

idc15

Imagination Developers Connection

PowerVR Graphics - Latest Developments and Future Plans

Latest Developments and Future Plans





A brief introduction

- **Joe Davis**
 - Lead Developer Support Engineer, PowerVR Graphics
 - With Imagination's PowerVR Developer Technology team for ~6 years
- **PowerVR Developer Technology**
 - SDK, tools, documentation and developer support/relations (e.g. this session ☺)



Company overview



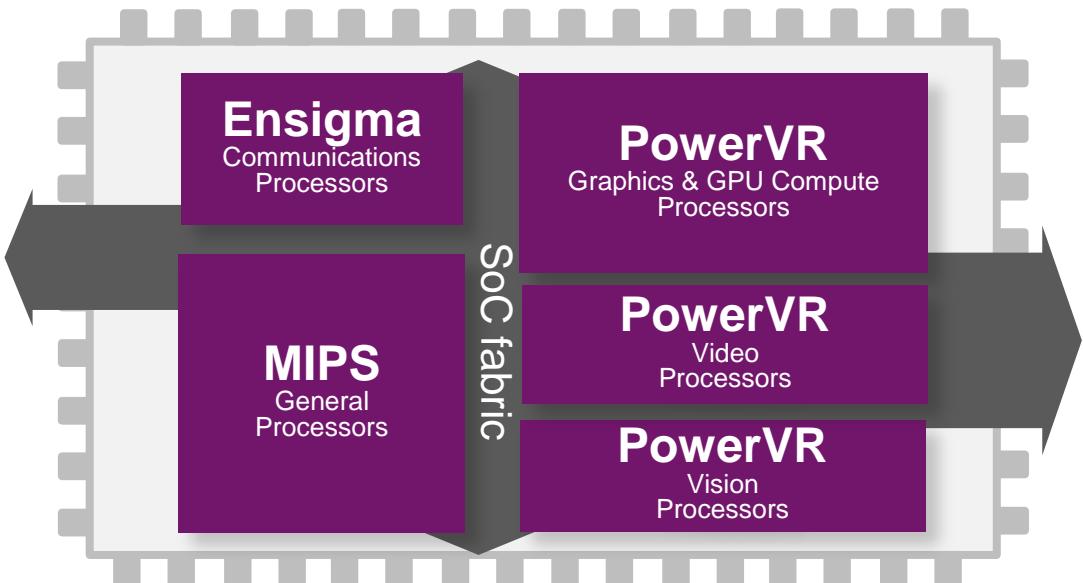


About Imagination

Multimedia, processors, communications and cloud IP

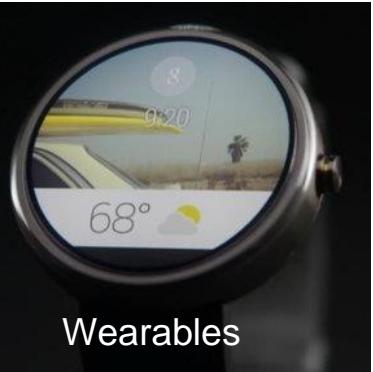
Driving IP innovation with unrivalled portfolio

- Recognised leader in graphics, GPU compute and video IP
- #3 design IP company world-wide*



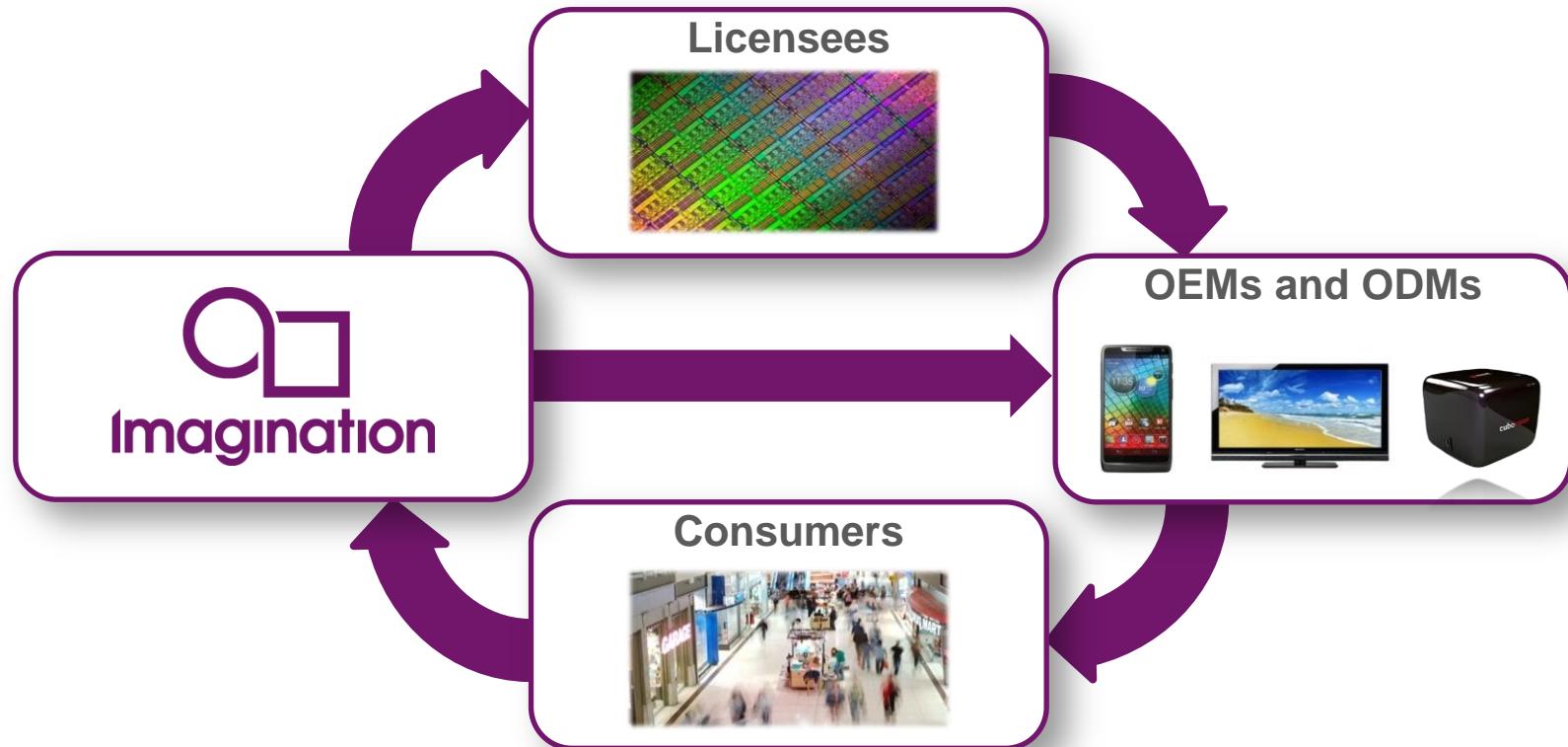
About Imagination

Our IP plus our partners' know-how combine to drive and disrupt



About Imagination

Business model



About Imagination

Our licensees and partners drive our business





PowerVR Rogue Hardware





PowerVR Rogue

Recap

- **Tile-based deferred renderer**
 - Building on technology proven over 5 previous generations
- **Formally announced at CES 2012**
- **USC - Universal Shading Cluster**
 - New scalar SIMD shader core
 - General purpose compute is a first class citizen in the core ...
 - ... while not forgetting what makes a shader core great for graphics

