

Power consumption on Soekris and other systems

I just had so much fun!

I had the fortune of getting water in my server room :-(- not really that great, but the water heater broke and let water on the floor of the room where I keep my home servers ... but I did a lot of cleaning up ;-)

While cleaning up the cables and since all servers where unplugged I could start taking some measurements using my Sparometer digital power meter, search google or go to <http://www.dongenergy.dk> to read more about that device. I got the one with serial port connectivity, but haven't used it that way yet.

Since I took a lot of measurements with things around the house I thought I would share it - but remember this is NOT a scientific test and you might get other results. Everything was measured with normal Danish 230Volt outlet.

Network equipment

I took some measurements:

Notes:

- Nothing was connected to Ethernet switches
- Nothing was connected to Ethernet switches nor USB in Airport Extreme
- Airport Express was in running state green and being used when measured
- The blue GC-1416 is newer than the old brown one
- The power adapter for the external disk used 3.5w alone, before the disk was turned on!
- The power adapter for the Apple Airport Extreme used 0.1w alone, before connecting and turning on device
- I would imagine that the extra power used on the Airports are from configuring the wireless network card and starting to transmit?

Computers and servers, including Soekris

I took some measurements:

Notes:

Default Publication

- Soekris net4501 did not have CF-card and no HD
- Bursts in Soekris and others are the HD spinning up
- Soekris net4801 and net5501 have exactly the same type of disk from same batch
- Soekris net4801 has crypto accelerator, but I don't think that matters much

Household appliances

I took some measurements:

Notes:

- I know the monitor is not really a household appliance, but its not a server ;-)

Conclusion

It seems obvious that a Soekris makes for a nice server/router at home and can even pay itself back pretty soon compared to an "old PC". I really should also consider moving my mailserver from Sunny onto a Soekris 5501.

I was happy that some of the equipment like PS2 and Activy 300 weren't burning as much as I would have thought.

Also buying an Apple Airport Extreme and plugging a few things directly into that might save another 10w from not running a switch. It is intended as being your router and has 3 LAN Ethernet ports and 1 WAN port for the internet - but I use a soekris as my firewall with OpenBSD :-)