

# A Journey Through History From Mainframes to Smartphones



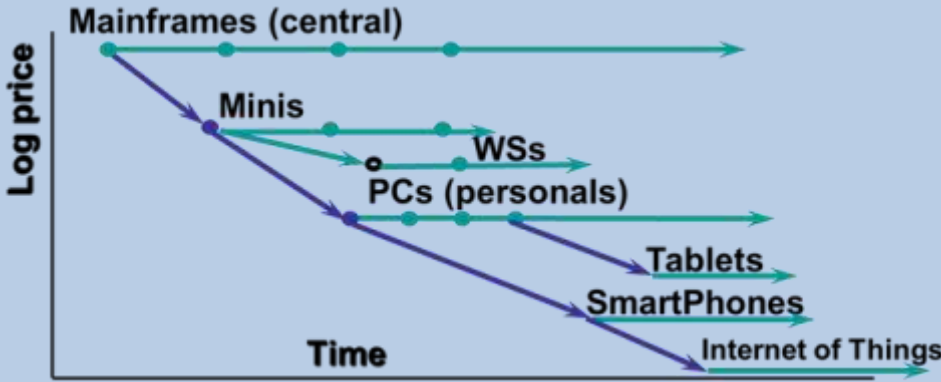
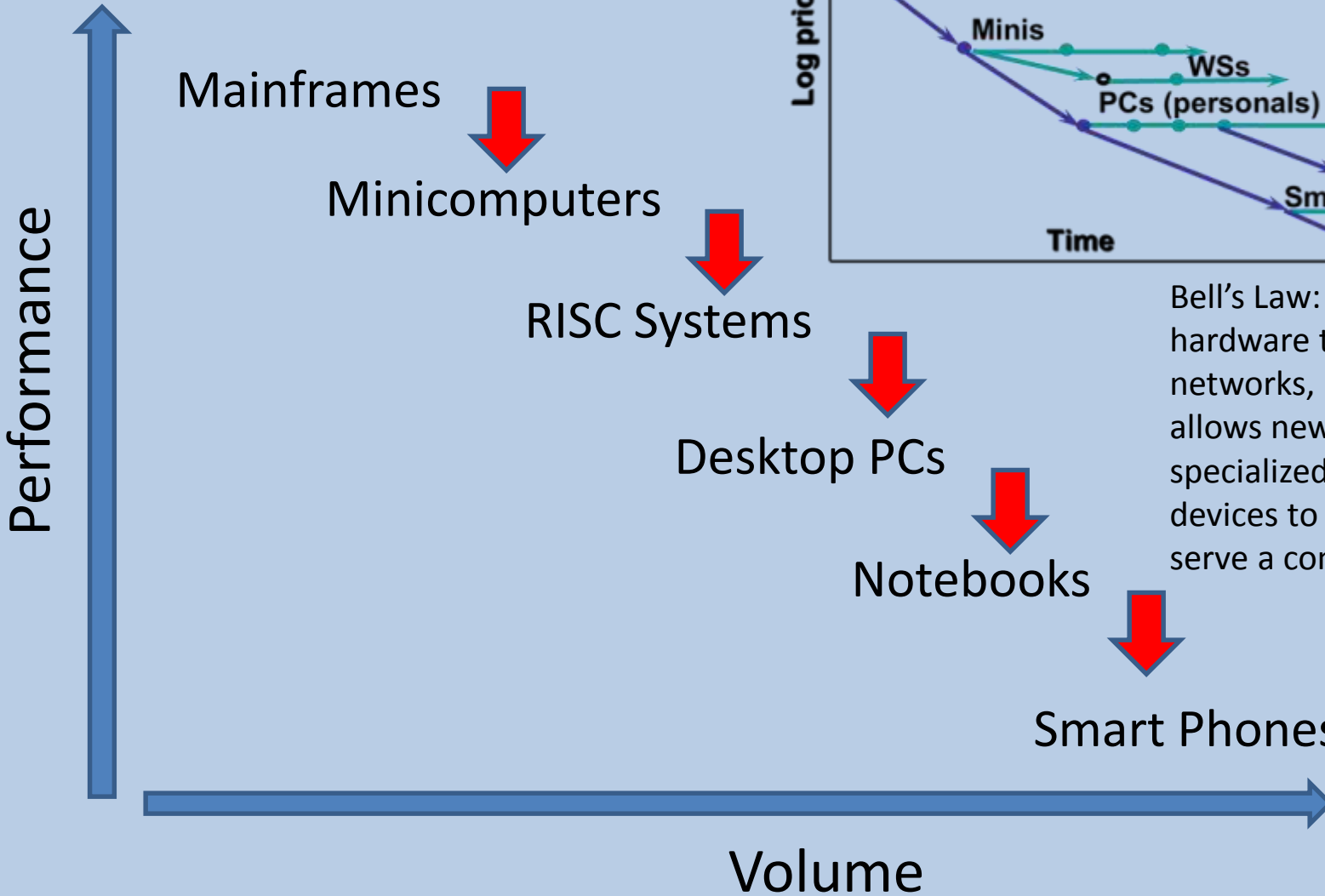
Dileep Bhandarkar, Ph. D.  
IEEE Life Fellow

Electronic Design Process  
Symposium  
April 2015

# Disclaimer

This presentation is based on personal  
Experiences over the last 40+ years in industry  
and  
Is not presented on behalf of  
current or past employers.

# Disruptions Come from Below!



Bell's Law:  
hardware technology,  
networks, and interfaces  
allows new, smaller, more  
specialized computing  
devices to be introduced to  
serve a computing need.

The First 50 Years  
after  
Shockley's Transistor Invention



# The Silicon Engine: A Timeline of Semiconductors in Computers

Welcome

Timeline

People

Companies

Resources

Glossary

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GO

## **MOORE'S LAW** "Transistor density on integrated circuits doubles about every two years." \*

**1950s**

Silicon Transistor



**1 Transistor**

**1960s**

TTL Quad Gate



**16 Transistors**

**1970s**

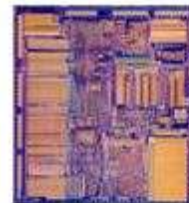
8-bit Microprocessor



**4500 Transistors**

**1980s**

32-bit Microprocessor



**275,000 Transistors**

**1990s**

32-bit Microprocessor



**3,100,000 Transistors**

**2000s**

64-bit Microprocessor



**592,000,000 Transistors**

Microelectronic silicon computer "chips" have grown in capability from a single transistor in the 1950s to hundreds of millions of transistors per chip on today's microprocessor and memory devices. From the first documented semiconductor effect in 1833 to the transition from transistors to integrated circuits in the 1960s and 70s, this website explores key milestones in the development of these extraordinary engines that power the computing and communications revolution of the information age.

**1958: Jack Kilby's Integrated Circuit**

\*Source: "Moore's Law: Raising the Bar" (Intel Corporation 2005)

Photo credits: Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, Intel Corporation (Note that images are not to scale)

SSI -> MSI -> LSI -> VLSI -> OMGWLSI



# Dennard Scaling

Device or Circuit Parameter	Scaling Factor
Device dimension $t_{ox}$ , L, W	$1/K$
Doping concentration $N_a$	K
Voltage V	$1/K$
Current I	$1/K$
Capacitance $eA/t$	$1/K$
Delay time per circuit $VC/I$	$1/K$
Power dissipation per circuit $VI$	$1/K^2$
Power density $VI/A$	1

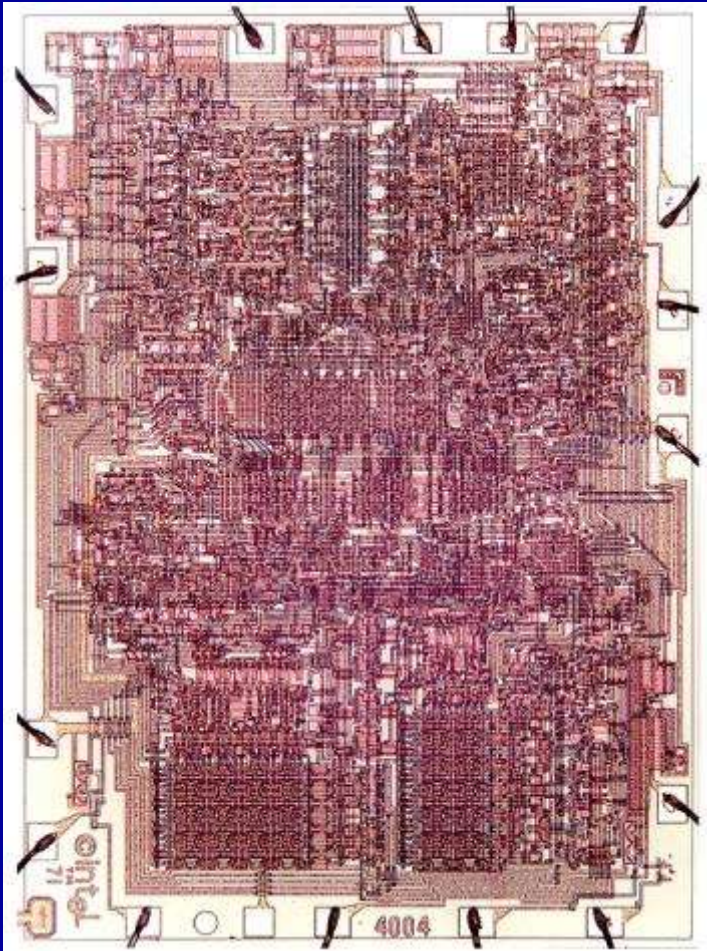
Dennard's 1974 paper summarizes transistor or circuit parameter changes under ideal MOSFET device scaling conditions, where K is the unitless scaling constant.

