



Challenges Revisited in Supporting Virt CPU Hotplug on architectures that don't Support CPU Hotplug (like ARM64)

OR: Supporting hotplug on architectures that don't.

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What is it good for?

+ Cloud orchestration:

- Pre-deploy a VM, then scale it by adding CPUs when the workload is deployed.

History: what are we talking about?

- + ‘Hotplug’ in the arm world typically means CPU online/offline.
- + Physical CPU hotplug involves moving the CPU package between machines.
 - Making CPUs that were not present at boot, present.

Return Value:

An Integer containing a device status bitmap:

- Bit [0] - Set if the device is present.
- Bit [1] - Set if the device is enabled and decoding its resources.
- Bit [2] - Set if the device should be shown in the UI.
- Bit [3] - Set if the device is functioning properly (cleared if device failed its diagnostics).
- Bit [4] - Set if the battery is present.
- Bits [31:5] - Reserved (must be cleared).

ACPI 6.5, 6.3.7 _STA (Device Status)

The only way to win, is not to play...

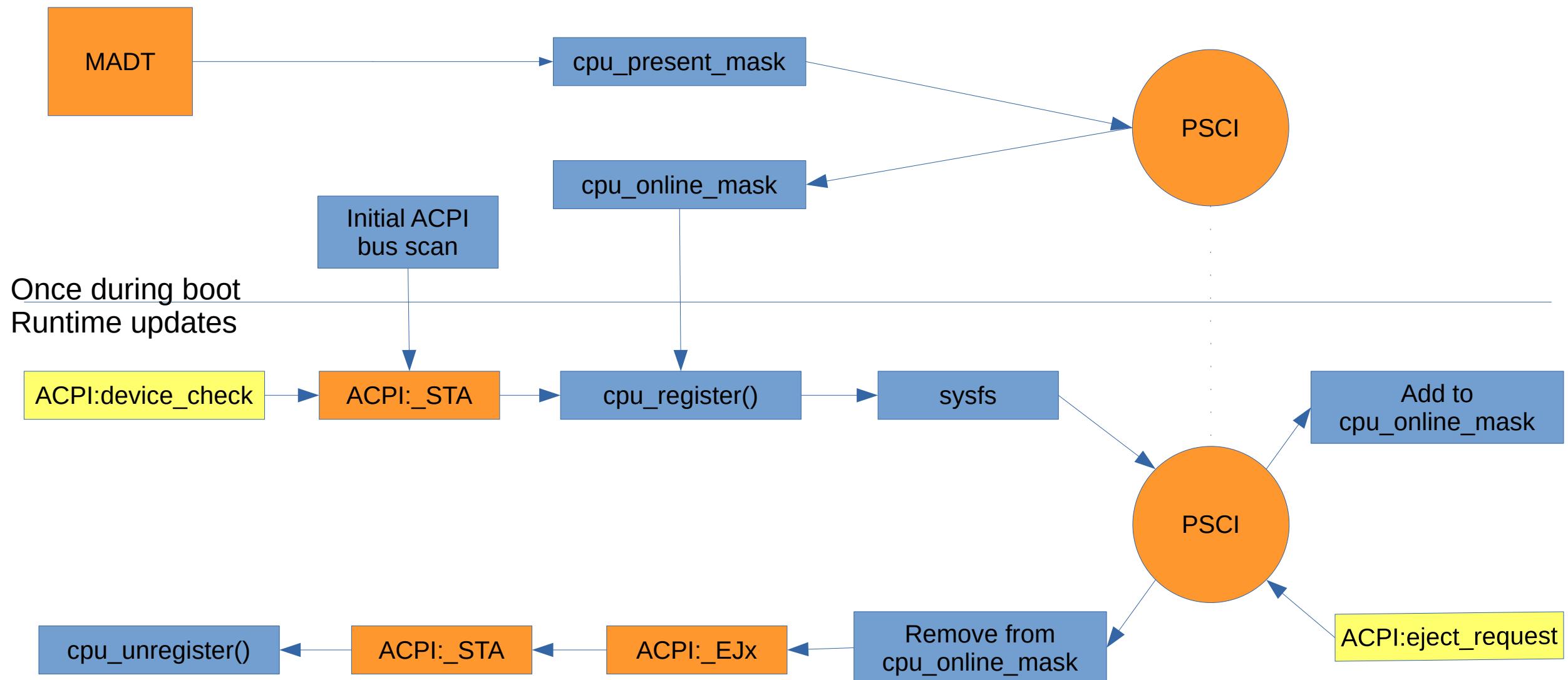
- + CPUs are really a slice of the system.
 - Each CPU has a GIC redistributor, a chunk of cache, a PMU, RAS ERR nodes, MPAM MSCs ...
 - A group of CPUs may come with an ITS, an IOMMU a PCIe root-complex, memory controllers, miscellaneous non-discoverable devices.
- + There is no hardware that does anything of this.
- + No appetite for updating numerous specifications to describe hotplug support.
- + Whatever is defined for virtual machines needs to work on physical hardware too – the OS doesn't know its in a VM.

Do you think you can tell?

- + For a virtual machine, this is just a CPU online/offline policy.
 - Nothing about the ‘SoC topology’ changes.
- + The OS must know that all resources remain present the whole time.
- + It must look and smell like physical CPU hotplug.

CPUs can check out any time they like

- + ACPI MADT advertises CPUs as disabled, but online-capable.
- + Firmware policy prevents a CPU from being brought online.
 - For a VM, the VMM plays the part of firmware.
 - Enforced by PSCI CPU_ON returning DENIED.
- + ACPI notifications are used to toggle the _STA enabled bit.
- + CPUs are registered (allowing them to be brought online) when they are enabled.





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