NetWare as a KVM Guest

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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, Isi 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