The benefits of scaling : as transistors get smaller, they can switch faster and use less power. Each new generation of process technology was expected to reduce minimum feature size by approximately 0.7x ( $K \sim 1.4$ ). A 0.7x reduction in linear features size provided roughly a 2x increase in transistor density.

Dennard scaling broke down around 2004 with unscaled interconnect delays and our inability to scale the voltage and the current due to reliability concerns.

But our the ability to etch smaller transistors has continued spawning multicore designs.

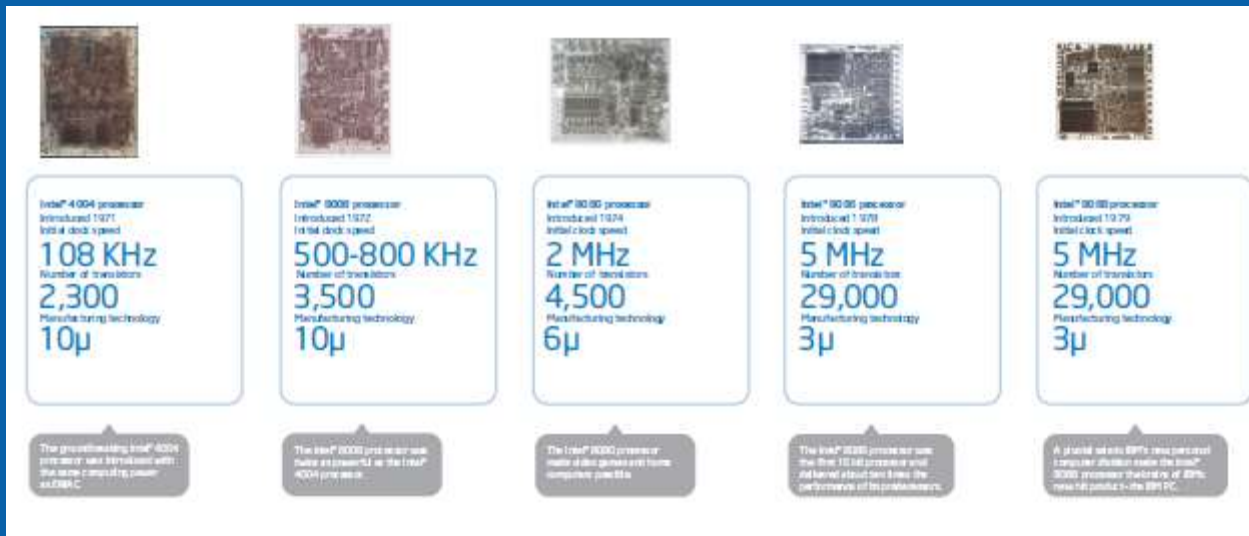
# 1971: 4004 Microprocessor



- The 4004 was Intel's first microprocessor. This breakthrough invention powered the Busicom calculator and paved the way for embedding intelligence in inanimate objects as well as the personal computer.



Introduced November 15, 1971  
108 KHz, 50 KIPs , 2300  $10\mu$  transistors



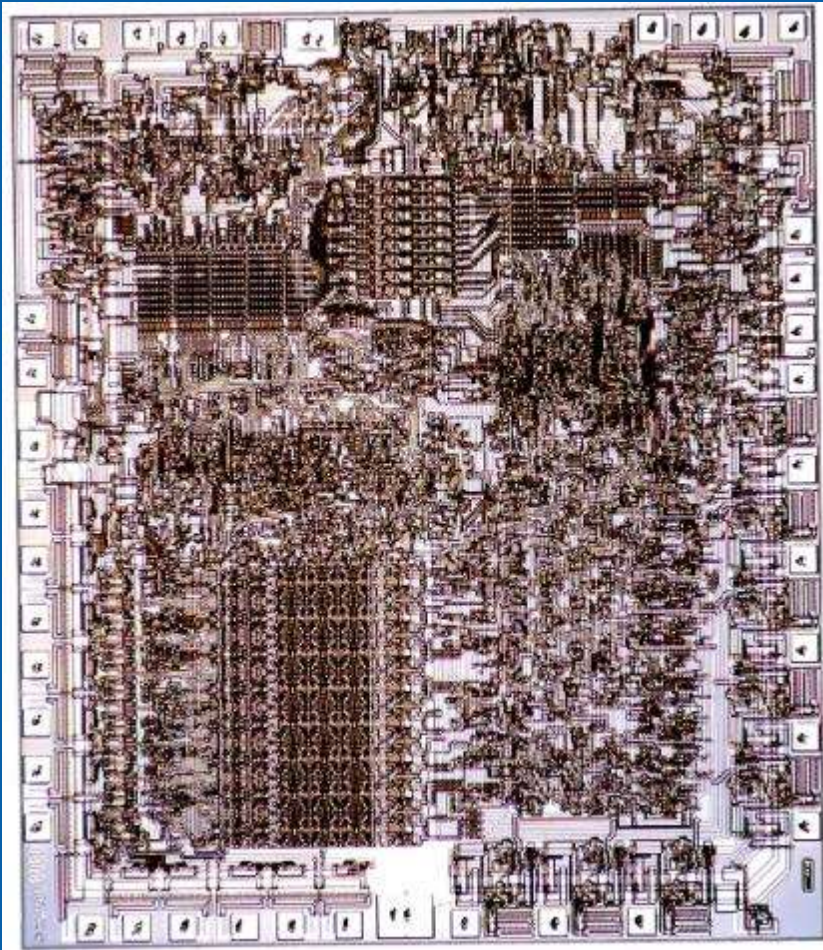
# The First 25 Years of Microprocessors

## ~2000x Frequency & > 2000x Transistors



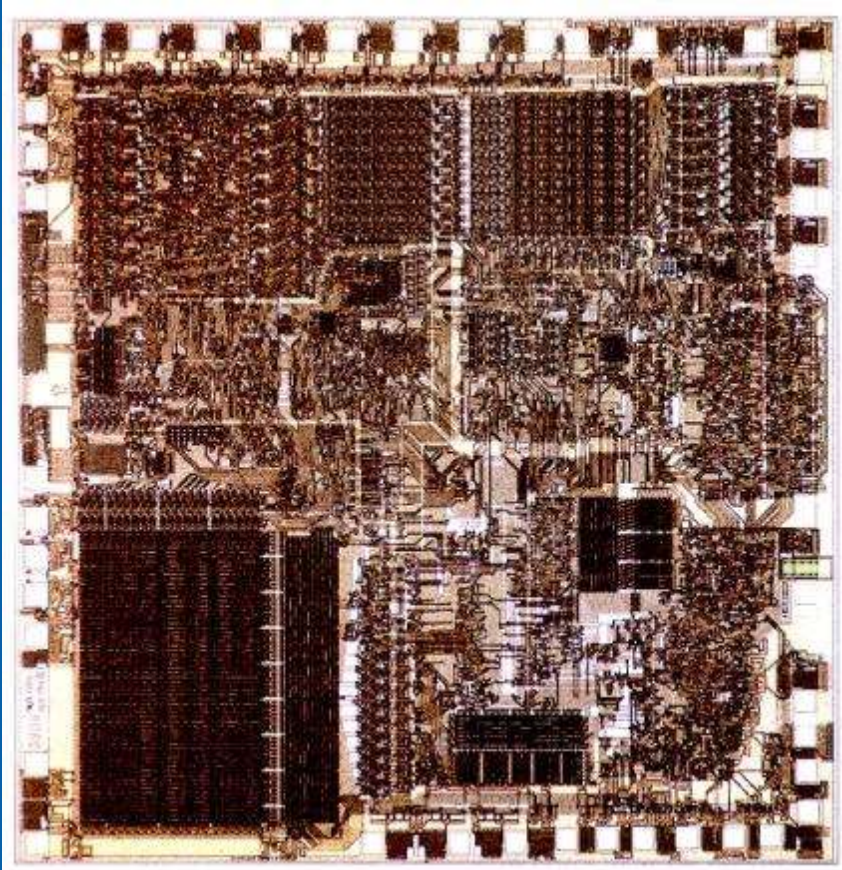


# 1974: 8080 Microprocessor



- The 8080 became the brain of the first personal computer--the Altair, allegedly named for a destination of the Starship *Enterprise* from the *Star Trek* television show. Computer hobbyists could purchase a kit for the Altair for \$395.
- Within months, it sold tens of thousands, creating the first PC back orders in history
- 2 MHz
- 4500 transistors
- 6  $\mu\text{m}$

# 1978-79: 8086-8088 Microprocessor



- A pivotal sale to **IBM's new personal computer division** made the 8088 the brain of **IBM's new hit product--the IBM PC.**
- The 8088's success propelled Intel into the ranks of the *Fortune 500*, and *Fortune* magazine named the company one of the "**Business Triumphs of the Seventies.**"
- 5 MHz
- 29,000 transistors
- 3  $\mu\text{m}$