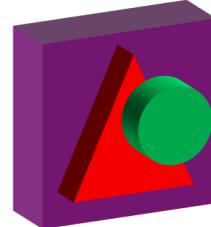
- **Tile-based**

- Split each render up into small tiles (32x32 for the most part)
- Bin geometry after vertex shading into those tiles
- Tile-based rasterisation and pixel shading
- Keep all data access for pixel shading on chip



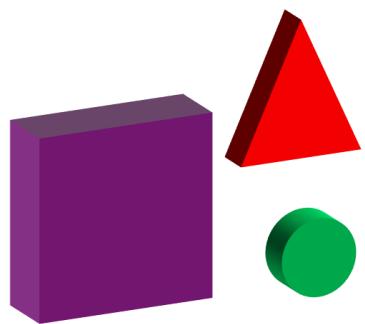
▪ Deferred rasterisation

- Don't actually get the GPU to do any pixel shading straight away
- HW support for fully deferred rasterisation and then pixel shading
- Rasterisation is pixel accurate



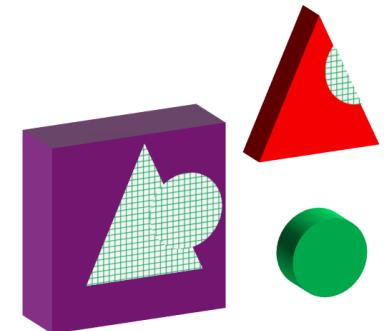
Conventional GPUs

All surfaces filled



PowerVR GPUs

Only visible surfaces filled





TBDR

Bandwidth savings

- **Bandwidth savings across all phases of rendering**
 - Only fetch the geometry needed for the tile
 - Only process the visible pixels in the tile
- **Efficient processing**
 - Maximize available computational resources
 - Do the best the hardware can with bandwidth

TBDR

Power savings

- **Maximizing core efficiency**
 - Lighting up the USC less often is always going to be a saving
- **Minimizing bandwidth**
 - Texturing less is a fantastic way to save power
 - Geometry fetch and binning is often more than 10% of per-frame bandwidth
 - Saves bandwidth for other parts of your render



Rogue USC

Architectural Building Block

- **Unified Shading Cluster**
 - Basic building block of the Rogue architecture
 - Laid out in pairs, with a shared TPU
- **1, 0.5 and 0.25 USC designs are special**
 - Different balance in the design
 - Tend to find their way into non-gaming applications





Rogue USC

Shader Architecture

- **16-wide in hardware**
- **32-wide branch granularity**
 - We run half a task/warp per clock
- **Scalar SIMD**
- **Optimized ALU pipeline**
 - Mix of F32, F16, integer, floating point specials, logic ops



Rogue USC

Pipeline datapaths

▪ Configurable in the IP core

- F16 paths were sometimes optional, thankfully not any more
- F16 paths performance increased significantly after the first generation

▪ Performance in your shader

- F32 paths are dual FMAD
- F16 paths can do different things per cycle depending on shader
- ISA is available for you to interrogate though, with disassembling compilers





Rogue USC

Scalar

▪ Scalar ALUs

- Hard to underestimate what a benefit this is
- Seems obvious to do, right?
- Vector architectures are just hard to program well
- Scalar isn't a free lunch
- Makes performance a lot more predictable for you



Rogue USC

Programmable output registers

- The pixel output registers in the ISA are read/write
- One per pixel
- Width depends on IP core
- We expose it programmatically with Pixel Local Storage
 - Worked closely with ARM (thanks, Jan-Harald!)



Evolution

Health Warning: Really Bad Diagrams™

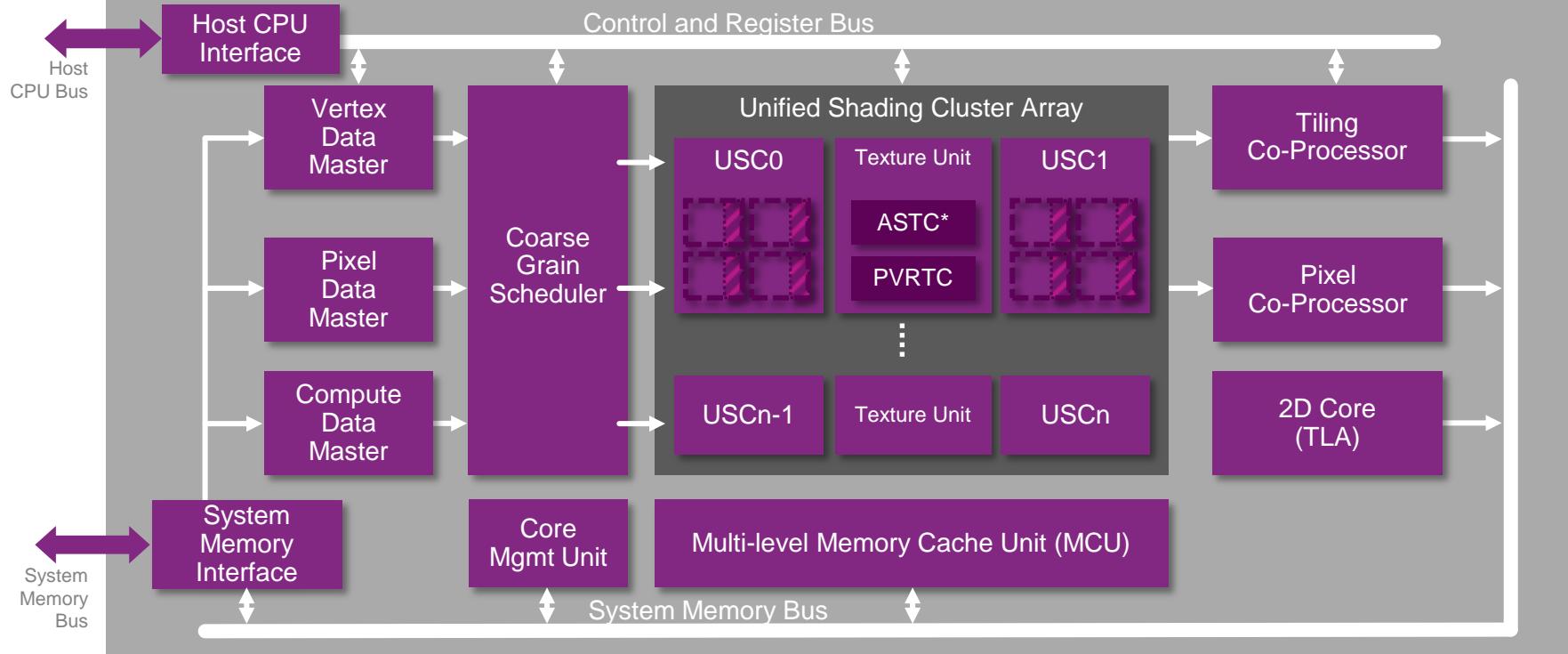
Rogue Evolution



- Architecture has changed quite a bit over time
- Rogue in 2010 still mostly looks like a Rogue today
- Significant evolutionary changes across the architecture
- Lots of it driven by developers before the IP is baked
- Lots of it driven by also analysing your stuff anyway

PowerVR Series6XT Rogue

PowerVR



Extra low power GFLOPS

** Supports both LDR and HDR ASTC formats*

PowerVR Series6XT Unified Shading Cluster Array

PowerVR Series6XT USC

Pipeline

ALU core
(FP32)

FLOP

FLOP

ALU core
(FP32)

