

# Software Architecture Specification

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## BERSERK Engine

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# Introduction

This document represents software architecture specifications for Berserk Engine and for the subsystem named Render System (or Rendering Engine).

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to give a detailed description of the «Berserk Engine» (or engine) architecture. It will illustrate the system concepts, main process, system modules and their interaction. Also it will explain how the engine works with target platform OS, how it uses its resources and memory (!). This document is primarily intended to be an exhaustive source of information for the developer for programming the first version of the system and for the teacher (mentor), who will accept that work.

## **Scope**

«Berserk Engine» is a software game development kit (library) designed for creating high performance 3D graphics applications with basic physics and audio effects. It should be used by programmers and software engineers, who want to develop their own game application.

This software kit is supposed to be free to download, share and use. Also, it is an open source project with a shared database, which could be downloaded from GitHub.

«Rendering System» of the Berserk Engine is a Graphics Core and the most powerful and important part of the engine. It should provide features for rendering objects and applying effects (post process effects) in soft real time mode. As a model rasterization module, it must support modern and advanced rendering techniques (ambient occlusion, local reflections, light scattering, volumetric light, lens flares, , filmic tone mapping, ...) as well as common shading models (raw, Phong, PBR).

## **Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations**

Term	Definition
<b>Engine / Game Engine</b>	Software development kit - fully featured, developed as one or several .h include and .c/.cpp library files project, which provides functionality for creating graphics/physics/audio application (games, presentations, simulators, etc.).
<b>Renderer / Rendering System</b>	Game Engine subsystem, which is responsible for generating animated and rasterized in any way 3D/2D graphics.
<b>User</b>	Programmer, software engineer, in this context, user of the Engine framework and libraries.
<b>Pipeline</b>	Graphics generation and rasterization pipeline - the number of stages, steps, needed to generate single image with chosen quality, effects usage, time limitation and format.

<b>Platform</b>	Named device driver, with provides interface for access functions of hardware accelerated graphics processing unit.
<b>OpenGL</b>	Open Graphics Library (OpenGL) is a cross-language, cross-platform application programming interface (API) for rendering 2D and 3D vector graphics. The API is typically used to interact with a graphics processing unit (GPU), to achieve hardware-accelerated rendering.
<b>XML</b>	Format of creating text (human readable) files based on xml specification.
<b>Texture</b>	1, 2, 3 dimensional array of integer, floating point, short, signed, unsigned data, which could be interpreted as an image or other special purpose/format data. Could be created/loaded from image data, stored in common formats, such as png, bmp, jpeg, etc.
<b>Material</b>	Data structure, which stores properties of the abstract surface, which defines how rendered mesh will actually look in the rasterized/ generated image.
<b>Mesh</b>	Raw vertex data: array vertices with indices, where each vertex stores data about some 2D/3D dimensional point. This data could be filled with: position, normal, tangent, bitangent, texture data of the point.
<b>Model</b>	An abstraction for representing 3D/2D dimensional objects in Rendering System. It stores mesh(s) and associated with them materials to perform correct representation of the model in rendered images.
<b>RAM</b>	Random access memory available for CPU frequent read/write operations (store and use).
<b>VRAM</b>	Video random access memory available for GPU frequent read/write operations (store and use). Allows CPU to transfer data to/from VRAM from/to RAM for its usage by GPU.
<b>GPU</b>	Graphics processing unit, hardware graphics accelerator.
<b>CPU</b>	Central processing unit, main computing unit of target machine.
<b>Cube Map</b>	Special texturing technique, which allows to access texture data as 3D unit length box.
<b>Reflection Map</b>	Cube Map, which stores environment data, image, to create reflections on top of the model.
<b>Depth Map</b>	Texture, which has information, needed for creating real-time dynamic shadows and volumetric light effect.
<b>Frame Buffer</b>	Target buffer, driver option, which allows to generate image not only into window display, but in chosen frame buffer on GPU.
<b>Uniform Buffer</b>	GPU buffer which allows store/update/send data to shader.
<b>GPU Buffer</b>	Buffer, stored in GPU VRAM and used as indexed array for getting raw data about mesh/model vertices, texture coordinates and etc.
<b>Shader</b>	Program executed by highly parallelized GPU. In terms of rendering engine - it number of small (C style like) programs, which linked in one unit and executed as one program at any time moment of GPU work.
<b>Phong Model</b>	Default and common model (number of techniques) to create visual appearance of model from raw data.