# 1981: First IBM PC

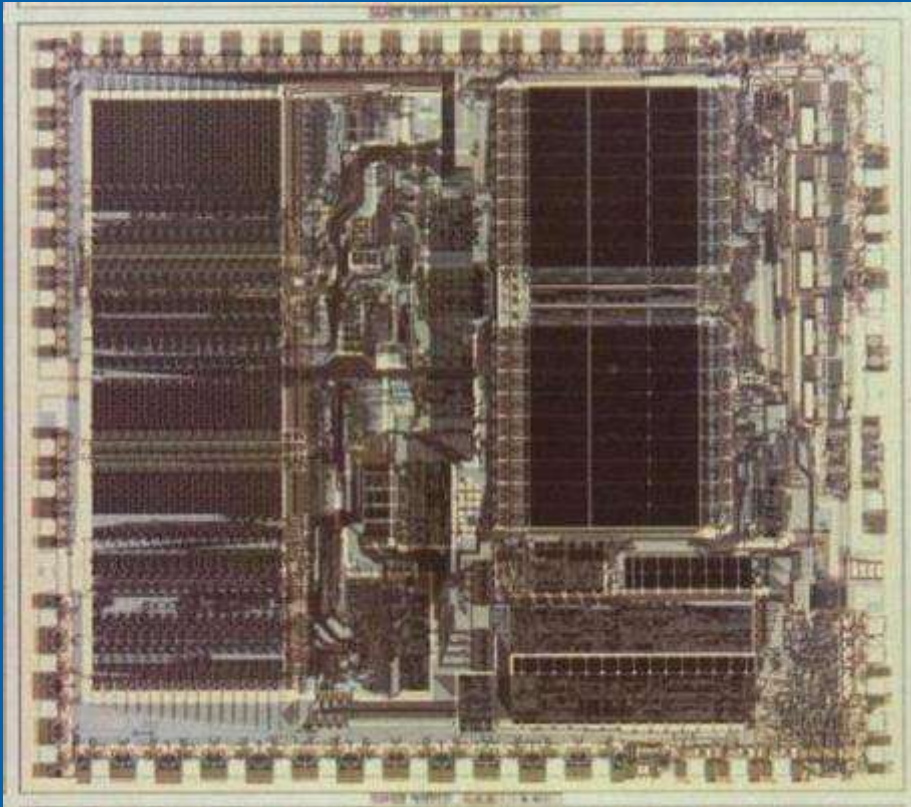
The IBM Personal Computer ("PC")



- PC-DOS Operating System
- Microsoft BASIC programming language, which was built-in and included with every PC.
- Typical system for home use with a memory of 64K bytes, a single diskette drive and its own display, was priced around \$3,000.
- An expanded system for business with color graphics, two diskette drives, and a printer cost about \$4,500.

**“There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.” Ken Olsen, president Digital Equipment Corp (1977)**

# 1979: Motorola 68000

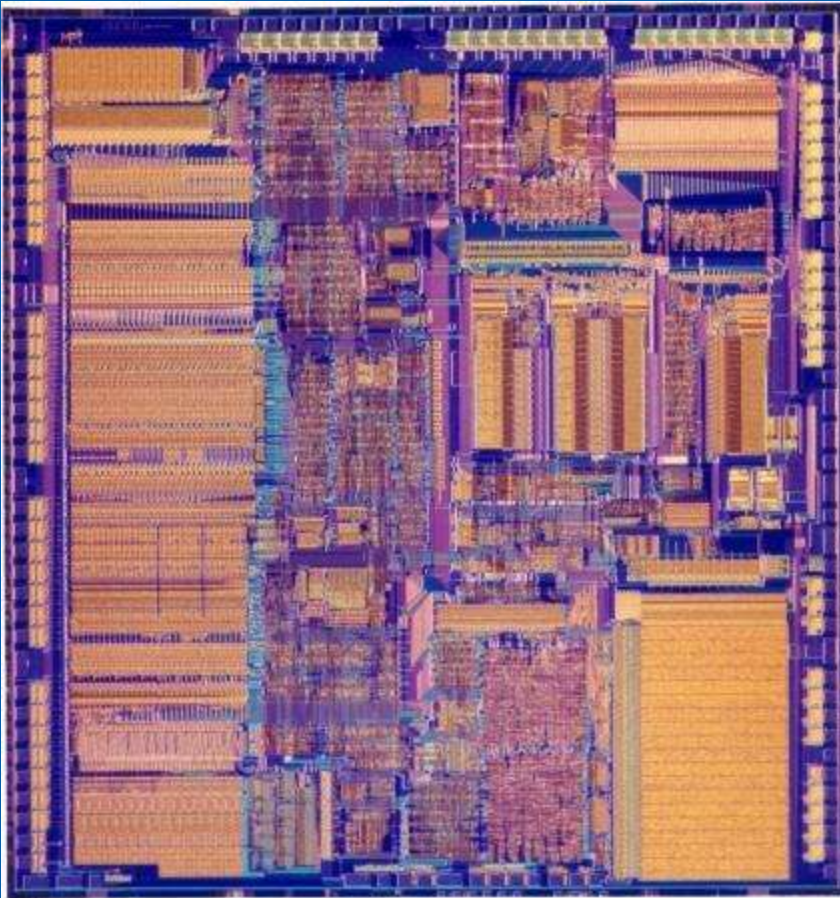


1984: Apple Macintosh

The 68000 became the dominant CPU for Unix-based workstations from Sun and Apollo

It was also used for personal computers such as the Apple Lisa, Macintosh, Amiga, and Atari ST

# 1985: Intel386™ Microprocessor



- The Intel386™ microprocessor featured 275,000 transistors--more than 100 times as many as the original 4004. It was a **Intel's first 32-bit chip.**
- The 80386 included a paging translation unit, which made it much easier to implement operating systems that used **virtual memory.**
- **16 MHz**
- **1.5μm**

# RISC vs CISC WARS

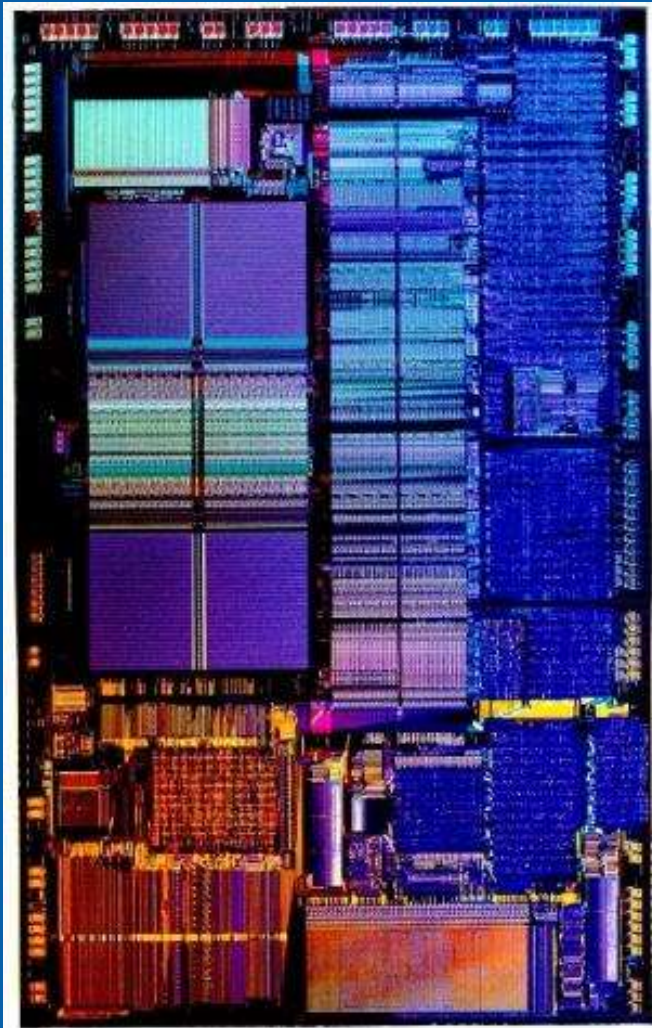
- Sun SPARC
- MIPS R2000, R3000, R4000, R6000, R10000
- HP PA-RISC
- IBM Power and Power PC
- DEC Alpha 21064, 21164, 21264

In 1987, the introduction of RISC processors based on Sun's SPARC architecture spawned the now famous RISC vs CISC debates. RISC processors from MIPS, IBM (Power, Power PC), and HP (PA-RISC) started to gain market share.

- RISC was “better” for in order designs
- Out of order microarchitectures leveled the playing field
- Semiconductor Technology and Volume Economics matter!
- PC Volumes and Pentium Pro design changed the industry

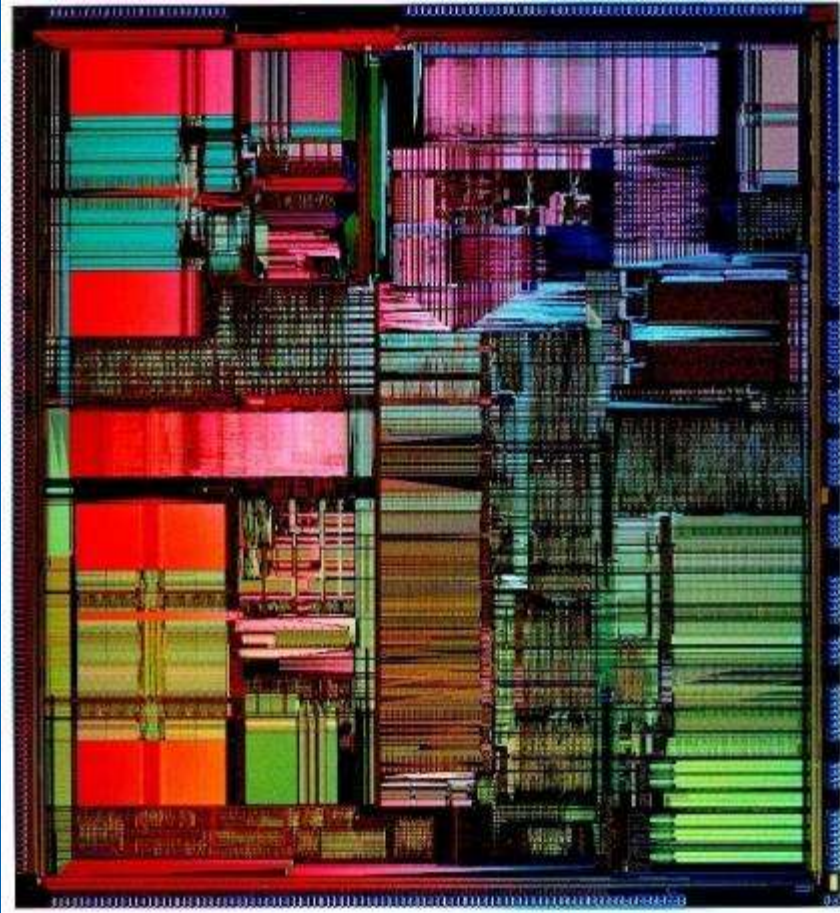
**The difference between theory and practice is always greater in practice than it is in theory!**

