

Horas de Libre Configuración

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ARM joins blockade to Huawei, according to the BBC: Chinese company loses vital support in the development of its Kirin processors

- ARM is the British company responsible for developing the architecture of most mobile processors we know today. Both Qualcomm, Apple, Samsung and Huawei have used their chipsets as a basis for creating their own. Now, following the US blockade of Huawei, ARM has asked its employees to suspend all activities with Huawei, according to internal documents obtained by the BBC.
- ARM's instructions would include stopping "all active contracts, support rights and any outstanding commitments" with Huawei and its subsidiaries. According to ARM's internal release, its designs contain original US technology. And as a result they are affected by the Trump Administration's blockade.
- This block, should it extend over time, would be a fatal blow to Huawei's business as the development of its Kirin chipsets is closely linked to ARM's work, for which they even pay a license.

Why ARM's architecture is relevant?

- Telecoms giant Softbank bought ARM three years ago, but the semiconductor company is still based in the UK. In addition, there is also ARM China, a separate company but where ARM Holdings owns 49% of the shares. The BBC reports that this China-specific ARM division would also be affected by the blockade.
- We are not looking at a processor manufacturer to use as Samsung does with its Exynos or Huawei itself with its Kirin. ARM's job is to build the architecture and foundation of these processors and then license it to other manufacturers and have them create their own designs.

Simon Segars, ARM Holdings CEO, back in February: "Obviously we are in a completely subjected to any export control from either the UK or the US"


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- It is a job that can be more or less direct depending on whether the manufacturer wants to add its own modifications later or add more elements.
 - The importance of ARM lies in the fact that its Cortex architecture is used by companies as important as Qualcomm in its most advanced processors or even Apple, which plans to rely on ARM for its long-awaited laptop-focused chips.
 - The key is that except for Intel, its direct rival, there are no alternatives capable of standing up to ARM and becoming an escape option for companies that need it, as could be the case with Huawei.

ARM's decisión

- As the BBC describes, ARM employees were informed of the decision on the 16th. While on the 21st day, once Google's position was known, an ARM source reported that they had not yet been told that they could start working with Huawei again.
- In the internal release, ARM would have sent a note detailing that due to "an unfortunate situation" it would not be allowed to "provide support, send technology, software, code or updates, or hold technical discussions with Huawei, HiSilicon or other of the named companies". A hasty blockade where employees should "stop and politely decline" all business conversations with individuals that might represent breaking the treaty.
- ARM is a COMPANY based in the United Kingdom and maintains significant headquarters in the US. But it's still unclear whether he would have acted on his own initiative or through a direct board of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In case it were the first, other semiconductor companies could act the same way.

What is the relationship between ARM and Huawei and how it would affect the crash

- HiSilicon itself, Huawei's own processor development company, recently introduced a new ARM-based server processor, the Kunpeng 920, in China.

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- A sample of the close relationship between these two companies. William Xu, Director of Marketing Strategy at Huawei defined it this way: "We will work with global partners in the spirit of openness, collaboration and shared success to drive the development of the ARM ecosystem and expand the computing space, and embrace an era diversified computing".
 - Huawei's next processor was to be the Kirin 985 for the futuristic Mate 30 series, although as the ARM source consulted by the BBC details, it will not be affected by the blockage. It wouldn't happen that way to the next one, which would need to be remade from scratch. An important job highlighting the fact that while Huawei has confirmed that it has a new operating system ready, there are still no details that also work on a new architecture away from ARM.
 - In this regard, as Reuters reports, last Friday HiSilicon reported that they were prepared to face a scenario of total blockade by the United States.
 - As reported by the Financial Times in early May, Huawei was to build a semiconductor factory with 400 people in Cambridge, 15 minutes from ARM headquarters. Because as a Huawei spokesman described during the announcement, "we have a long-term relationship with the University of Cambridge". A relationship that may reel due to the executive order imposed from the other side of the Atlantic. Until August 19, Huawei will have room to make decisions.
 - In response to TheVerge, Huawei responded in a statement that "we value our close relationships with our partners, but we recognize the pressure some of them are under as a result of politically motivated decisions. We are confident that this unfortunate situation can be resolved and our priority remains to continue to provide world-class products to our customers around the world".

Referencia: <https://www.xataka.com/componentes/arm-se-une-al-bloqueo-a-huawei-bbc-compania-china-pierde-asi-apoyo-vital-desarrollo-sus-procesadores-kinin>



Vocabulary

- Both : Ambos, ambas.
- Outstanding: Excepcional.
- Commitments: Compromisos.
- Subsidiaries: Filiales.
- Blockade: Bloqueo.
- Manufacturers: Fabricantes.
- Depending : Dependiente.
- Rely : Confiar.
- Long-awaited : Tan esperado.
- Laptop-focused: Centrado en la computadora portátil.
- Hasty: Apresurado.
- Treaty: Tratado
- Headquarters : Sede.

Questions

- What is the mobile processor development company?
 - o ARM is the British company responsible for developing the architecture of most mobile processors we know today.
- Why should you stop making your Huawei processors?
 - o Because the Trump Administration has blocked production for containing US technology.
- Which company plans to change architecture on its processors?
 - o Apple plans to build on ARM for laptop-focused chips.
- Will it have an impact on HiSilicon?
 - o HiSilicon reported that they were prepared for a total blockade in the United States. Huawei was going to build a semiconductor factory with 400 people in Cambridge, 15 minutes from ARM headquarters.



True or false?

- Huawei is going to build a semiconductor factory in Cambridge. T
- Samsung is the company to blame for Huawei's blockade. F
- ARM has denied Trump administration decisión. F
- Huawei is developing a new operating system. V
- Huawei will still be able to use Google Play after the crash. F

