 9,460,748 rd
329,492 ( 171,163 rd
0.1% ( 0.0%
                                                                                                                                                   421,488 wr)
158,329 wr)
0.4% )
```

Word Processing Configuration:

Result for Game program

```
( Simon says )
                                            Your turn (Press Enter to exit): m
                 Game Over!
                 Final Score: 0
                 Press any key to exit...==1336==
==1336== I refs:
==1336== I1 misses:
==1336== LLi misses:
==1336== I1 miss rate:
==1336== LLi miss rate:
                                          179,789
                                             1,379
                                              1,353
                                                0.77%
                                                0.75%
=1336==
==1330==
==1336== D refs:
==1336== D1 misses:
==1336== LLd misses:
==1336== D1 miss rate:
==1336== LLd miss rate:
                                            61,811 (43,206 rd
                                                                                  + 18,605 wr)
+ 395 wr)
+ 365 wr)
                                             1,700 (1,305 rd
1,431 (1,066 rd
2.8% (3.0%
2.3% (2.5%
                                                                                            2.1%
=1336==
==1336== LL refs:
==1336== LL misses:
                                              3,079 ( 2,684 rd
2,784 ( 2,419 rd
1.2% ( 1.1%
                                                                                            395 wr)
                                                                                            365 wr)
=1336== LL miss rate:
                                                                                            2.0%
```

```
-1978-- Corphight (2) 2002-2017, and GBU GPL'd, by Micholas Nethercote et al.
-1979-- Using Valgrind-3: 22.0 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
-1979-- Using Valgrind-3: 22.0 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
-1979-- Command: ablword
-1979-- warning: L3 cache found, using its data for the LL simulation.

** (abiword:1970): VARNING* **: 18:00:14.000: Running under buggy valgrind, see http://bugs.kde.org/show_bug.cgi?id=164298
-1979-- by see section Limitations in user manual)
-1970-- by see section Limitations in user manual)
-1970-- By see section Limitations in user manual)
-1970-- With the instances of this message will not be shown

(abiword:1970): Gtk-CRITICAL **: 18:00:14.700: gtk_render_background: assertion 'GTK_IS_STYLE_CONTEXT (context)' failed

(abiword:1970): Gtk-CRITICAL **: 18:00:14.700: gtk_render_frame: assertion 'GTK_IS_STYLE_CONTEXT (context)' failed

-1970-- I refs: 2,737,543,645
-1970-- II misses: 27,164,264
-1970-- LLI misses: 27,164,264
-1970-- LLI misses: 309,004
-1970-- LLI miss rate: 0.99%
-1970-- LLI miss rate: 0.99%
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,061,007,731 (723,804,160 rd + 337,203,571 wr)
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,181,006 (793,309 rd + 367,706 wr)
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,181,006 (57,026,481 rd + 4,132,865 wr)
-1970-- LLI miss rate: 0.1% (8.1% + 9.1% )
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,490,190 (1,102,484 rd + 387,706 wr)
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,490,190 (1,102,484 rd + 387,706 wr)
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,490,190 (1,102,484 rd + 387,706 wr)
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,490,190 (1,102,484 rd + 317,706 wr)
-1970-- LLI misses: 1,490,190 (0,000)
-1970-- LLI m
```