# 1989: Intel486™ DX CPU Microprocessor



- The Intel486™ processor was the first to offer a “large” 8KB unified instruction and data on-chip cache and an integrated floating-point unit.
- Due to the tight pipelining, sequences of simple instructions (such as ALU reg, reg and ALU reg, im) could sustain a single clock cycle throughput (one instruction completed every clock).
- 25 MHz
- 1.2 M transistors
- 1  $\mu\text{m}$

# 1993: Intel® Pentium® Processor

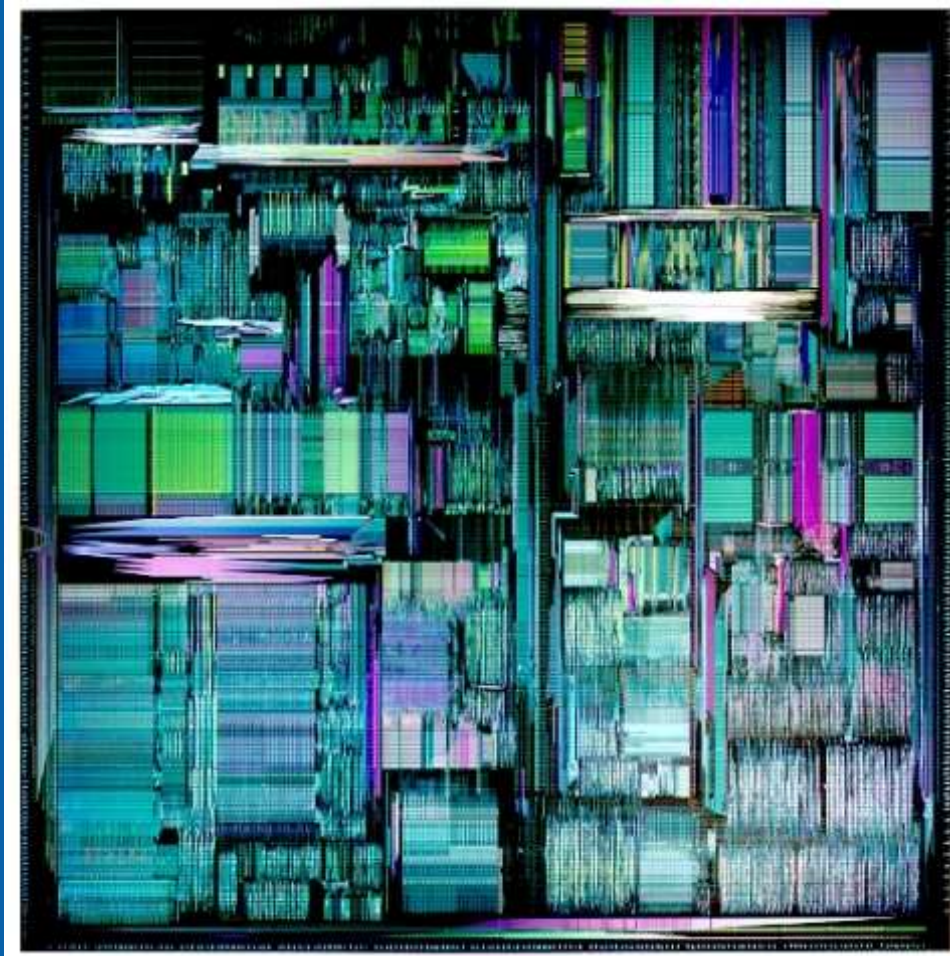


- The Intel Pentium® processor was the **first superscalar x86** microarchitecture. It included dual integer pipelines, a faster floating-point unit, wider data bus, separate instruction and data caches
- Famous for the FDIV bug!
- 22 March 1993
- 66 MHz
- 3.1 M transistors
- **0.8  $\mu\text{m}$**

PC Performance Gets Interesting!



# 1995: Intel® Pentium® Pro Processor



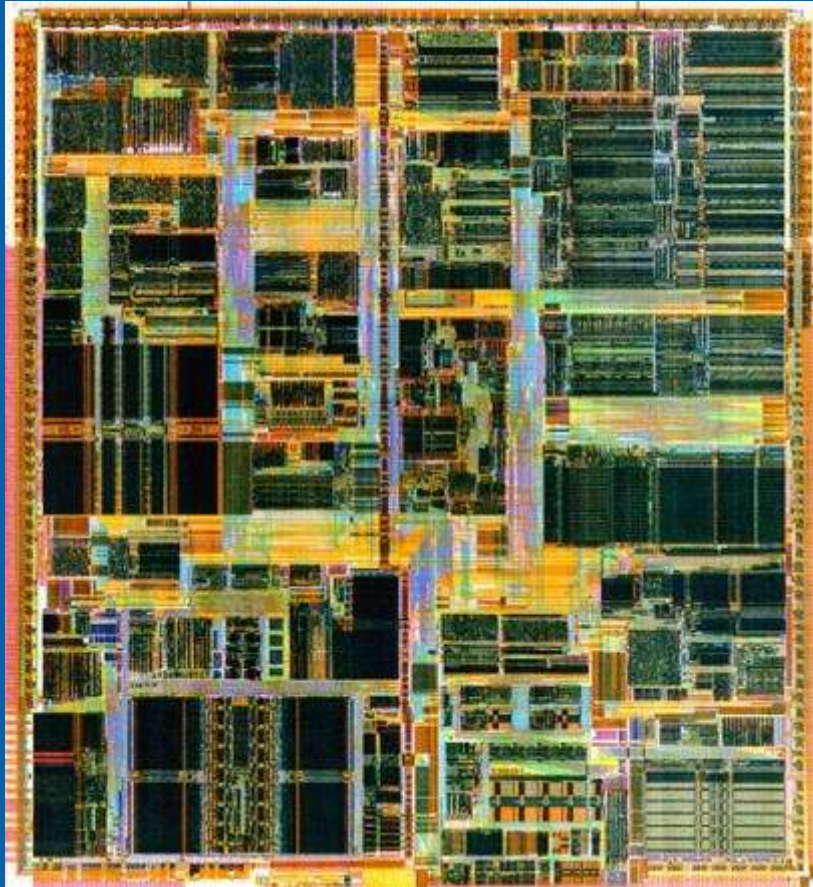
- Intel® Pentium® Pro processor was designed to fuel 32-bit server and workstation applications. Each processor was packaged together with a second L2 cache memory chip on the back-side bus.
- 5.5 million transistors.
- 1 November 1995
- 200 MHz
- 0.35µm
- 1<sup>st</sup> x86 to implement out of order execution
- Front side bus with split transactions
- The P6 micro-architecture lasted 3 generations from the Pentium Pro to Pentium III
- The Pentium Pro processor slightly outperformed the fastest RISC microprocessors on integer benchmarks, but floating-point performance was significantly lower

X86 Gets Ready for Workstation & Server Markets



# 1997-98: Intel® Pentium® II Processor

Klamath  
Deschutes

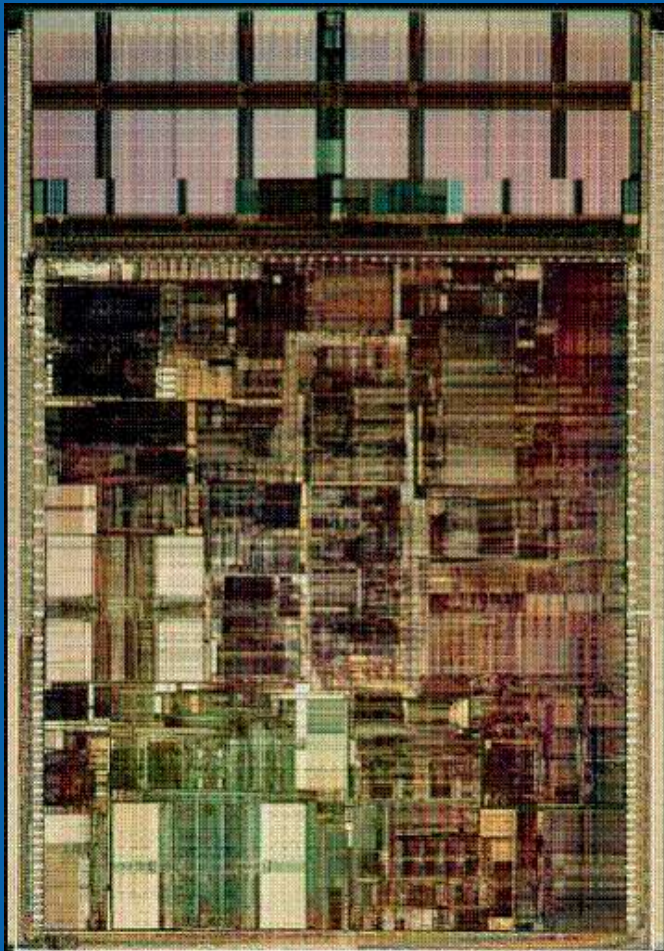


- The 7.5 million-transistor 0.35  $\mu\text{m}$  Pentium II processor was introduced with **512 KB L2 cache in external chips** on the CPU module clocked at half the CPU's 300 MHz frequency in a "Slot 1" SECC module.
- **1998: Intel Pentium II Xeon** processors (0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  Deschutes) were launched with a full-speed custom 512 KB, 1 MB, or 2 MB L2 cache using a larger **Slot 2** to meet the performance requirements of mid-range and higher servers and workstations