FLOP

ALU core
(FP16)

FLOP

FLOP

ALU core
(FP16)

FLOP

FLOP

Special
function

FLOP

ALU core
(FP16)

FLOP

FLOP

ALU core
(FP16)

FLOP

FLOP

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

Pipeline

16 pipelines

8 clusters



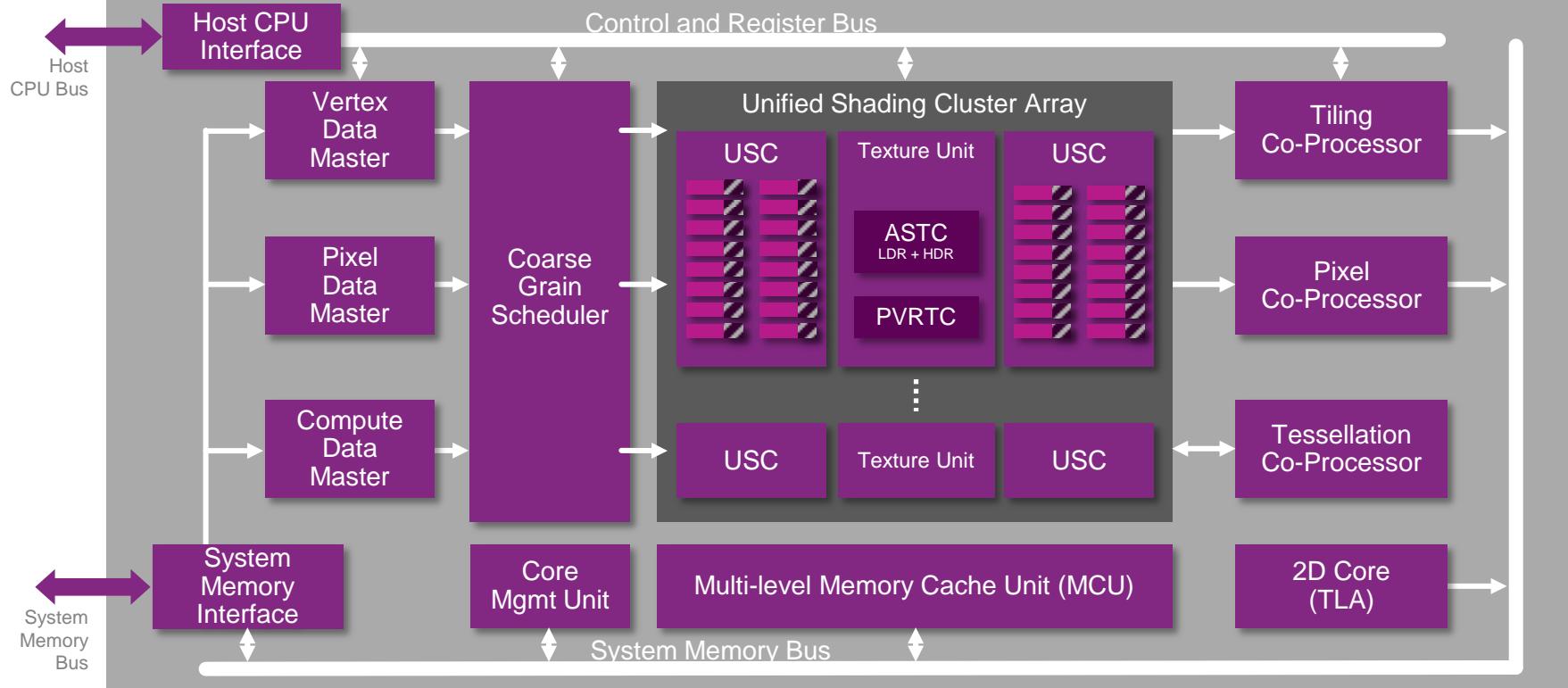
Series6 to Series6XT

Lots of lessons learned

- Improved scheduler
- Streamlined ISA
- Improved compute task efficiency
- Completely new F16 datapath
- Improved front-end for sustained geometry performance
- ASTC

PowerVR Series7XT

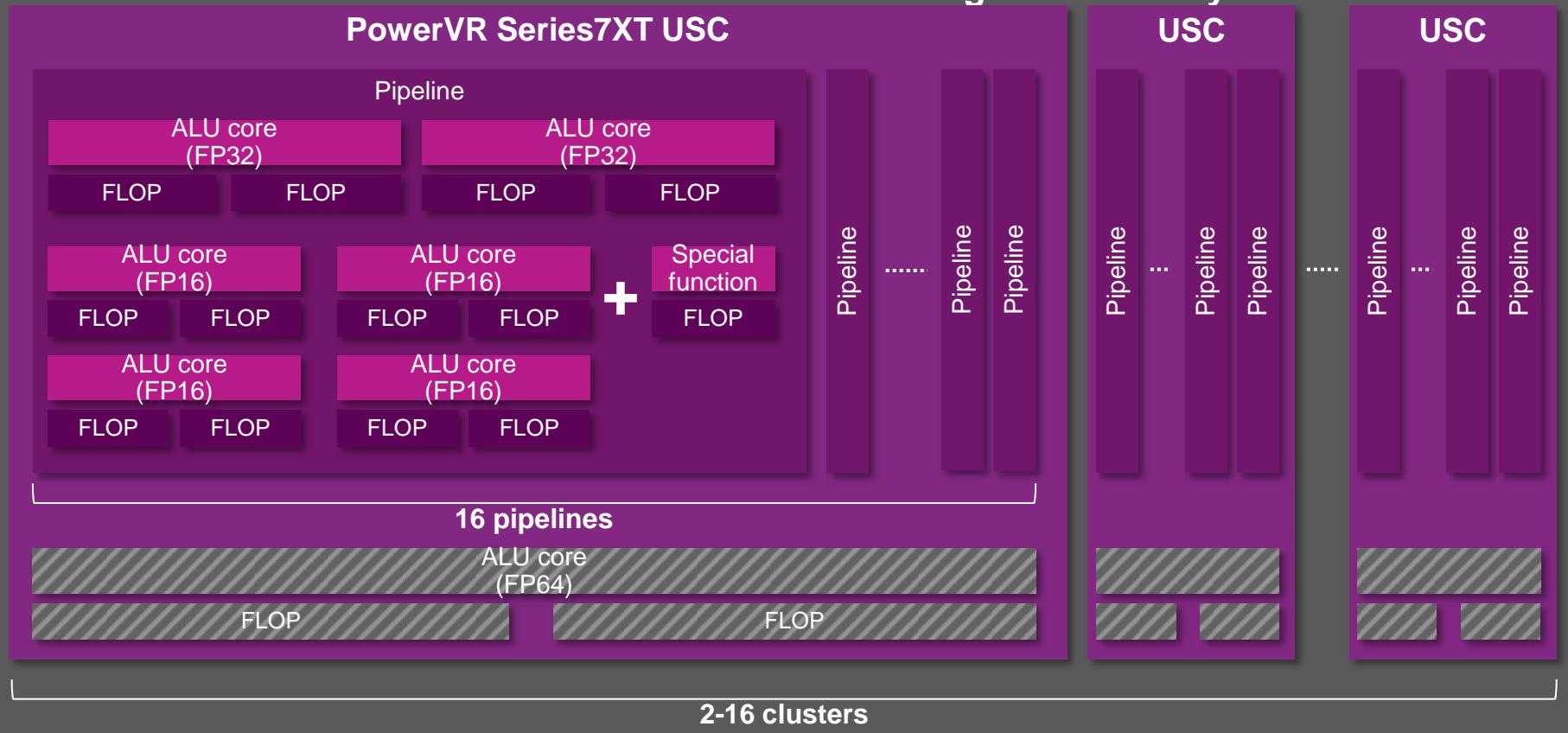
PowerVR



Extra low power GFLOPS

PowerVR Series7XT Unified Shading Cluster Array

PowerVR Series7XT USC





Series6XT to Series7XT

Adding features and smoothing off rough edges

- **Changed how the architecture scales**
- **Improved USC**
- **Streamlined ISA**
- **Features**
 - Hardware tessellation
 - DX11-compliant USC (precision mainly)
 - FP64