```
    kselma@DESKTOP-J834KO6: ~

         3.7386e-01 1.2811e-01
4.2495e-01 5.1316e-01
4.0895e-01 4.8689e-01
                                                                                              5.2084e-01
1.6525e-01
6.4753e-01
                                                                                                                                                                                     2.2314e-02
4.1040e-01
                                                                                                                                          8.8471e-02
1.2847e-01
4.0895e-01 4.8689e-01 6.4753e-01 1.2847e-01
Normalizing the matrix...
Displaying a portion of the normalized matrix:
6.3320e-01 1.8051e-01 9.7411e-01 7.9005e-01
5.0090e-01 5.6577e-01 8.6567e-01 6.1213e-01
4.5333e-01 1.3667e-01 6.8345e-01 3.9091e-02
5.2952e-01 6.7057e-01 1.7968e-01 9.2498e-02
5.0524e-01 6.2725e-01 9.1083e-01 1.3709e-01
Calculating variance and standard deviation...
Variance: 0.083232
Standard deviation: 0.2885
Sorting matrix values...
                                                                                                                                                                                     5.3668e-03
                                                                                                                                                                                   8.7862e-01
5.9174e-01
2.2559e-02
5.0742e-01
5.3750e-03
                                                                                                                                        6.1213e-01
3.9091e-02
9.2498e-02
1.3709e-01
    orting matrix values...
irst 5 sorted values:
         6.3838e-06
1.8794e-05
3.1392e-04
3.3493e-04
     3.9476e-04
ast 5 sorted values:
0.9999
         0.9999
1.0000
           1.0000
    1.0000
:=2224=
:=2224= I refs:
:=2224= I1 misses:
:=2224= LLi miss rate:
:=2224= LLi miss rate:
:=2224= ...
                                                                               300,569,435
                                                                                    00,569,435
1,893,552
38,248
0.63%
0.01%
    ==2224== D refs:
==2224== D1 misses:
==2224== LLd misses:
==2224== LLd miss rate:
==2224== LLd miss rate:
                                                                              124,159,153 (86,754,250 rd
7,762,966 (7,371,286 rd
363,405 (213,029 rd
6.3% (8.5%
0.3% (0.2%
                                                                                                                                                                                + 37,404,903 wr)
+ 391,680 wr)
+ 150,376 wr)
+ 1.0% )
+ 0.4% )
     =2224==
                                                                                     9,656,518 ( 9,264,838 rd
401,653 ( 251,277 rd
0.1% ( 0.1%
       2224== LL refs:
                                                                                                                                                                                                   391,680 wr)
      -2224== LL misses:
-2224== LL miss rate:
                                                                                                                                                                                                  150,376 wr)
0.4%
```

Data Processing Configuration:

Result for Game program

```
(Simon says )
                                               Your turn (Press Enter to exit): a
                   Game Over!
                   Final Score: 0
                   Press any key to exit...==8020==
                                             180,350
1,398
1,374
0.78%
0.76%
==8020== I refs:
==8020== I1 misses:
==8020== LLi misses:
==8020== I1 miss rate:
==8020== LLi miss rate:
==8020==
                                               61,930 (43,265 rd
1,698 (1,305 rd
1,432 (1,069 rd
2.7% (3.0%
2.3% (2.5%
==8020== D refs:
==8020== D1 misses:
==8020== LLd misses:
                                                                                       + 18,665 wr)
+ 393 wr)
                                                                                                363 wr)
2.1% )
1.9% )
==8020== D1 miss rate:
==8020== LLd miss rate:
==8020==
                                                 3,096
2,806
                                                             ( 2,703 rd
( 2,443 rd
                                                                                                393 wr)
363 wr)
==8020== LL refs:
==8020== LL misses:
```

```
Calculating basic statistics...
Mean value: 0.49923
Max value: 0.99974
Min value: 7.2994e-05
Calculating row and column sums...
First 5 row sums:
54.766
46.833
49.576
50.609
47.114
First 5 column sums:
 First 5 column sums:
48.046 44.568 50.729 54.654 49.658
48.046 44.568 50.729 54.654 49.658

Applying element-wise transformation...
Displaying a portion of the transformed matrix:
0.223835 0.679239 0.085718 0.625973 0.535806
0.453193 0.325878 0.603671 0.485383 0.192664
0.531135 0.493515 0.194088 0.687580 0.657268
0.356997 0.263472 0.085020 0.295122 0.673782
0.461142 0.426714 0.588200 0.405054 0.429013

Normalizing the matrix...
Displaying a portion of the normalized matrix:
0.250876 0.972632 0.0857246 0.870286 0.708992
0.573448 0.385304 0.829027 0.624936 0.212474
0.701025 0.638207 0.214203 0.989158 0.929754
0.429104 0.301470 0.088696 0.343333 0.961895
0.586010 0.532321 0.800942 0.499479 0.535849