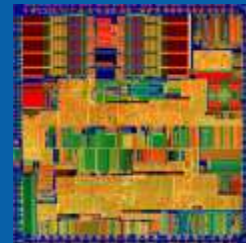
Driving PC Technology Higher



# 1998: Intel® Celeron® Processor



- The Intel® Celeron® processors were designed for the sub \$1000 Value PC market segment in response to Cyrix 6x86 (M1)
- The first Celeron processor (Covington) in April 1998 was just a 266 MHz Pentium II without a L2 cache
- **Mendocino: First x86 with integrated L2 cache -128 KB**
- 19M transistors
- 300 MHz
- 0.25µm
- 24 August 1998



Making PCs More Affordable

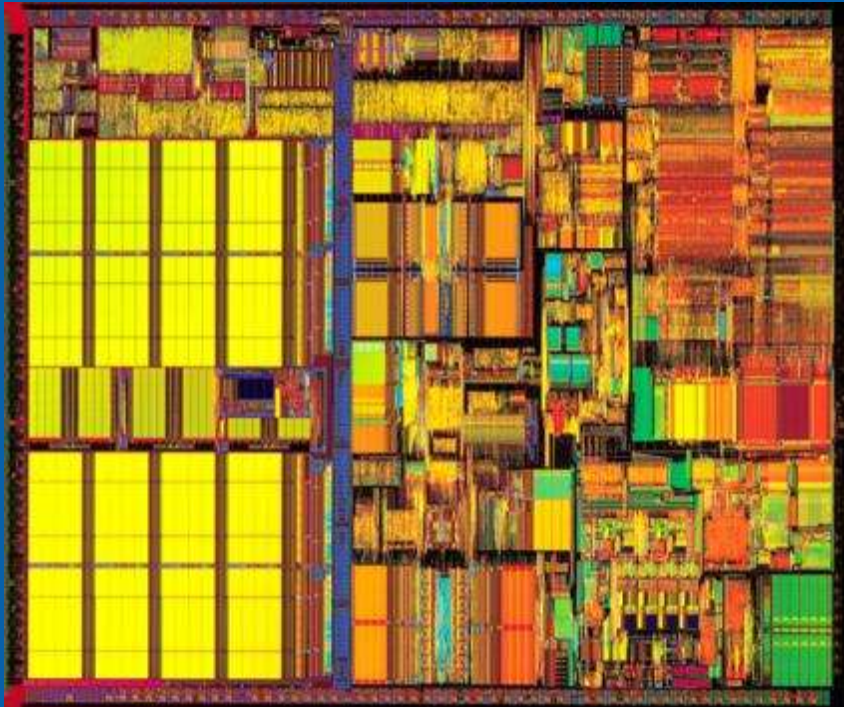
# **Clock Frequency Uber Alis**

# 1999: AMD Athlon



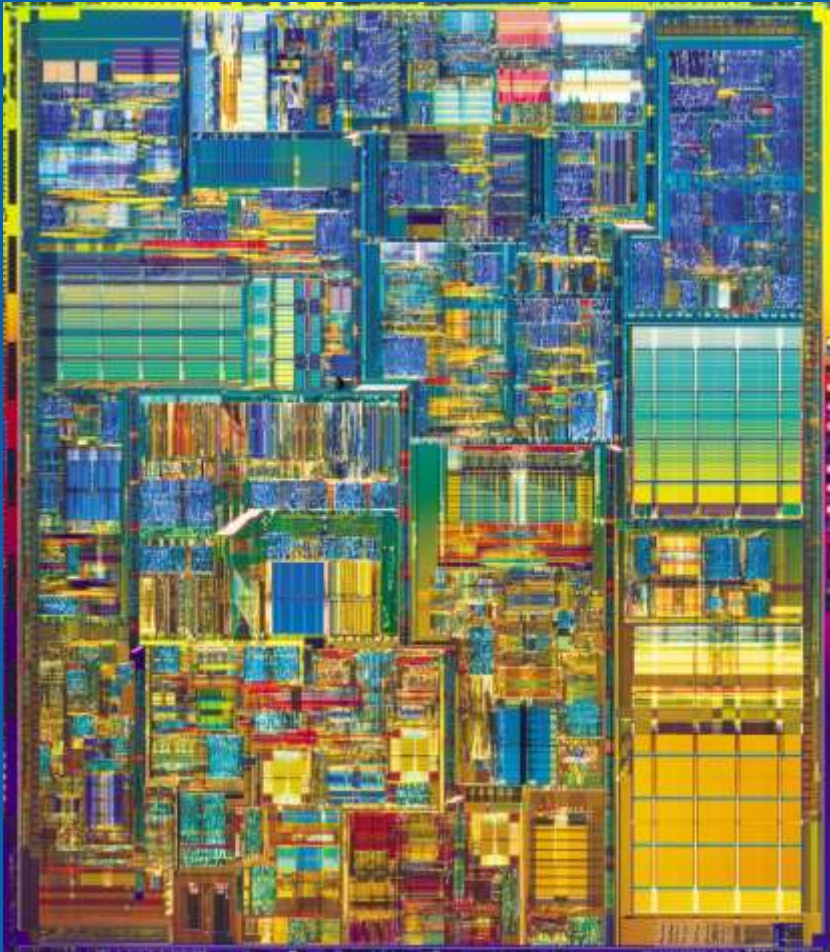
Won the Race to 1 GHz

# 1999: Intel® Pentium® III Processor – 0.18µm



- 25 Oct 1999
- Integrated 256KB L2 cache
- 733 MHz
- 28 M transistors
- 1st Intel microprocessor to hit 1 GHz on 8-Mar-2000, a few days after AMD Athlon!

# 2000: Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor – 0.18 $\mu$ m

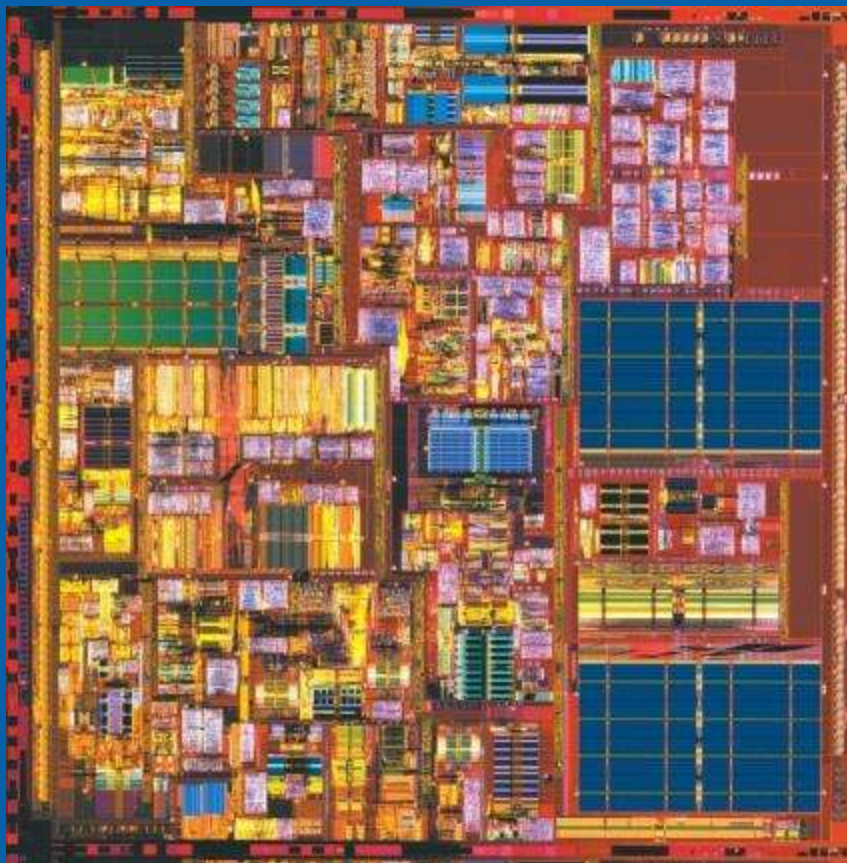


- The Intel® Pentium® 4
- processor's initial speed
- was 1.5 GigaHertz.
- 20 Nov 2000
- 256K integrated L2 cache
- Double clocked "Fireball" inner core
- Deep 20 stage pipeline
- 100 MHz quad pumped
- bus
- 42 M transistors
- Hit 2 GHz on 27 Aug 2001
- ~55 Watts
- No Mobile Pentium 4!



Desktop Processors Not Mobile Friendly!