<b>PBR</b>	Advanced physically based rendering technique, designed to be more realistic in terms of light physic world.
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Table 1 - Definitions

## **References**

- [1] «Game Engine Architecture», 2nd ed. by Jason Gregory
- [2] «Learn OpenGL», by Joey de Vries
- [3] «Real-Time Rendering», 4rd ed. by Tomas Akenine-Möller, Eric Haines and Naty Hoffman
- [4] «The OpenGL Shading Language», 4th ed. by David Wolff
- [5] «Real-Time Graphics Rendering Engine», 1st ed. By Hujun Bao, Wei Hua
- [6] «ShaderX3: Advanced Rendering with DirectX and OpenGL», by Wolfgang Engel

## **Overview**

The remainder of this document includes four chapters. The second one provides an overview of the system architecture - concepts, main design patterns, software and hardware components.

The third chapter provides the overview for engine system components, their interaction, data transfer, communication with third-party modules.

The fourth chapter deals with the memory management system. It illustrates main allocation patterns and strategy. Also shows how the engine world streaming systems allocates its data for continuous levels' regions loading.

The fifth chapter provides overview for rendering system, describes one rendering pass process, shows main concepts and used techniques.

# Architecture overview

This section will provide an overview of the engine system architecture, describe some basic concepts and introduce common modules, needed for implementation.

## **Concept**

Core engine architecture follows Entity-Component-System design pattern (Diagram 1), which means that the system has clear separation for data and systems, which will process this data. Accordingly to the ECS pattern, the main object is entity. It is an abstract item, which does not has world transformation, position, scale and default appearance. It only allows to attach components and process them in some way. Component is a data storage or some behavior, which shows/defines/declares how the entity will appear on the scene, how it will interact with other entities. More precisely, component could define transformation, physics properties, audio playing possibilities and visual appearance. In this model system is an object which knows how to process entities and components of chosen type, how to store and allocate it.

## Model

The whole framework will consist of several huge subsystem parts, which are depicted in the diagram 1.

