Message Passing Support in the Avalanche Widget

Mark R. Swanson
Ravindra Kuramkote
Leigh B. Stoller
Terry Tateyama
E-mail: {swanson,kuramkot,stoller,tateyam}@cs.utah.edu
WWW: http://www.cs.utah.edu/projects/avalanche

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Department of Computer Science
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112, USA
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Abstract

Minimizing communication latency in message passing multiprocessing systems is critical. An emerging problem in these systems is the latency contribution costs caused by the need to percolate the message through the memory hierarchy (at both sending and receiving nodes) and the additional cost of managing consistency within the hierarchy. This paper, considers three important aspects of these costs: cache coherence, message copying, and cache miss rates. The paper then shows via a simulation study how a design called the Widget can be used with existing commercial workstation technology to significantly reduce these costs to support efficient message passing in the Avalanche multiprocessing system.

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