Into the future

- **Exciting changes being worked on across the architecture**
 - USC
 - Front-end
 - Scaling
 - Stuff you want!
- **You can help**
 - We love feedback about the architecture and how it could best fit what you're doing
 - Don't be shy

PowerVR Wizard Ray Tracing Update

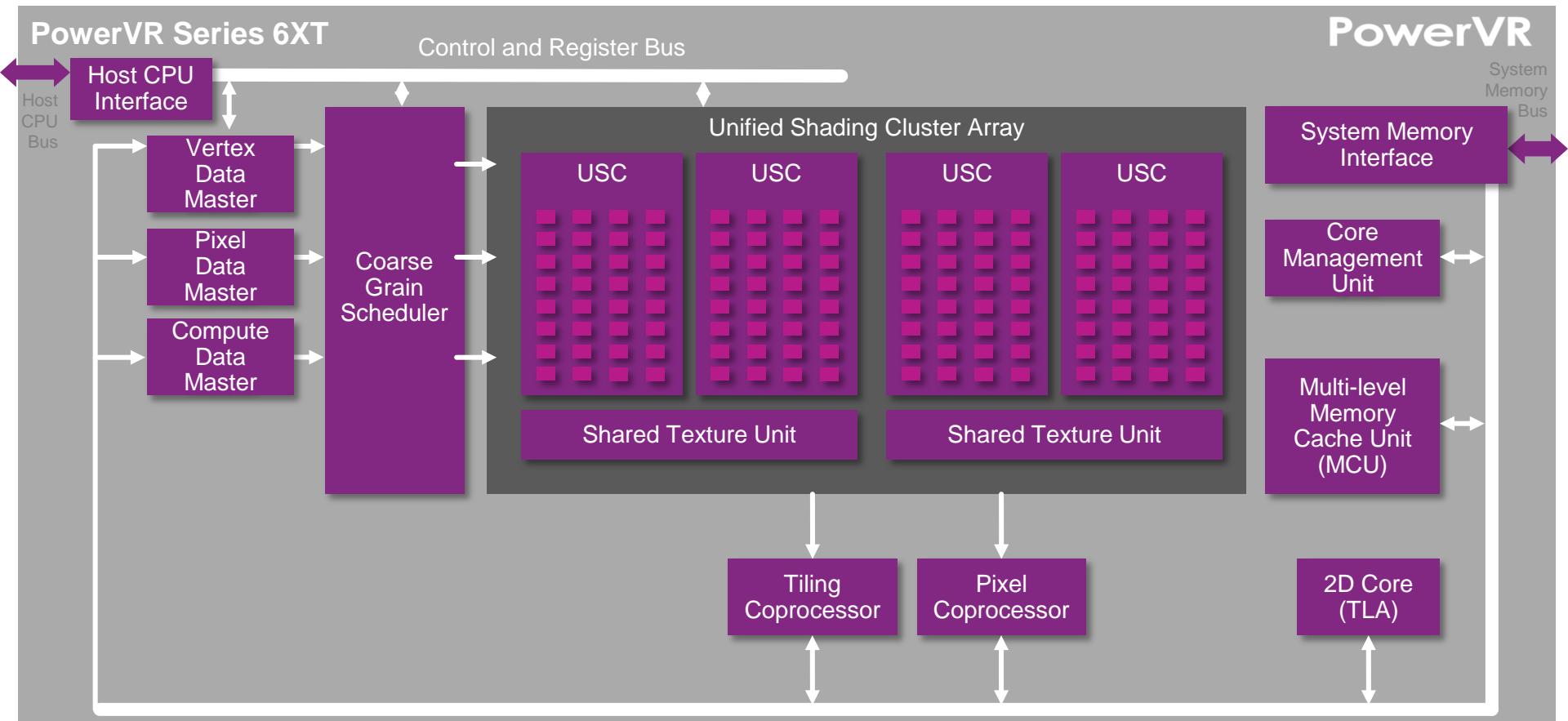




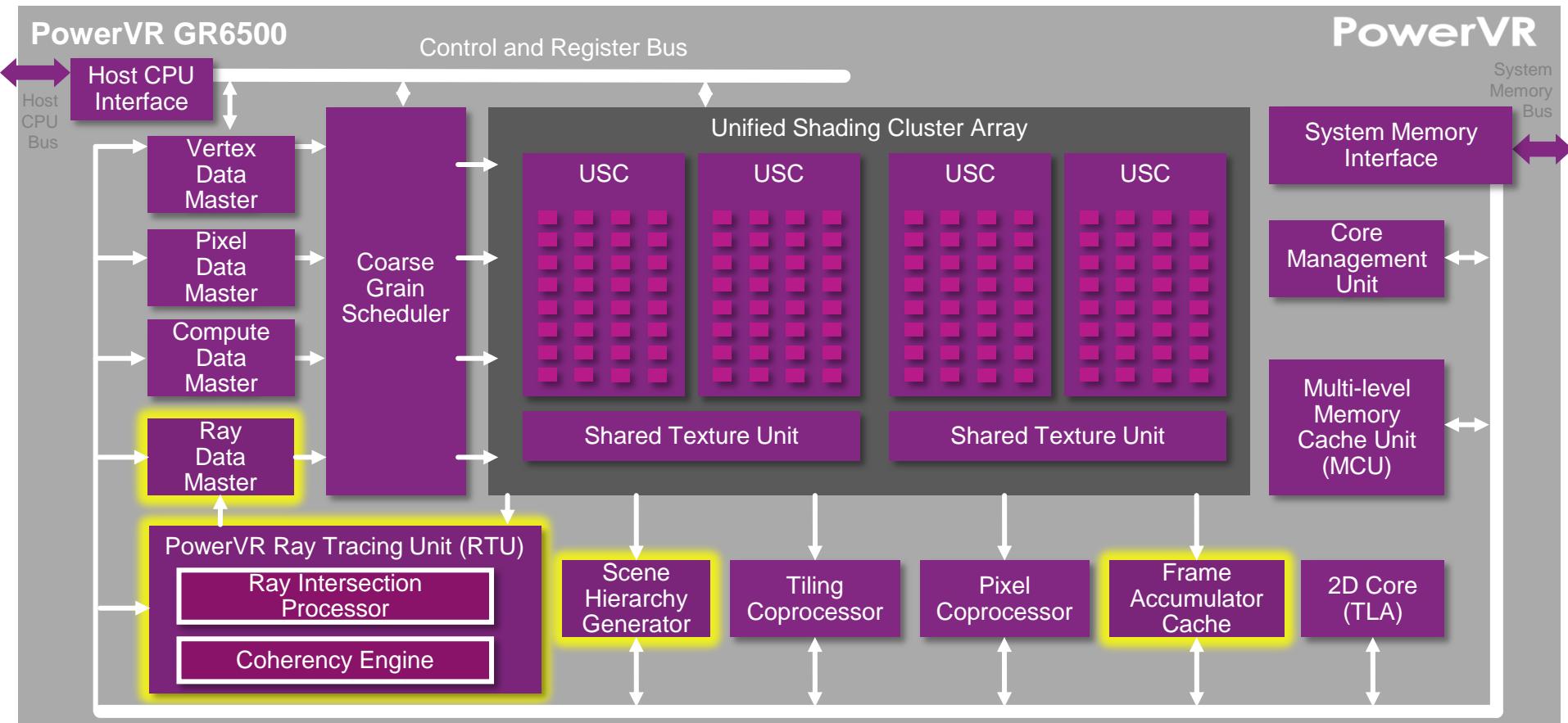
What is Ray Tracing?