# 2001: Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor – 0.13µm

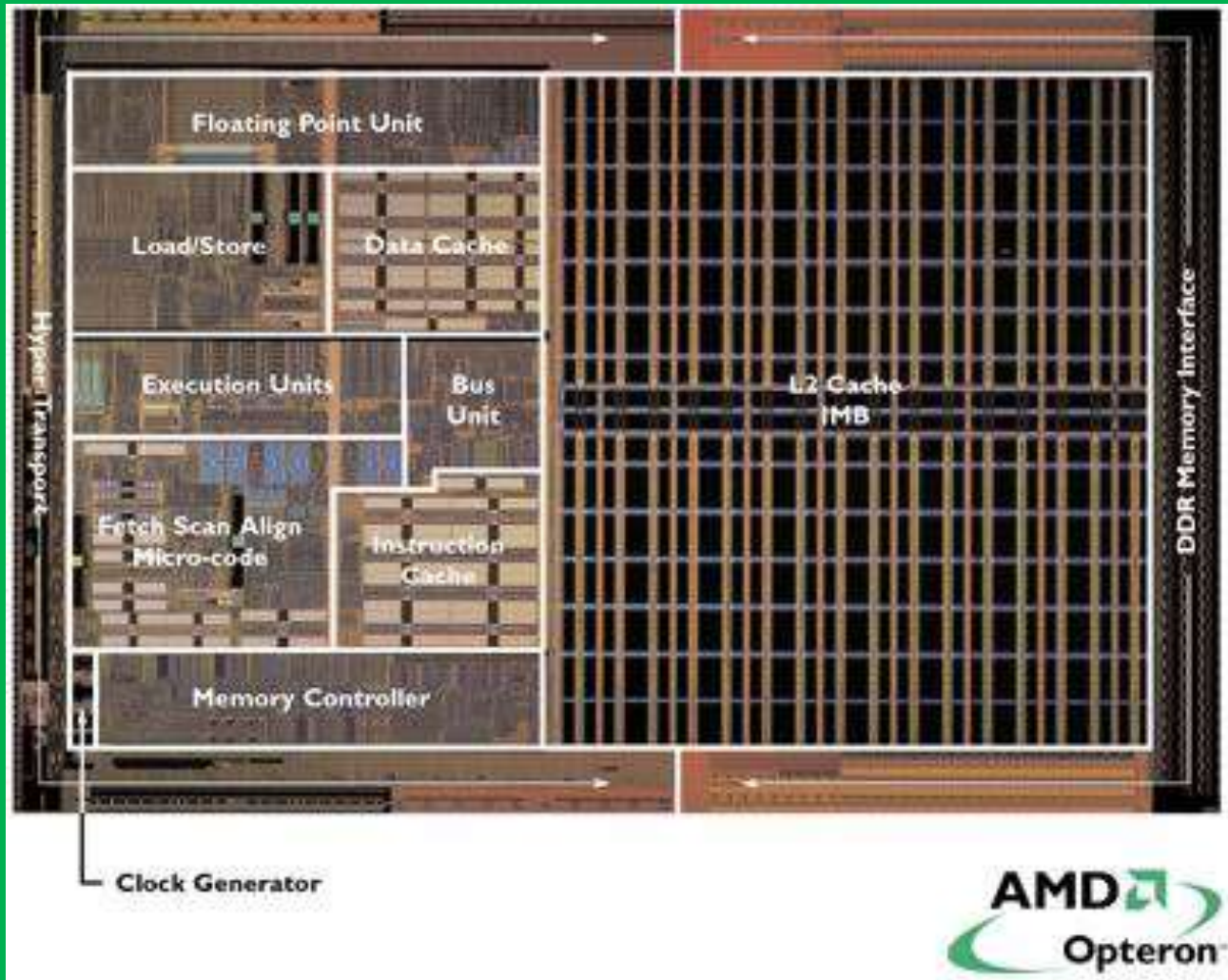


- 27 August 2001
- 55 million transistors
- 2 GHz
- 512KB L2 cache
- In 2002 Intel released a Xeon branded CPU, codenamed "Prestonia" with Intel's Hyper-Threading Technology
- 14 Nov 2002: 3.06 GHz
- 23 June 2003: 3.2 GHz

Simultaneous Multi Threading Improves Throughput Performance

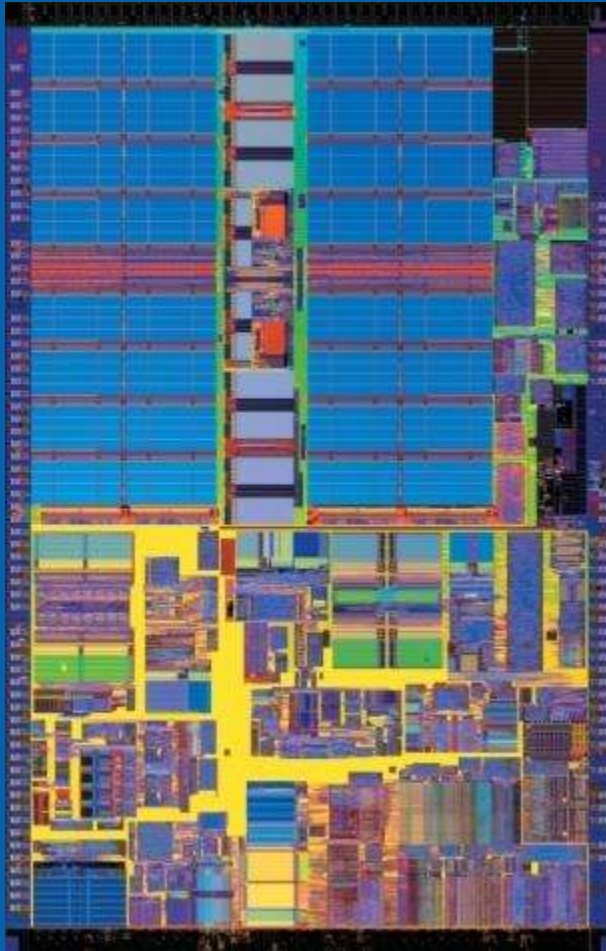


# 2003: AMD Opteron – First 64 bit x86



64 bits Comes to PC Platforms

# 2003: Intel® Pentium® M Processor



- The first Intel® Pentium® M processor, the Intel® 855 chipset family, and the Intel® PRO/Wireless 2100 network connection were the three components of **Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology**, with built-in wireless LAN capability and breakthrough mobile performance. It enabled extended battery life and thinner, lighter mobile computers.
- **Dedicated Processor Optimized for Notebook Segment**
- 12 March 2003
- 130 nm
- 1.6 GHz
- 77 million transistors
- 1 MB integrated L2 cache

The move away from core frequency to performance begins!

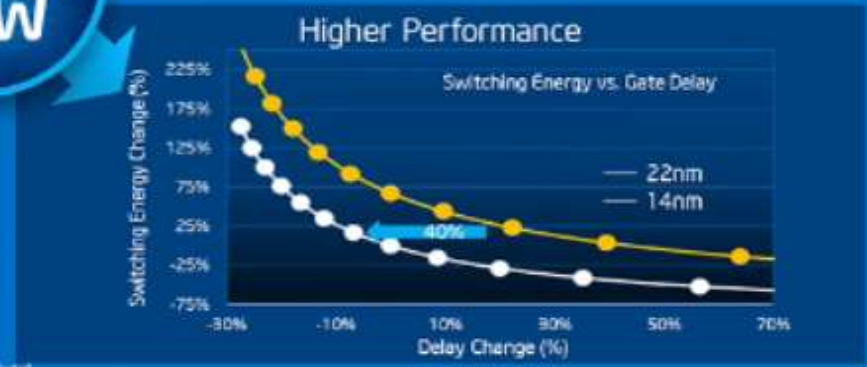
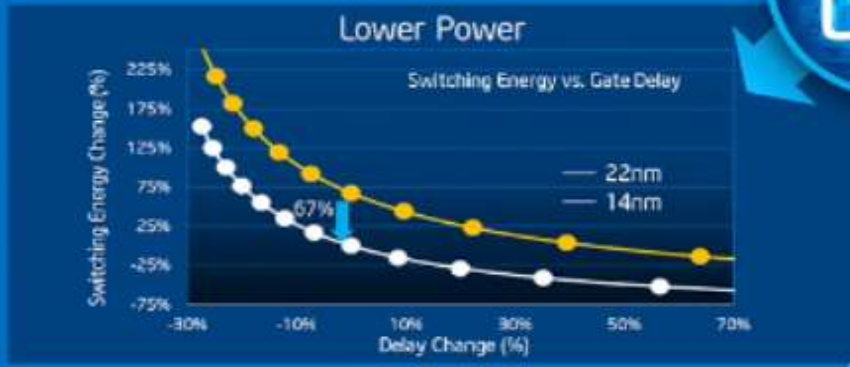
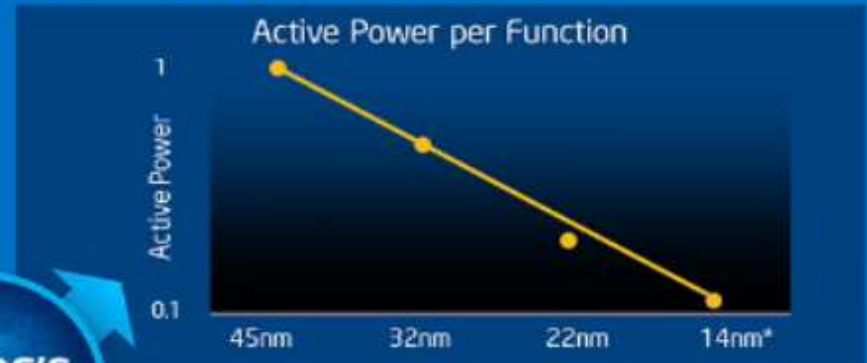
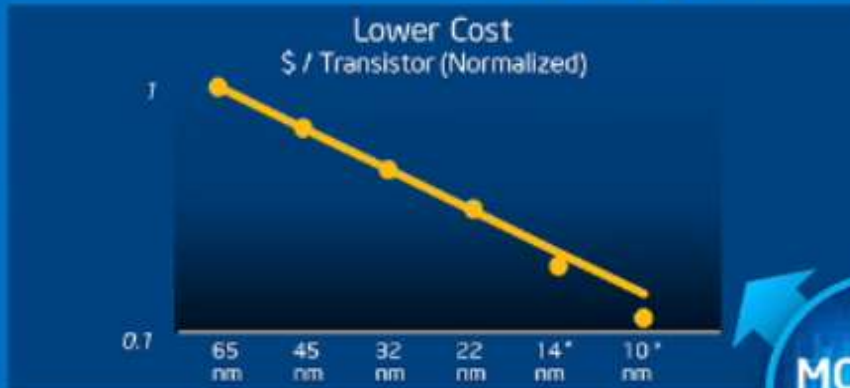
# Post Dennard Scaling

