NetWare as a KVM Guest

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We adapt. You succeed.

Why?

- Improve qemu-kvm's completeness

- another option to support legacy Novell NetWare customers

- I still enjoy working with NetWare

Background

- NetWare is an older OS. Final release v6.5 SP8 was in 2008.

- Launched from a DOS environment, or own boot loader (added in final 2 support packs).

- NetWare was virtualized to be a Xen PV guest

- KVM support would be nice!

Issues Found

- IDE driver - PIO vs DMA

- Other storage interfaces (ahci, megaraid, lsi hba) all had issues – not yet resolved

- Created virtio-blk driver – works ok with a seabios fix

- Networking: e1000 works fine, realtek and others have issues

- SMP implementation uses tight timing constraints for cpu startup/shutdown and NMI IPIs which cause problems

- vga: std 800x600x256 has issues. Other resolutions are fine. cirrus doesn't work right, oh well.

Conclusion

- Almost usable – std vga fix is a must

- Fixes for non-working storage and network interfaces hopefully will come

- Look at how to address SMP problems

- Hopefully this will help make qemu-kvm better