Ray tracing is the ability for the shader program for one object to be aware of the geometry of other objects.

PowerVR Architecture



PowerVR Graphics Wizard Architecture



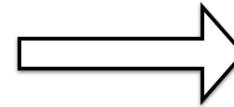
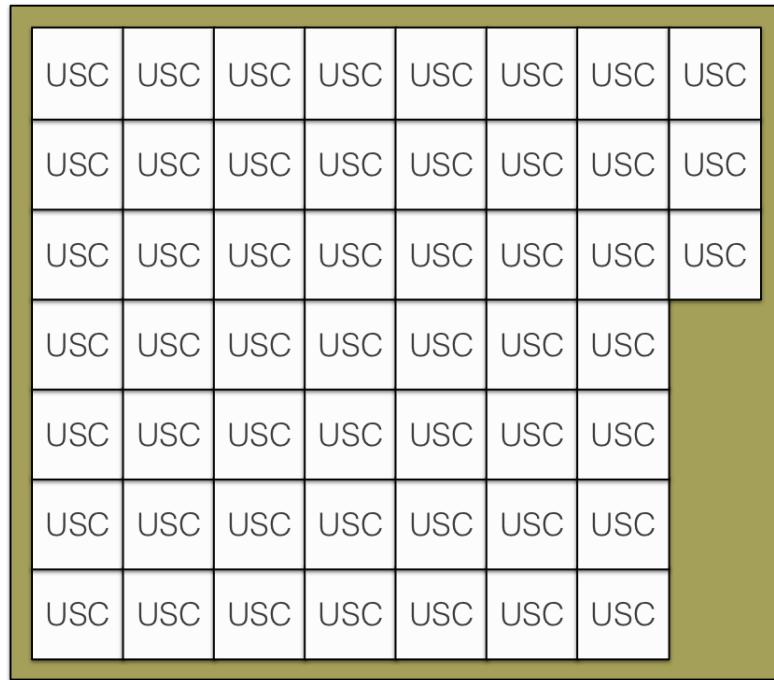
3 Unique Features of Wizard



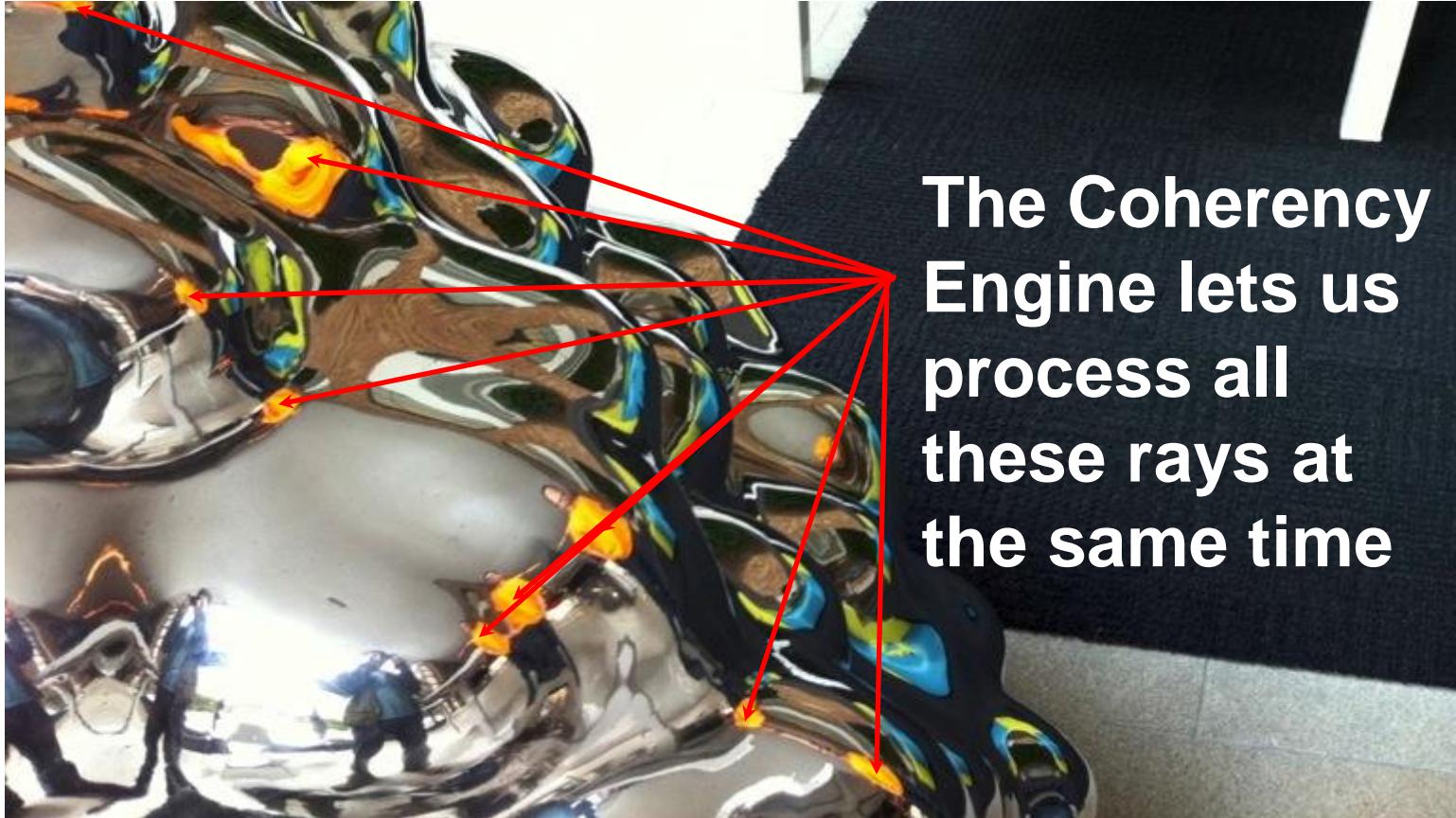
- **Fixed-function Ray-Box and Ray-Triangle testers**
- **Coherence-Driven Task-Forming and Scheduling**
- **Streaming Scene Hierarchy Generator**

