

Compute Summit January 16-17, 2013 Santa Clara



Open Software

Building Interoperability across low power SoCs

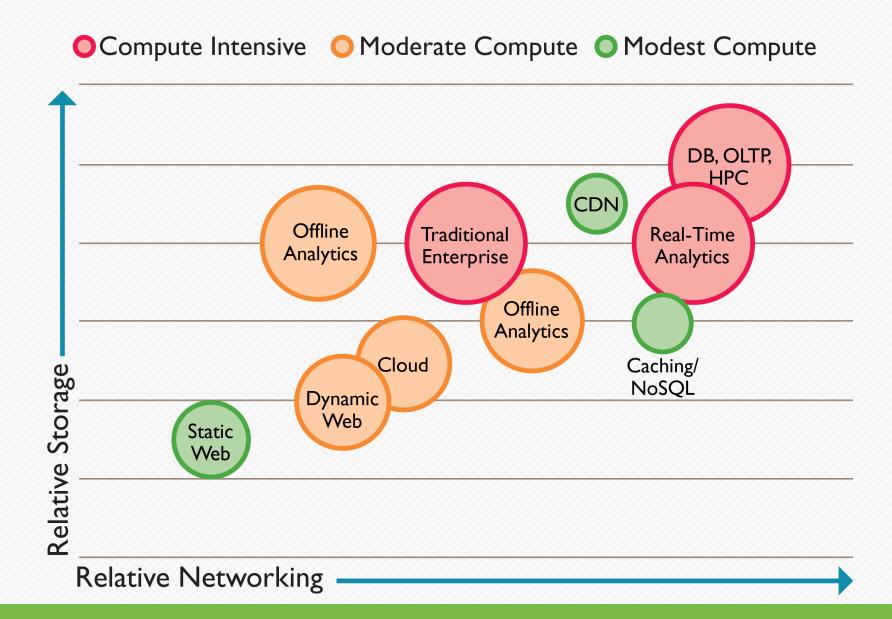
George Grey Linaro CEO





Requirement for Innovation

- Little change in server architectures in 2+ decades
- But workloads are now rapidly evolving





Source: ARM 2012

New Problems need new Solutions Prodigious increases in data year on year

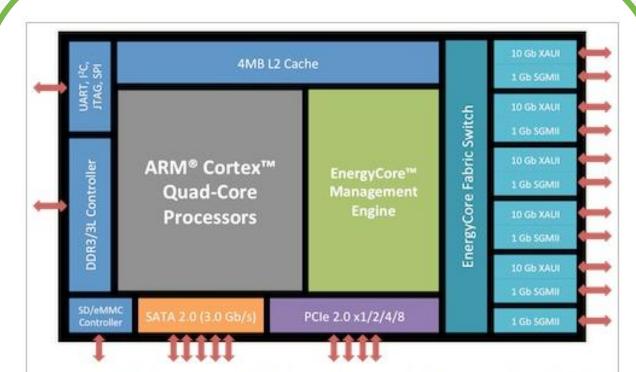
- Billions of embedded and mobile devices
 - ARM partners shipped 7.9 Billion chips in 2011
- Mobile data explosion
- The Cloud requires massive data centers
 - Power consumption is now not just a mobile focus
 - -3 million data centers, 2.2% of US power consumption
 - Technical, cost & environment considerations in the data center



Sources: ARM, Fortune

The Rise of the SoCs SoCs become "Server on Chips"

- The Move to the SoC
 - Multiple GHz cores
 - Caches with multi-core coherency
 - On Board SoC interconnects
 - On-chip I/O and Storage Interfaces
 - Smaller footprint, lower power, lower cost, high reliability



ECX-1000 SoC: An embedded EnergyCore Fabric Switch inside every chip provides high bandwidth, low-latency networking across thousands of server nodes. The EnergyCore Management Engine provides real-time power and fabric routing optimizations within each SoC.





ARM Develops IP; Licenses vendors to build ARM SoCs

- Multiple Cortex-A series licensees
 - 32 and 64 bit multi-core designs
- Model drives innovation from large companies and startups
- Value creation through differentiation
- ARM's DNA is in low power design



The Challenge

"Interoperability is critical"

- Innovation brings change & differentiation
- Proliferation of SoCs is a threat to interoperability
- The lesson learned:
 - "Gaah. Guys, this whole ARM thing is a f*cking pain in the ass."
 - Linus Torvalds, March 11th, 2011



Interoperability

Multiple SoC vendors working together

- Linaro was founded in 2009 by a group of ARM SoC vendors to work on consolidating and optimizing open source software for the ARM architecture
- "Over the last year, ARM has gone from a constant headache every merge window to an outstanding citizen in the Linux community"