## **THE MULTICORE ERA**

**NEW DEVICE STRUCTURES**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

# Getting Benefits of Moore's Law Across all Value Vectors



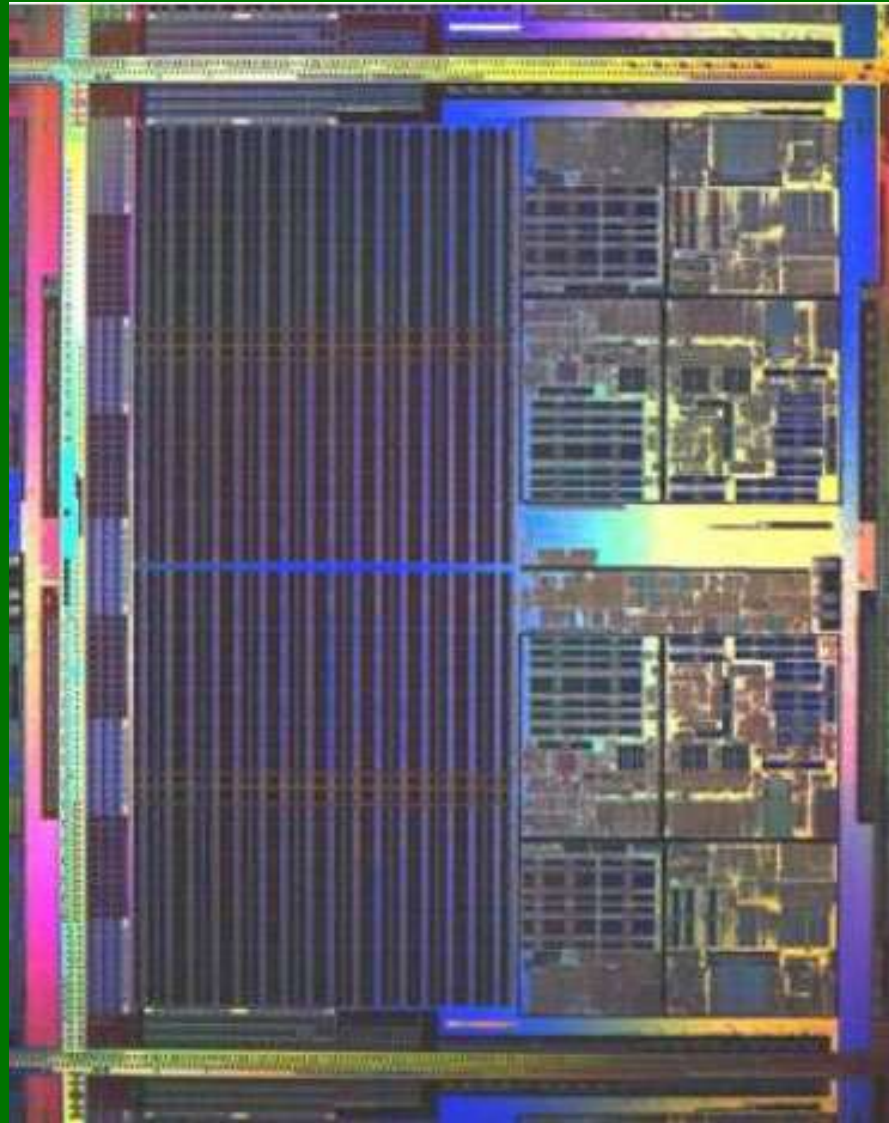
Source: Intel

2001                      2003                      2005                      2007                      2009                      2011

Something New Needed Every Two Process Generations to Keep Moore's Law Going

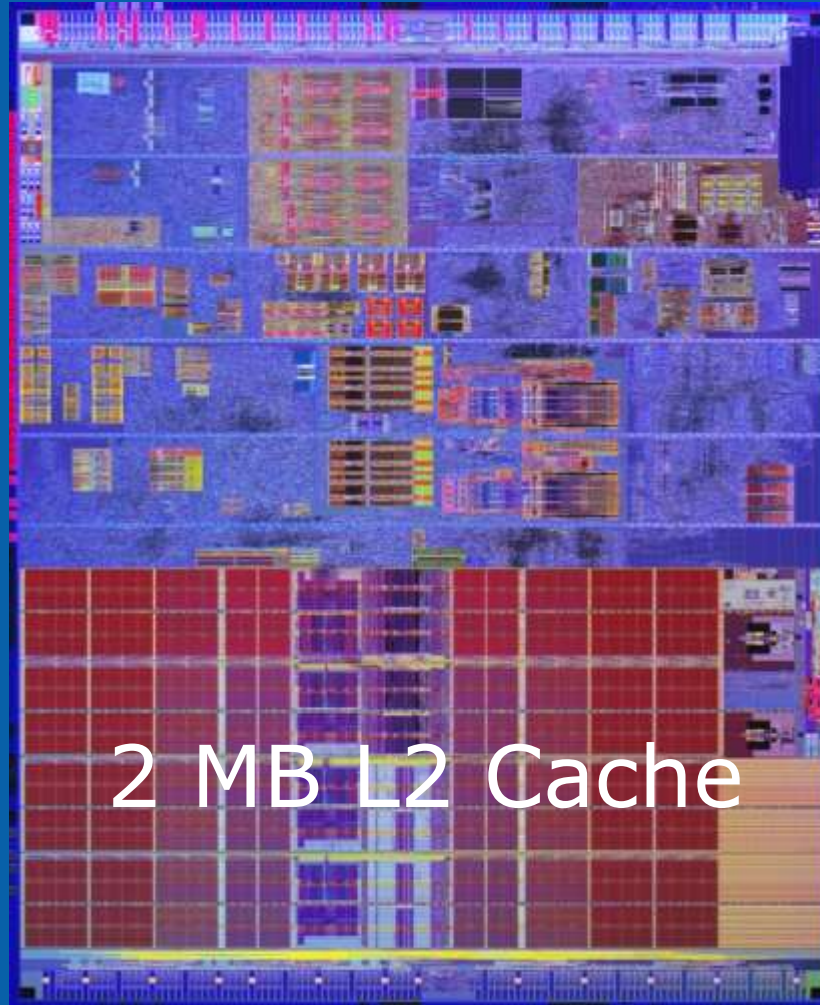
Strained Si	2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Strained Si	High K / Metal Gate	2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation High K/Metal Gate	Tri-Gate
90 nm	65 nm	45 nm	32 nm	22 nm