Fixed-Function Ray-Box and Ray-Triangle Testers

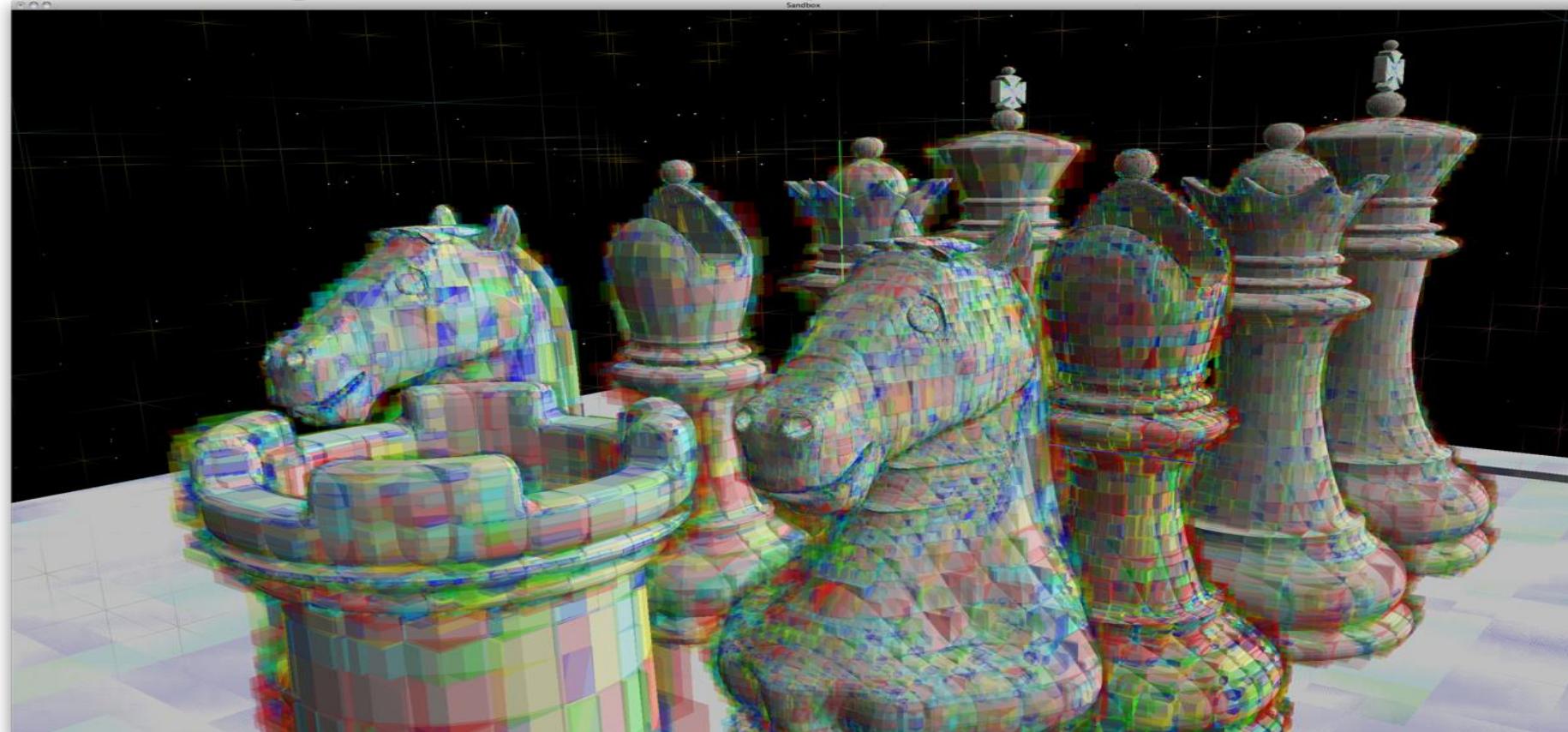
44x Less Area for Box Testing



Coherence-Gathering



Streaming Scene Hierarchy Generator





What is Ray Tracing?

Ray tracing is the ability for the shader program for one object to be aware of the geometry of other objects.

Just a few use cases



Hybrid Shadows,
Reflections, etc.



Augmented
Reality



Production-
Quality Renders



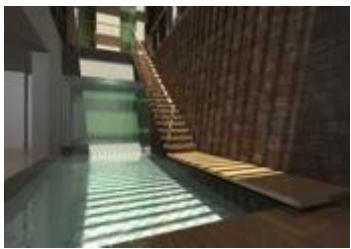
Order-Independent
Transparency



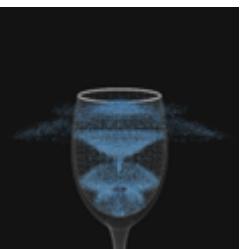
Ambient
Occlusion



Asset creation /
compression



Global Illumination



Physics &
Collision
Detection



Virtual Reality
Lens correction, Ultra-low latency
rendering, Lenticular Displays



A.I. & Line of
Sight
Calculations



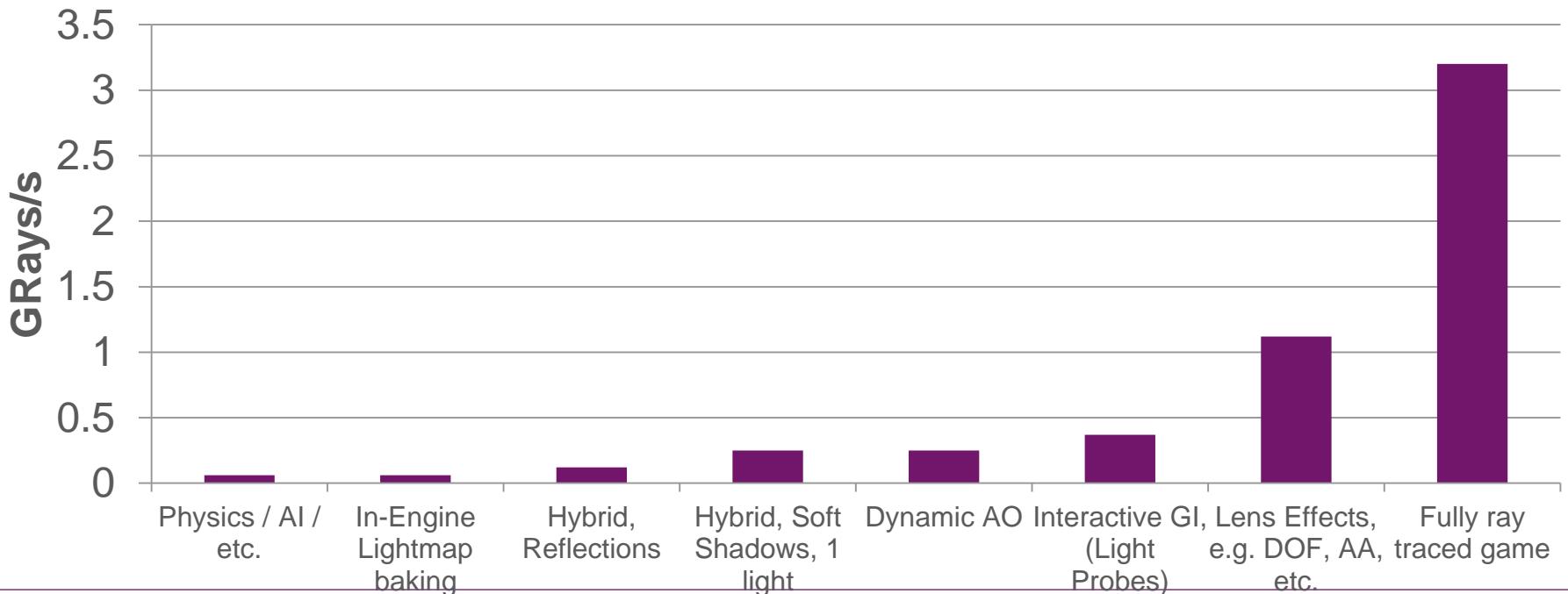
Rapid photo-
quality output



Ray Tracing Requirements

Sustained Ray Throughput at 1080p, 60fps

Technique vs Ray throughput





PowerVR developer tools

PowerVR Tools

Asset Optimization



MAX



+
PVRGeoPOD
PVRTexTool

Development



Visual Studio
+
PVRVFrame
PVRShaderEditor
PVRShaman

Debugging and Profiling



+
PVRTune
PVRTrace
PVRMonitor



PowerVR Tools

Release schedule

- **PowerVR Tools release process**
 - Minor revision roughly every 6 months
- **Recent/upcoming releases**
 - 3.5 SDK (April 2015)
 - 4.0 SDK (due September 2015)

