Subject: Re: KILLER network card
Posted by cmatt42 on Fri, 04 May 2007 00:57:54 GMT
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The Killer K1 is the "light" version of the Killer NIC, so it can't be the "best" when it has a better bigger brother.

Anyway, the whole concept of the Killer NIC is pretty ingenius; it has the previously mentioned NPU for offloading the network processes that would otherwise be processed by the CPU. This then frees up the CPU to process other things faster, thus giving a performance boost in both processing ability in games, and using the card to reduce latency between it and the outside world. That's due to the network processes bypassing the CPU and being directly sent to the Killer NIC.

On the card itself is its own distribution of Linux. This opens up many possibilities to enhance gaming applications and the communication with other pieces of hardware to increase performance or give an interesting twist in how your games work. With the API Bigfoot gives, users can write their own software to work with their card and customize it. Or, general users can find some of the named "FNApps" made by Bigfoot or other users from the Internet to apply to their Killer NIC.

However, the actual execution seems to have been a big miss with users. Like icedog90, I've read reviews on sites such as Newegg, and the support isn't great. Some users can't get their card to work, and their cries for help generally go unanswered. Coupled with the slightly expensive price tag, this card, I think, isn't an ideal investment currently. I'm sure given time, it will probably come down in price and the support will become much, much better.