Linus Torvalds, August 29th, 2012





Business Model Open Source Software is not "free"

- Engineering experts from a range of competitive companies develop and maintain Linux for a wide range of platforms and CPU/SoCs
- Linaro exists to work with the ARM SoC vendors and software ecosystem to reduce duplication, fragmentation and costs
 - Shared software engineering for common Linux software for ARM
 - Kernel, toolchain, middleware, testing & validation
 - Embedded, Mobile, Server and Network Equipment segments
 - Works in the open, delivers upstream and in monthly developer releases
- Delivers high ROI through shared engineering costs

Real World Example

Company A

Memory management Scheme 1

Company B

Memory management Scheme 2

Company N

Memory management Scheme N



Upstream Blockage = Cost

Company A

Company B

Company N

Shared engineering:
Develop single memory
management scheme

UMM (dmabuf, CMA)



Directly upstream to kernel.org







Benefits

- Lower software development cost
- Frees up key engineering resources for differentiation and real value add
- Creates interoperability
- Increases quality
- Reduces maintenance
- Speeds time to market



Commoditization

- Isn't this commoditization?
 - Yes it is, for the common critical core software
 - And everyone has to have it
 - In Linux, one version is much better than many
- The ARM architecture enables differentation to be successful hardware and software innovation must occur OUTSIDE the common core feature set:
 - High speed specialized interfaces for networking, storage and I/O
 - Switching & Cache fabrics extending to hundreds or thousands of cores
 - Rapid integration of new technologies such as GPGPU
 - Low power and/or low cost focused solutions
- This is where value is added, and is key to ROI across the ecosystem



Trends

- Today's differentiation is tomorrow's commoditization
- This especially applies to advances that need to be widely adopted to be successful
 - Either by patents & fair and reasonable licensing
 - Or by open sourcing hardware and software



ARM in Servers

- 32 bit SoCs are shipping today
 - Calxeda, Marvell, Samsung
- Software ecosystem is building
 - Ubuntu 12.04 LTS, LAMP stack,
 Java, RoR, Python, Juju, OpenStack
- HP Redstone and Dell Copper announced
- ARMv8 64 bit architecture introduced
 - Announcements include AMD, Applied Micro
- Linaro forms ARM server ecosystem Group











Ubuntu 12.04 LTS for ARM

Ubuntu Server and Ubuntu Desktop for ARM are a general purpose OS for ARM-based systems only. It supports, Marvell Armada-XP, TI Panda and BeagleXM development boards.



Linaro & Open Compute

Linaro Enterprise Group announced in November 2012

- Focused on accelerating the ARM server software ecosystem
- Shared investment in open software engineering team







Key Initial LEG Projects

- Common UEFI & ACPI development for ARM
- Virtualization including KVM
- ARM single kernel zlmage
- ARM architecture optimization for key server workloads
 - LAMP
 - Hadoop
 - HipHop
 - OpenStack
- AArch64 ARM 64 bit architecture software development
- Test & Validation using OE, Ubuntu and Fedora/Red Hat



Open Software for Open Hardware

- Linaro shared work is engineered in the open
- Linaro Connect
 - For engineers
 - USA, Europe, Asia
 - Attendance is free for members, nominal charge for non-members
- Linaro's members drive the technical agenda and participate in the engineering effort



Delivering Interoperable Low Power Servers

Value Chain

- End users & Service Providers
- Enterprise Software Providers
- Commercial Distributions
- OEMs
- SoC vendors

Key Enablers



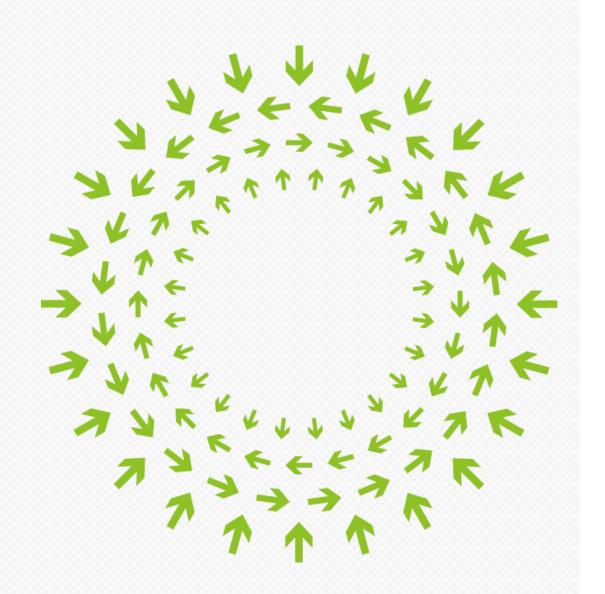




Find out more about Linaro

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