PVRTrace

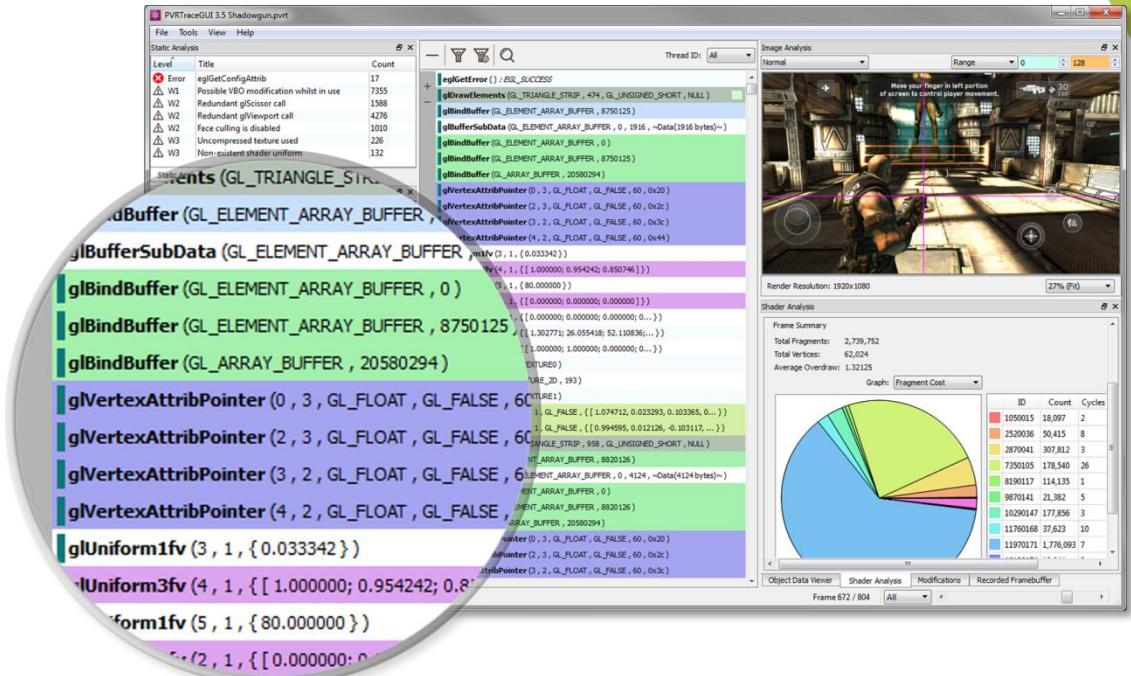
What is PVRTrace?

OpenGL ES API tracer

- OpenGL ES 1.x, 2.0 and 3.x recording libraries
- GUI for analysis

Features

- Inspect, analyse and playback captured data



PVRTrace

New render state & data inspectors

Current Call

glVertexAttribPointer: Call 487321

EGL State	EGL Objects	OpenGL ES State	OpenGL ES Objects
Variable	Value		
- Program			
GL_CURRENT_PROGRAM	2940042		
-Textures			
GL_ACTIVE_TEXTURE	GL_TEXTURE0		
- GL_TEXTURE0			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D	7490107		
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_CUBE_MAP	910013		
- GL_TEXTURE1			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D	9380134		
- GL_TEXTURE2			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D	6370091		
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_CUBE_MAP	10080144		
- GL_TEXTURE3			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D	350005		
-Framebuffers			
GL_DRAW_FRAMEBUFFER_BINDING	0		
GL_READ_FRAMEBUFFER_BINDING	0		
-Renderbuffers			
GL_RENDERBUFFER_BINDING	70001		
-Buffers			
GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_BINDING	21210303		
GL_ELEMENT_ARRAY_BUFFER_BINDING	8120116		
-Blending			
GL_BLEND	GL_FALSE		
GL_BLEND_EQUATION_ALPHA	GL_FUNC_ADD		
GL_BLEND_EQUATION_RGB	GL_FUNC_ADD		
GL_BLEND_SRC_ALPHA	GL_ONE		
GL_BLEND_SRC_RGB	GL_ONE		
GL_BLEND_DST_ALPHA	GL_ONE		
GL_BLEND_DST_RGB	GL_ONE		

Hide unchanging state

Object Data Viewer

Texture 7980114: Call 487683

Level	Internal format
0 - 1024 x 1024	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
1 - 512 x 512	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
2 - 256 x 256	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
3 - 128 x 128	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
4 - 64 x 64	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
5 - 32 x 32	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
6 - 16 x 16	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
7 - 8 x 8	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
8 - 4 x 4	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
9 - 2 x 2	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
10 - 1 x 1	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...



Level: 0 - 1024 x 1024 34% (Fit)

Parameters

Parameter	Value
GL_TEXTURE_MIN_FILTER	GL_LINEAR_MIPMAP_NEAREST
GL_TEXTURE_MAG_FILTER	GL_LINEAR
GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_S	GL_REPEAT
GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_T	GL_REPEAT
GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_R	GL_REPEAT
GL_TEXTURE_BASE_LEVEL	0
GL_TEXTURE_COMPARE_FUNC	GL_EQUAL
GL_TEXTURE_COMPARE_MODE	GL_NONE
GL_TEXTURE_SWIZZLE_R	GL_RED
GL_TEXTURE_SWIZZLE_G	GL_GREEN

PVRTune

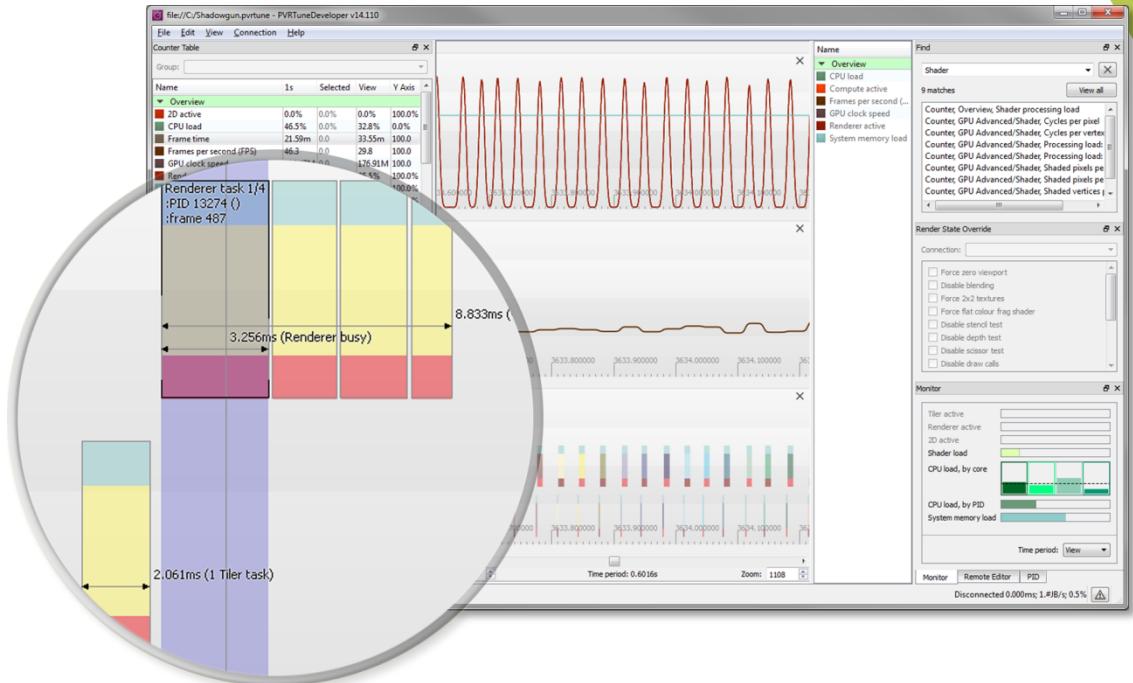
What is PVRTune?