Calculating variance and standard deviation...
Variance: 0.083073

Standard deviation: 0.28822

Sorting matrix values...
  Sorting matrix values...
First 5 sorted values:
               7.2994e-05
1.5941e-04
1.7015e-04
1.8002e-04
2.1275e-04
 2.1275e-04
Last 5 sorted values:
0.9993
0.9993
0.9995
                0.9997
 octave:35> exit
==8326==
 ==8326== I refs:
==8326== I1 misses:
==8326== LLi misses:
==8326== I1 miss rate:
==8326== LLi miss rate:
                                                                                                           322,079,962
1,916,834
51,913
0.60%
0.02%
   ==8326==
 ==8326== D refs:
==8326== D1 misses:
==8326== LLd misses:
==8326== D1 miss rate:
==8326== LLd miss rate:
                                                                                                           135,099,794 (91,982,104 rd
7,894,563 (7,462,938 rd
328,308 (157,597 rd
5.8% (8.1%
0.2% (0.2%
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 + 43,117,690 wr)
+ 431,625 wr)
+ 170,711 wr)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          1.0%
0.4%
   ==8326==
 ==8326== LL refs:
==8326== LL misses:
==8326== LL miss rate:
brki@DESKTOP-5REVLB6:~$ |
                                                                                                                    9,811,397 ( 9,379,772 rd
380,221 ( 209,510 rd
0.1% ( 0.1%
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        431,625 wr)
170,711 wr)
0.4% )
```

5 Analysis

5.1 Gaming Configuration

For Memcheck:

- Gaming program: The gaming configuration showed good memory management with no memory leaks or errors detected by Memcheck. All heap blocks were freed successfully, and the overall memory efficiency was high, ensuring optimal performance for the lightweight gaming application.
- Word Processing Program: The word processing program showed significant memory management issues, including invalid reads and writes, along with memory leaks. The heap summary showed a considerable number of bytes still in use at exit, showing potential areas for improvement in memory allocation and deallocation processes. The errors mainly originate from library functions, telling us that dependencies may need debugging or updates.
- Data Processing Program: The data processing program showed us efficient memory utilization, as evidenced by Memcheck's report of no critical errors. A minor amount of memory remained reachable at exit, but this does not indicate leaks. Overall, the program's performance and stability were strong, making it highly suitable for intensive computational tasks and data transformations.

For Cachegrind:

- Gaming Program: The gaming configuration showed high CPU efficiency with minimal instruction and data cache misses. The miss rates were under 1%, indicating effective use of CPU caches.
- Word Processing program: The word processing program revealed substantial CPU utilization with high instruction references and relatively low miss rates (less than 0.1%). However, the presence of GTK-related errors suggests potential inefficiencies in GUI rendering, which could affect overall responsiveness.
- Data Processing Configuration: The data processing configuration showed us the CPU and memory usage, with significant instruction and data references due to the computational intensity of matrix operations. Despite this, the cache miss rates were impressively low (below 1%), demonstrating efficient cache utilization. This configuration is well-suited for handling data-intensive workloads.

5.2 Word Processing Configuration

For Memcheck:

- Gaming Configuration: The gaming program demonstrated optimal memory usage, with no leaks detected by Memcheck. All heap blocks were freed successfully, indicating efficient memory management. This configuration is well-suited for lightweight tasks, ensuring stability and high performance.
- Word Processing Configuration: The word processing configuration revealed significant memory management issues, including uninitialized memory usage, invalid reads/writes, and multiple leaks. While functional, these issues indicate a need for better memory handling, especially when dealing with external libraries. Improvements could enhance stability and efficiency for this medium-demand task.
- Data Processing Configuration: The data processing configuration exhibited efficient memory usage, with no critical leaks or errors reported. However, a small amount of memory was still reachable at exit, which is not indicative of significant issues. This setup is robust and performs well under computationally intensive operations, making it suitable for data-heavy tasks.

For Cachegrind

- Game Program: The gaming program showed strong performance, with minimal cache miss rates. Instruction cache misses were under 1%, and data cache misses were slightly higher at 2.7%, indicating efficient cache utilization for this lightweight task. CPU utilization was stable, and the system demonstrated optimal efficiency for gaming.
- Word Processing Program: The word processing program exhibited high CPU utilization with a substantial number of instruction and data references. Instruction cache miss rates were below 1%, but GUI-related GTK errors indicated inefficiencies in rendering processes, which impacted overall responsiveness. Cache performance remained adequate for the task, though improvements in handling external dependencies could further optimize performance.
- Data Processing Program: The data processing program handled computationally intensive operations effectively, with low instruction cache miss rates (0.63%). However, the higher data cache miss rate (6.3%) reflected the demands of matrix computations. Despite this, CPU performance and memory usage were robust, making the configuration suitable for data-heavy

workloads. Minor optimizations in memory access patterns could enhance efficiency further.

