

The Common RISC Platform

Desktop Edition

System Overview

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Contents

0.1	Licensing Terms	2
1	Introduction	3
1.1	Preface	4

0.1 Licensing Terms

The Common RISC Platform is availed to users under the terms of the Common RISC Platform License (CRPL).

The full text of this license is contained in `license.txt`

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Preface

Welcome to the Common RISC Platform documentation. Here you will find the full library of specifications that comprise the Platform. This project is a large undertaking, with the intent of producing a PC-like compute platform that promotes user freedom, openness and flexibility.

The PC platform has, for years, been threatened by challenges both from within the ecosystem and without. The relentless pace at which ARM-based platforms have increased in both performance and efficiency has led to many consumers abandoning their PC devices with devices like the M1 Macs and Microsoft Surface. This should be of great concern to all users, as vendors seem to be using this paradigm shift as an opportunity to do away with such silly notions as ‘expandability’ and ‘user freedom’. Most (if not all) PC-replacement platforms are non-free, locked down and inflexible. It is impossible to even so much as install a different operating system than the manufacturer standard on many of these devices.

The PC’s greatest strength in the past has been its extensibility and openness. The almost-universal platform gave software developers a target that guaranteed their software would have the largest possible addressable market, and the open industry standards upon which the platform is built ensured hardware vendors could