PowerVR graphics core performance analyser

- GUI for analysis
- On-device server

Features

- Real-time performance data





PVRTune

Real-time GPU profiler

- **New counters**

- GPU clock speed, triangles culled, Hidden Surface Removal efficiency, SLC memory reads/writes and more

- **GUI changes**

- Simplified setup and navigation
- Graphics and Compute modes
- Tree view for counters (Overview, Tiler, Renderer etc.)



PVRShaderEditor

Shader editor & offline profiler (with disassembly!)

PVRShaderEditor 2.5

File Edit View Source Help

FragShader.fsh

```
31 // Calculate the tex coords of the fragment (using it's position on the screen), no
32 lowp vec3 vAccumulatedNormal = vec3(0.0,0.0,1.0);
33 mediump vec2 vTexCoord = gl_FragCoord.xy * RcpWindowSize;
34
35 // Test depth for fog
36 lowp float fFogBlend = clamp(WaterToEyeLength * RcpMaxFogDepth, 0.0, 1.0);
37
38 #ifdef ENABLE_DISTORTION
39     // When distortion is enabled, use the normal map to calculate perturbation
40     lowp vec3 vAccumulatedNormal = texture(NormalTex, BumpCoord0).rgb;
41     vAccumulatedNormal += texture(NormalTex, BumpCoord1).rgb;
42     vAccumulatedNormal -= 1.0; // Same as * 2.0 - 2.0
43
44     lowp vec2 vTmp = vAccumulatedNormal.xy;
45     /*
46         Divide by WaterToEyeLength to scale down the distortion
47         of fragments based on their distance from the camera
48     */
49     vTexCoord.xy -= vTmp * (WaveDistortion / WaterToEyeLength);
50 #endif
51
52 #ifdef ENABLE_REFRACTION
53     lowp vec4 vReflectionColour = texture(ReflectionTex, vTexCoord);
54     lowp vec4 vRefractionColour = texture(RefractionTex, vTexCoord);
55
56 #ifdef ENABLE_FRESNEL
57     // Calculate the Fresnel term to determine amount of reflection for each frame
58 
```

----- Disassembled HW Code -----

```
0 : fitr.pixel r0, drc0, cf4, cf0, 8;
1 : wdf drc0
2 : smp2d.fcnorm drc0, sh20, r0, sh4, _, r12, 3;
3 : smp2d.fcnorm drc0, sh20, r2, sh4, _, r8, 3;
4 : smp3d.fcnorm drc1, sh32, r4, sh16, _, r15, 3;
5 : frcp i0, r7
6 : sop r11.joutj, sh2.f16.e0, i0, sub, c0, 0
    sop r18.koutk, sh2.f16.e1, r7, sub, c0, 0
7 : wdf drc0
8 : sop i1.f16.e0.joutj, r8, 0.oneminus, add, r12, 0.oneminus
    sop i1.f16.e1.koutk, r9, 0.oneminus, add, r13, 0.oneminus
    smpmov is5, r13
9 : sop i0.f16.e0.joutj, r10, 0.oneminus, add, r14, 0.oneminus
    sop i0.f16.e1.koutk, c64.neg, 0.oneminus, add, i1.f16.e1
    smpmov is5, i1.f16.e1
```

Fragment Shader: Compile succeeded.

Profiling Settings

Per-Line Cycle Estimate Total: 34 Emulated Cycle Total: -

Compiler: G6x00 Version: REL/3.4@3147479

Emulated Cycles: -

Temporary Registers Used: -

Primary Attributes Used: -

Non-Dependent Texture Loads: -

Global USC Instructions: 0

Line: 1 Col: 1 INS



Rogue graphics driver





Rogue graphics driver

Release schedule

- **DDK (Driver Development Kit) release process**
 - Reference driver source code released to PowerVR IP licensees
 - Minor revision roughly every 6 months
 - Top-tier customers engage early. Drivers in products shortly after official DDK release



Rogue graphics driver

1.4 DDK

- **Release date**
 - Q4 2014 (release 1)
 - Q1 2015 (release 2)
- **OpenGL ES: Key features (release 1)**
 - OpenGL ES 3.1
 - Compute shaders, shader storage buffer objects, draw indirect and more
- **OpenGL ES: Key features (release 2)**
 - Android Lollipop support



Rogue graphics driver

1.5 DDK

- **Release date**
 - Q2/Q3 2015
- **OpenGL ES: Key features**
 - Android Extension Pack (AEP)
 - ASTC, blend equation advanced, GPU shader model 5 and more
 - sRGB PVRTC
 - Pixel local storage
 - 128/256 bits per-pixel on-chip



Rogue graphics driver

1.6 DDK

- **Release date**
 - Q4 2015
- **OpenGL ES: Key features**
 - Bicubic texture filtering
 - Shader group vote
 - Polygon offset clamp
 - Pixel local storage 2
 - Simultaneously write to pixel local storage and a framebuffer attachment



Vulkan

The word "Vulkan" is written in a large, bold, dark red sans-serif font. A thick, dark red swoosh graphic starts from the top left, curves over the letter "V", and then follows the outline of the letters "u", "n", and "k". To the right of "Vulkan" is a small, dark red "TM" symbol.



Vulkan

About

- **What is Vulkan?**
 - New open standard API developed by the Khronos group
 - Designed for high-efficiency access to graphics and compute on modern GPUs
- **Key features**
 - Minimizes driver overhead and enables multi-threaded GPU command preparation
 - Designed for mobile, desktop, console and embedded platforms
 - Designed for all GPUs - tile based GPUs are first-class citizens!
 - SPIR-V – binary intermediate language for shaders



Vulkan

PowerVR driver status

- **PowerVR Vulkan driver**

- Driver development on-going
- Working with key partners on initial content bring up
- More details at SIGGRAPH 2015
 - [Khronos BoF](#): Vulkan, OpenGL, OpenGL ES - 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

PowerVR Graphics

Future roadmaps

- **What drives our roadmaps?**
 - Market analysis
 - Customer feedback
 - Developer feedback





Upcoming events

idc-UK

- **Imagination Developers Connection 2015 UK**
 - 1st October, SOHO Hotel, London UK
 - Register here: <http://imgtec.com/idc/idc15-uk/>
- **Agenda**
 - A full developer day including optimization tips, how to use ray tracing with raster graphics and more
 - Also includes guest talks from Google and Digital Legends



Questions?



www.imgtec.com/idc