5.3 Data Processing Configuration

For Memcheck

- Game program: The game program exhibited perfect memory efficiency, with no errors or memory leaks detected. All heap blocks were freed successfully, showcasing optimal memory management for this lightweight and straightforward task.
- Word Processing program: The word processing program showed significant memory usage, with multiple memory-related issues such as uninitialized value usage, invalid reads/writes, and memory leaks. Despite the program's functionality, these errors indicate the need for optimization, particularly in managing external library dependencies.
- Data Processing program: The data processing program demonstrated excellent memory efficiency, with no major errors or leaks reported. Minor reachable memory at exit was observed, but this does not impact performance. The setup is highly robust and well-suited for handling intensive computational tasks with high memory demands.

For Cachegrind

- Game program: The gaming program demonstrated efficient CPU utilization with minimal cache miss rates. Instruction cache misses were under 1%, and data cache misses were slightly higher at 2.7%, indicating effective but not perfect cache performance.
- Word Processing program: The word processing program showed high instruction and data references due to GUI rendering tasks, with instruction cache miss rates below 1%. However, GTK-related errors indicate inefficiencies within the rendering process.
- Data Processing program: The data processing program exhibited the highest workload, with significant instruction and data references. While instruction cache miss rates were low (0.63%), data cache miss rates were higher at 6.3%, reflecting the computational intensity of the operations.

6 Recommendations

Based on the profiling results, these are the recommendations that we would suggest for each computer:

The **gaming configuration**, equipped with an Intel Core i5-10300H CPU (2.5-4.5 GHz), 8GB DDR4 RAM, and an 8MB L3 cache, performed exceptionally well for lightweight gaming tasks. Its high clock speed and efficient cache utilization ensured smooth gameplay, while the dedicated NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1650 provided robust graphical performance. However, the 8GB RAM may become a limiting factor for more demanding games. Upgrading to 16GB or 32GB RAM and further optimizing cache utilization could enhance the system's ability to handle resource-intensive gaming applications.

The word processing configuration, featuring an Intel Core i3-3217U CPU (1.8 GHz, dual-core), 6GB DDR4 RAM, and a 3MB L3 cache, faced performance challenges due to its limited CPU power and small cache size. While the cache miss rates were low, memory management issues, including invalid reads/writes and memory leaks, significantly impacted performance. GTK-related rendering inefficiencies further slowed responsiveness. Upgrading to a faster quad-core CPU with a larger cache and increasing the RAM to 8GB or more would address these bottlenecks and improve performance for multitasking and GUI-intensive applications.

The data processing configuration, powered by an AMD Ryzen 7 6800H CPU (3.2 GHz), 16GB DDR5-4800 MHz RAM, and a 16MB L3 cache, excelled under heavy workloads. It handled computationally intensive tasks efficiently, with low instruction cache miss rates below 1%, showcasing excellent memory bandwidth and cache performance. However, a higher data cache miss rate (6.3%) suggests room for improvement. Optimizing memory access patterns and algorithms could reduce bottlenecks, further enhancing processing speed and efficiency for data-heavy applications.

Overall, the configurations were well-optimized for lightweight gaming and computationally intensive tasks, but addressing inefficiencies in memory management, increasing RAM speed, and improving cache utilization would enable it to handle a broader range of applications with greater efficiency and stability.

7 Conclusion

Through our analysis, we observed varying levels of efficiency across the three configurations. As second-year students approaching this theme for the first time, conducting this research significantly deepened our understanding of system performance and optimization. The gaming configuration demonstrated excellent memory management and CPU utilization, making it highly effective for lightweight gaming tasks. However, we realized that increasing the memory to 16GB or 32GB and optimizing cache utilization could further enhance its ability to handle more demanding applications.

The word processing configuration, while functional, presented several challenges. We identified inefficiencies in memory management, such as invalid reads, writes, and memory leaks. Additionally, GUI-related inefficiencies in rendering highlighted the need for better handling of library dependencies and improved memory optimization. We learned that upgrading to a faster CPU and increasing memory could resolve these issues and significantly improve its performance.

The data processing configuration impressed us with its ability to handle computationally intensive tasks effectively. It showcased excellent memory efficiency and low instruction cache miss rates. However, the higher data cache miss rates taught us about the importance of memory access patterns and algorithms. We concluded that upgrading to faster RAM and refining memory operations would enhance its performance for large-scale data processing tasks.

Overall, this project helped us gain valuable insights into the importance of tailoring system configurations to specific use cases. By addressing identified bottlenecks, configurations can achieve greater performance, stability, and efficiency. This hands-on research not only improved our technical understanding but also demonstrated the critical impact of optimization in real-world applications.