

# USRP Host Performance Tuning Tips and Tricks

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## AN-088

Date	Author	Details
2019-06-19	Nate Temple	Initial creation

This application note provides various tips and tricks for tuning your host computer for best performance when working with USRP devices.

Ensure your CPU governor is set to `performance`. This can be done with the Linux utility `cpufrequtils`.

Install `cpufrequtils` with the command below:

```
sudo apt install cpufrequtils
```

You can then set the CPU governor to `performance` per core by issuing the command:

```
sudo cpufreq-set -c $core_number -g performance
```

To set the CPU governor to `performance` for all cores:

```
for ((i=0;i<$(nproc);i++)); do sudo cpufreq-set -c $i -r -g performance; done
```

You can then verify that the CPU governor has been set by running the command:

```
cpufreq-info
```

When UHD spawns a new thread, it may try to boost the thread's scheduling priority. If setting the new priority fails, the UHD software prints a warning to the console, as shown below. This warning is harmless; it simply means that the thread will retain a normal or default scheduling priority.

```
UHD Warning:
Unable to set the thread priority. Performance may be negatively affected.
Please see the general application notes in the manual for instructions.
EnvironmentError: OSError: error in pthread_setschedparam
```

To address this issue, non-privileged (non-root) users need to be given special permission to change the scheduling priority. This can be enabled by creating a group `usrp`, adding your user to it, and then appending the line `@usrp - rtprio 99` to the file `/etc/security/limits.conf`.

```
sudo groupadd usrp
sudo usermod -aG usrp $USER
```

Then add the line below to end of the file `/etc/security/limits.conf`:

```
@usrp - rtprio 99
```

You must log out and log back into the account for the settings to take effect. In most Linux distributions, a list of groups and group members can be found in the `/etc/group` file.

There is further documentation about this in the User Manual at the link below.

- [Threading Notes section of the User Manual](#)

This applies to Ethernet connected USRPs (N2xx, N3xx, X3xx, E320).

```
sudo sysctl -w net.core.rmem_max=625000000
sudo sysctl -w net.core.wmem_max=625000000
```

```
sudo sysctl -w net.core.wmem_max=576000
sudo sysctl -w net.core.rmem_max=33554432
```

This applies to Ethernet connected USRPs (N2xx, N3xx, X3xx, E320).

For 1 Gigabit connections, the MTU should be set to `1500`.

For 10 Gigabit connections, the MTU should be set to `8000`.

It is important to set the value and not leave it is `automatic`

This applies to Ethernet connected USRPs using a 10 Gb interface (X3xx, N3xx, E320).

Increasing the Ring Buffers on the NIC may help prevent flow control errors at higher rates.

```
sudo ethtool -G <interface> tx 4096 rx 4096
```

DPDK is supported on N3xx, X3xx and E320 USRPs. DPDK replaces the traditional Linux networking stack with a low overhead user-land based driver. Additional details of using DPDK can be found in the UHD Manual located at the following link: [https://files.ettus.com/manual/page\\_dpdk.html](https://files.ettus.com/manual/page_dpdk.html)

In some applications which require the highest possible CPU performance per core, disabling hyper-threading can provide roughly a 10% increase in core performance, at the cost of having less core threads. Hyper-threading can be disabled within the BIOS and varies by manufacturer.