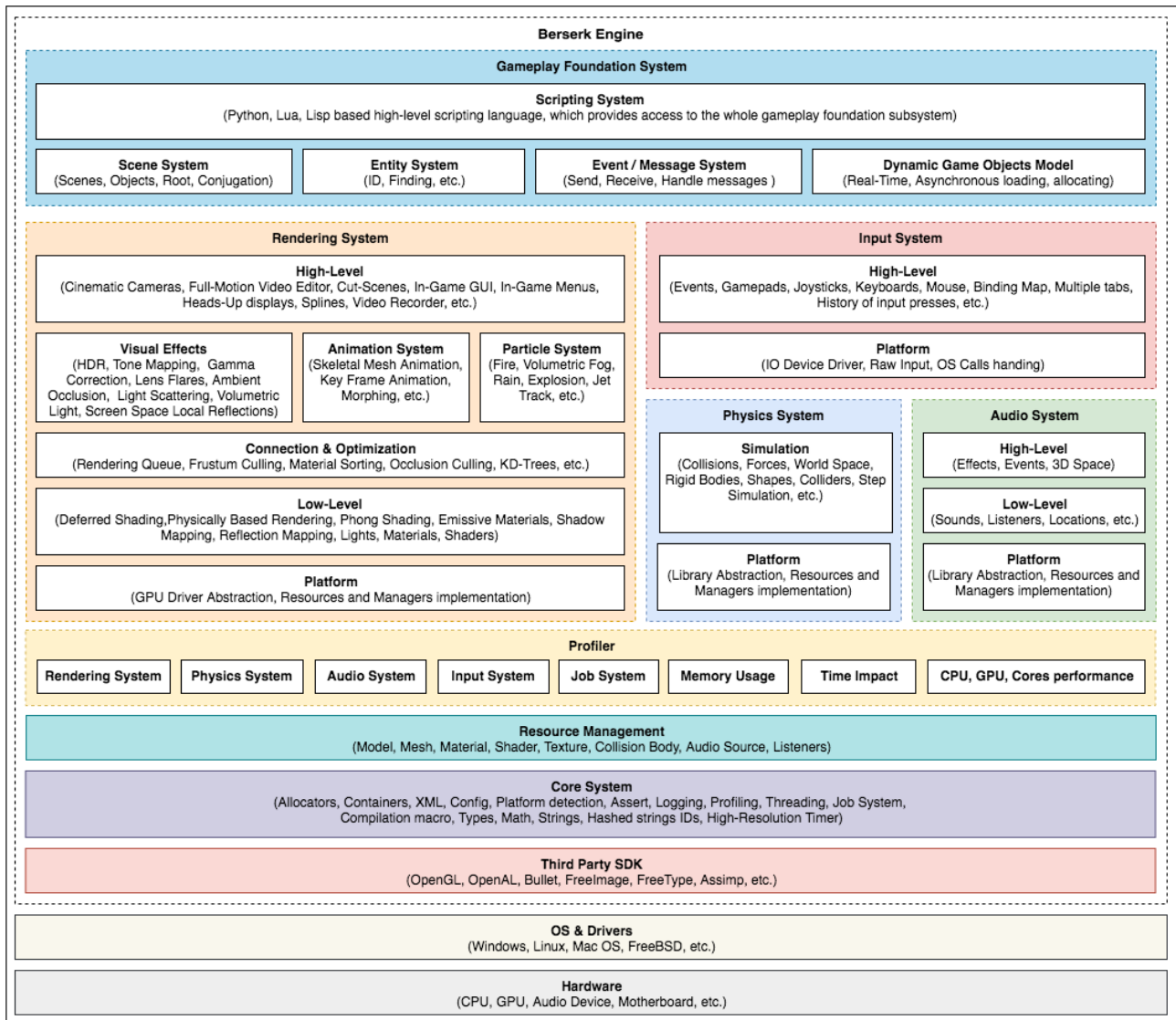


Diagram 2 - Engine Architecture

Engine structure diagram is designed in module way/structure. Each module depends on modules of lower level and does not affect (or has minimal impact) on neighbor modules/parts. Also, because of the properties of this pdf file, Input system is placed on top of Physics System and Audio System, however, its is only placement requirement - in real system it does not depend on this mentioned modules.

## Software components

Accordingly to the diagram 2 the engine has clear third-party components interaction. It involves OpenGL graphics specification driver of version 4.1 or higher, OpenGL Shading Language (GLSL) of version 4.1 or higher for building configurable rendering pipeline in Render System. Also it includes Assimp library for importing mesh/model data in runtime mode, Bullet physics as main physics component, Rapid XML parser for loading/saving xml files, which used for serialization of components/entities, FreeImage and FreeType importers for loading images (png, bmp) and fonts (ttf - primary) respectively.

## Hardware components

For better understanding of underlying engine processes there is a need of target machine hardware specification. Common and the most popular format is depicted below (Diagram 3).

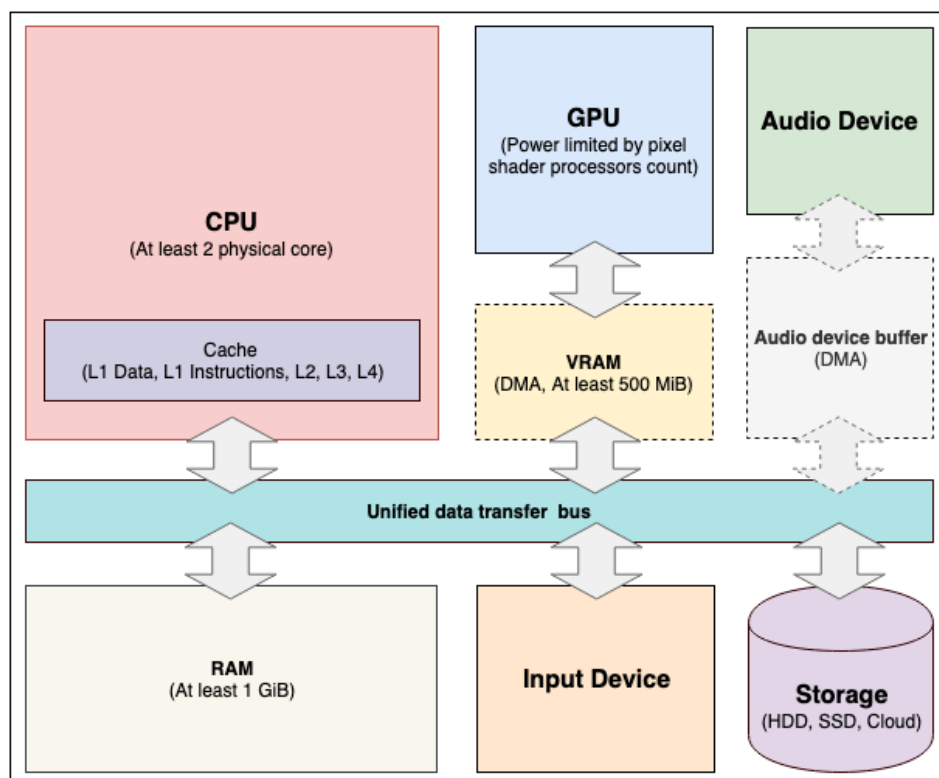


Diagram 3 - Target platform hardware architecture



# System Components

*Overview*

*Third-party dependancies*

# Memory Management

*Strategy*

*World streaming*

# Rendering System

*Concept*

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*Rendering pass*