Subject: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by Deej [1] on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 07:27:35 GMT
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I'm just having such a gret time in *nativeville* these days. So much to learn. I've been getting crackling inmy audio when streaming tracks from Cubase to Paris when using large numbers of UAD-1 plugins. Well, come to find out, there's more fun to be had in tweakville.....

Here's some info on PCI latency.

http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/Oct04/articles/pcnotes.htm

http://www.uaudio.com/webzine/2005/june/index5.html

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http://downloads.guru3d.com/download.php?det=951

From what I can determine from reading a few threads about this, PCI latency is the amount of "wait" time PCI is allocated to communicate with any given peripheral. A high PCI Latency setting takes more PCI bus time than another device with a lower setting. Normally, the PCI Latency Timer is set to 32 cycles. This means the active PCI device has to complete its transactions within 32 clock cycles or hand it over to the next PCI device. As you can see, a device, like a video card  which has a setting of 248 essentially "hogs" the PCI Bus.

PCI latency timers are a mechanism for PCI bus-mastering devices to share the PCI bus fairly.  A device such as the RME 9652 gains bus ownership and the clock counts down based on the latency setting.  In our case the RME 9652 specifies a clock count of 255 (unlike most devices which accept the default count set equally for other devices on the the PCI bus).  You might want to check the default PCI latency for the MADI.

In most cases the healthy level for setting this is around 32-64, but can sometimes be higher for various sound cards or video cards reaching to the upward amounts of 128.

The 255 requested by RME HDSP cards seems to be wayyyyyy on the high side. (which is in fact the maximum value available).  I understand that setting this value too low can can interrupt transfers unnecessarily and hurt the 9652's performance, but setting the value too high can cause other devices to wait longer than they should have too, therefore overflowing their buffers.  this can be really problematic with some network cards (and I'm using a Marvel onboard LAN so I'll have to check this further.

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;o)

---

Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by rick on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 10:04:53 GMT
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well that sure would explain the random digi noise i was getting in logic but now that it's crashing if you breathe around it i'll deal with that issue later.

On Fri, 3 Feb 2006 00:27:35 -0700, "DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by Deej [1] on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 16:24:59 GMT
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One possible solution to this would be Systemlink, I think. Use the acards
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"gene lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote in message news:43e37f0c$1@linux...
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> Many people with multiple UAD-1 cards in Magma systems have reported similar
> issues. Magma is planning to release a PCI Express converter card that will
> allow your system to run from a PCI-E slot in the near future. This, combined
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> g
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Posted by gene lennon on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 17:04:28 GMT
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Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by gene lennon on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 18:39:26 GMT
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Otherwise it sounds like a workable solution. Very DJ-ish.
g

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Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by Deej [1] on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 20:41:18 GMT
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This shouldn't take over a couple of weeks to set up and stabilize and would

involve mixing on three x DAWs plus another comp running as a standalone FX processor instead of just two DAWs plus another one running as a standalone FX processor.

Hell man .....piece of cake.

;o)

(actually, I'm not sure, but I think that I may not be quite crazy enough to want to deal with this much crap)

"gene lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote in message news:43e3954e$1@linux...
>
> "All I need is a case, PSU,
> a sound card and Vstack"
>
> If you are referring to Steinberg's V-Stack, you will need a different solution.
>
> V-Stack has no "Audio in".
> Otherwise it sounds like a workable solution. Very DJ-ish.
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Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by Deej [1] on Sat, 04 Feb 2006 00:11:43 GMT
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"gene lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote in message news:43e3f190$1@linux...
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> Install UAD-1 cards on second computer.
> Use any app like Cubase to host the plugins.
> Send audio back and forth with ADAT optical.
> Link Soundcards with ADAT Clock.
> Done.
> No MIDI, No ADAT Sync, No systemlink, etc.
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Posted by Deej [1] on Sat, 04 Feb 2006 00:18:11 GMT
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.....and....since this crackling, which is the whole reason behind
speculating on this insanity, is likely being caused by all 4 UAD-1 cards
and all 3 x RMWE cards being shuttled through one host card on a Magma, I'm
going to pull at least one, and maybe two of the UAD-1 cards out of the
Magma and try to use them in normal PCI slots on the mobo. there are 3 x
slots on this board that don't automatically share with the AGP. My old
Cubase DAW never had this problem. I was running 3 x UAD-1 cards in the mobo
PCI slots and the three RME cards plus one UAD-1 card in the Magma.

I know this makes more sense than any of the other stuff, but it's wayyyy

too simple.

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>of my HDSP cards and a couple of the UAD-1 cards, install them on my second
>computer, install Cubase SE (or any other PC compatible audio app which
has
>PDC) on the second computer, use my network to transfer some tracks (like
>the drum submix and bass instruments) to one computer and the rest of the
>audio to the other computer, run ADAT sync cables from ADAT cards in my
MECs
>to the audio cards in the two different comps, then apply the UAD-1 FX to
>the tracks on both computers which are controlled by ADAT sync from the
>Paris transport. this would be superior to systemlink, most likely. the
>downside to this is that during a lot of my mix process, I am just playing
>back using the Cubase SX transport, streaming the audio via lightpipe
>feeding Paris with the monitor bus in Paris feeding my DAC-1 . reference
>system. I only use the Paris transport to slave the Cubase DAW during the
>last phase of the mix when I'm automating tracks and panning in Paris and
>then subsequently boundcing down using the Paris mix bus. In order to have
>both computers running in sync *without* being controlled by Paris ADAT
>sync, (which is most of the time I'm mixing) I would need to use a
>Systemlink compatible Steiny product aand have a spdif connection between
>the two Steiny machines. I guess, after I finish tracking in Paris, sending
>and the tracks from Paris via LAN to WL5 on the Cubase DAW for batch
>conversion to .wav, I could then further transfer them from the primary
>Cubase DAW to the secondary Cubase DAW via LAN, then get a couple of my
>UAD-1 cards authorized for the second DAW.
>
>This shouldn't take over a couple of weeks to set up and stabilize and would
>involve mixing on three x DAWs plus another comp running as a standalone
FX
>processor instead of just two DAWs plus another one running as a standalone
>FX processor.
>
>Hell man .....piece of cake.

>
>;o)
>
>(actually, I'm not sure, but I think that I may not be quite crazy enough
to
>want to deal with this much crap)
>

---

Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by gene lennon on Sat, 04 Feb 2006 03:12:23 GMT
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should have a MADI card, feeding the RME MADI Bridge, feeding multiple ADAT
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"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
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---

Subject: Throw away your can opener!
Posted by Bill Lorentzen on Sat, 04 Feb 2006 03:45:52 GMT
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When I read about what you are doing I am so happy about my simple setup
with 2 computers, a digital mixer and some outboard pres. The mixer provides
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the second machine, while tracking them to the primary machine, to avoid
latency problems. My standard is what I've learned over the years as a
studio owner and engineer: it has to work properly all the time or it is not
professional.

Give yourself a break, man.

"gene lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote in message
news:43e40d87$1@linux...
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> Sounds like your main computer (henceforth referred to as "The Mother
> Ship");
> should have a MADI card, feeding the RME MADI Bridge, feeding multiple
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Subject: Re: Throw away your can opener!
Posted by Deej [1] on Sat, 04 Feb 2006 04:50:52 GMT
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My standard is what I've learned over the years as a
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>
> Give yourself a break, man.
>
Hi Bill,

Well.....actually like I said, it's working fine. It's just not doing some things that I expected. I'm able to access 15 UAD-1 plugins at 40% of the available resources Any more than that and there is a problem. It may be as simple as moving a UAD-1 card or *removing* a UAD-1 card. Other than that, it's rock solid and I have a methodology that is working for me. Also, 15 UAD-1 plugins is a lot. I'm not really complaining about the number, just the fact that theoretically, I should be able to use 95% of my UAD resources. In practice, I seldom use 15 UAD plugins in a mix, though those Pultecs sure come in handy. I probably use the Pultec more than anything else. Anyway, my earlier rant was speculative, just because I think it's fun to push this as far as possble, but actually our systems aren't that different. My digital mixer is Paris. The cue system is a Furman HDS 16 system with remote HRM 16 mixers. This is a very cool and flexible setup. I track to Paris.I transfer to SX mix back to Paris. It's routed digitally in a number of ways. I'm used to doing it so it doesn't present any particular

diffuiculties to me. You have a digital mixer and two computers. I have I
have three computers and sync'ed to a house clock one of which functions as
an outboard digital mixer.. No problems there. I've been experimenting with
clock cable runs and have discovered a few limitations there as well, but
it's all good really.....just never *perfected*.

;o)
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"Bill Lorentzen" <bill@lorentzen.ws> wrote in message
news:43e4248c$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: Throw away your can opener!
Posted by Bill Lorentzen on Sat, 04 Feb 2006 15:30:09 GMT
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DJ,

I did not mean to sound condescending or like I was putting your system down. I just had the impression you were having trouble with it. Anyway, it's your game and you should play any way you want. I just like to share my successful actions with others in case they can use the tips. Have fun!

BTW I am really interested in your possible mic shoot-out of the Gemini and the 47. I am thinking about getting a Gemini (when I have some time to really check it out).

Bill

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Subject: Re: PCI latency.....a whole 'nuther can of worms
Posted by LaMont on Sun, 05 Feb 2006 07:21:43 GMT
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yes sir.  Madi will do simplify things alot.

"gene lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote:
>

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---

Subject: Re: Throw away your can opener!
Posted by Deej [1] on Mon, 06 Feb 2006 02:38:06 GMT
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Hi Bill,

Your system sounds very nice indeed and I've often thought of moving to a dedicated digital mixer myself. As long as this old dog continues to hunt, I'll leep feeding it.

;o)

"Bill Lorentzen" <bill@lorentzen.ws> wrote in message news:43e4c9c9$1@linux...
> DJ,
>
> I did not mean to sound condescending or like I was putting your system
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