# 2005: First Dual Core Opteron



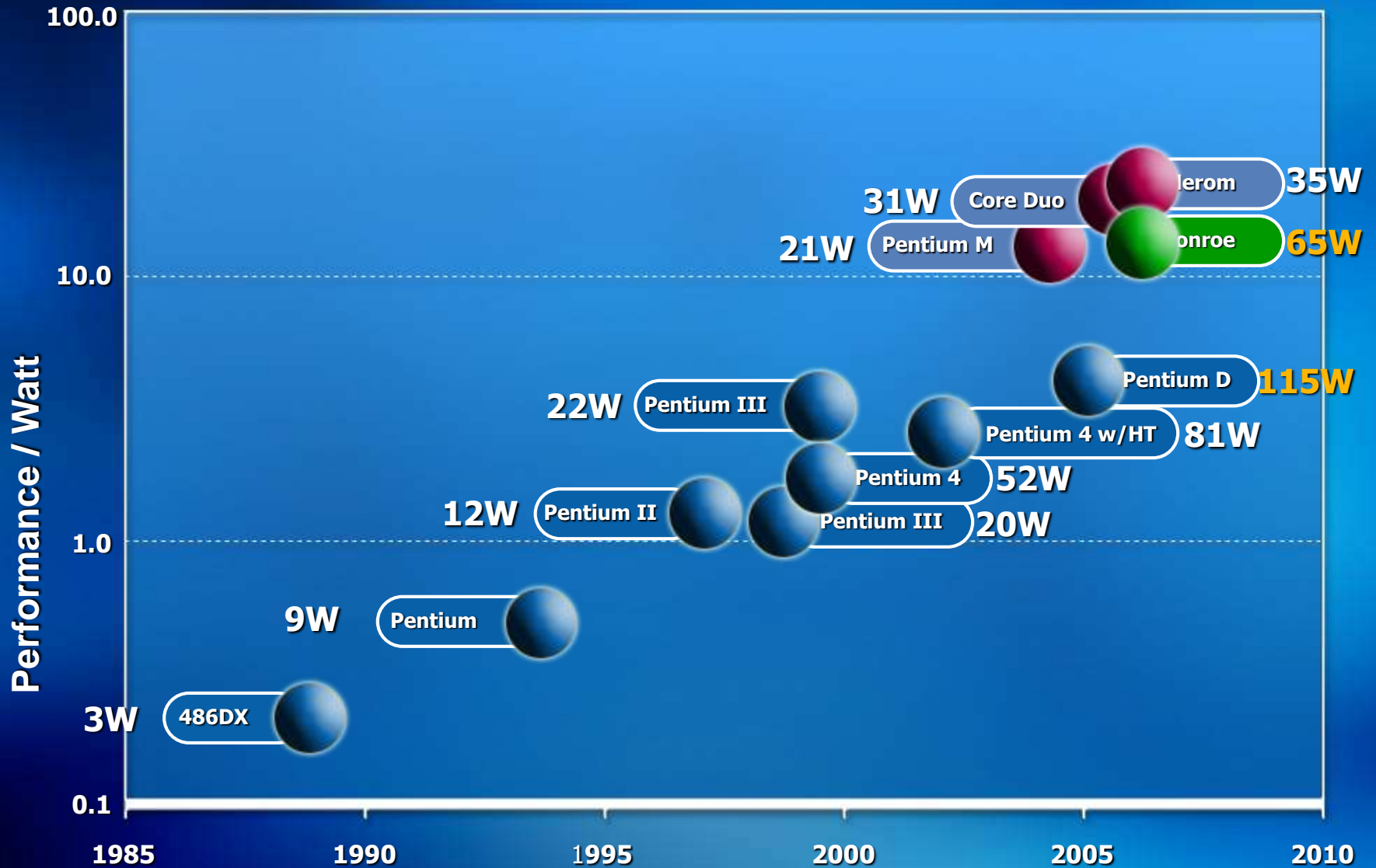
Beginning of the Multi-Core Era!

# 2005: Last Netburst Microarchitecture Core (65nm)



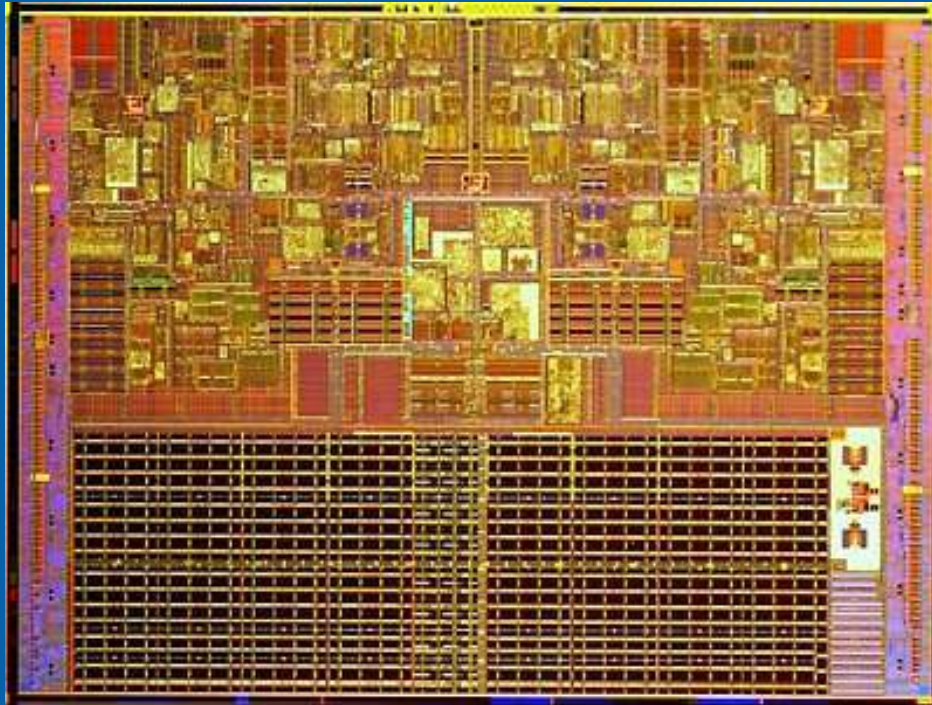
Last of the Power Hungry Speed Demons!

# Increasing Energy Efficiency



Specint\_rate2000; source: Intel; some data estimated.

# 2006: Intel's 1st Monolithic Dual Core



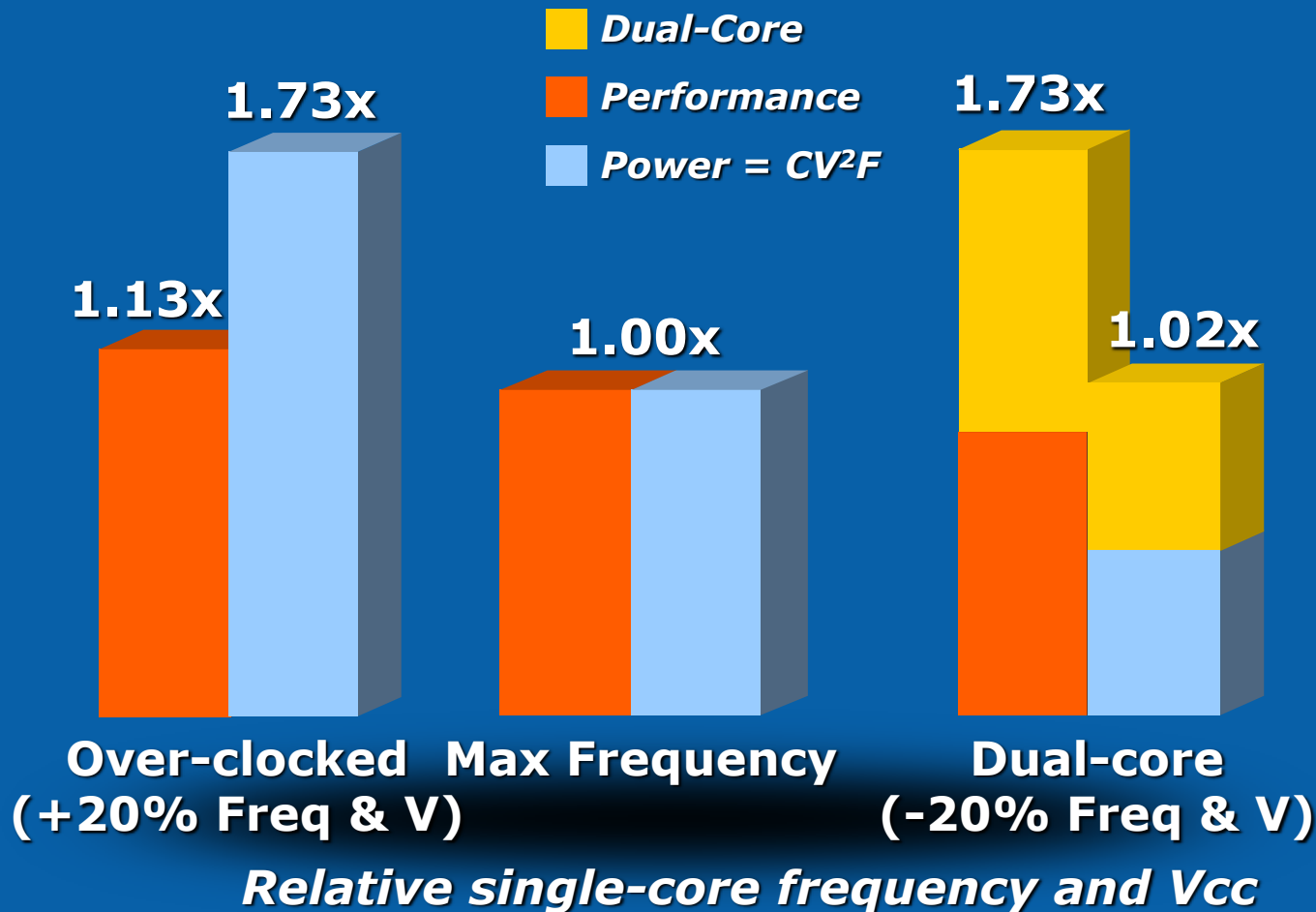
- January 2006
- Intel® Core™ Duo Processor
- 90 mm<sup>2</sup>
- 151M transistors
- 65 nm
- First Intel processor to be used in Apple Macintosh Computers

The Convergence to Multiple Mobile Cores Begins Finally!



# Why Multi-Core?

## Energy-Efficient Performance!



- End of Dennard Scaling
- Instruction Level Parallelism harder to find
- Increasing single-stream performance often requires non-linear increase in design complexity, die size, and power

# Moore's Law Enables Microprocessor Advances

Chatting with Gordon Moore

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzxp00N5Amc>

1.0 $\mu$ m 0.8 $\mu$ m 0.6 $\mu$ m 0.35 $\mu$ m 0.25 $\mu$ m 0.18 $\mu$ m 0.13 $\mu$ m 90nm 65nm

Intel 486™  
Processor



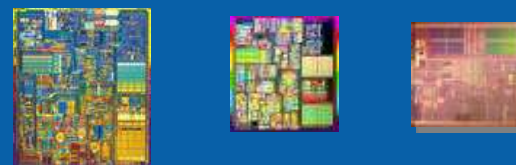
Pentium®  
Processor



Pentium® II/III  
Processor



Pentium® 4  
Processor



Intel® Core™ Duo  
Processor

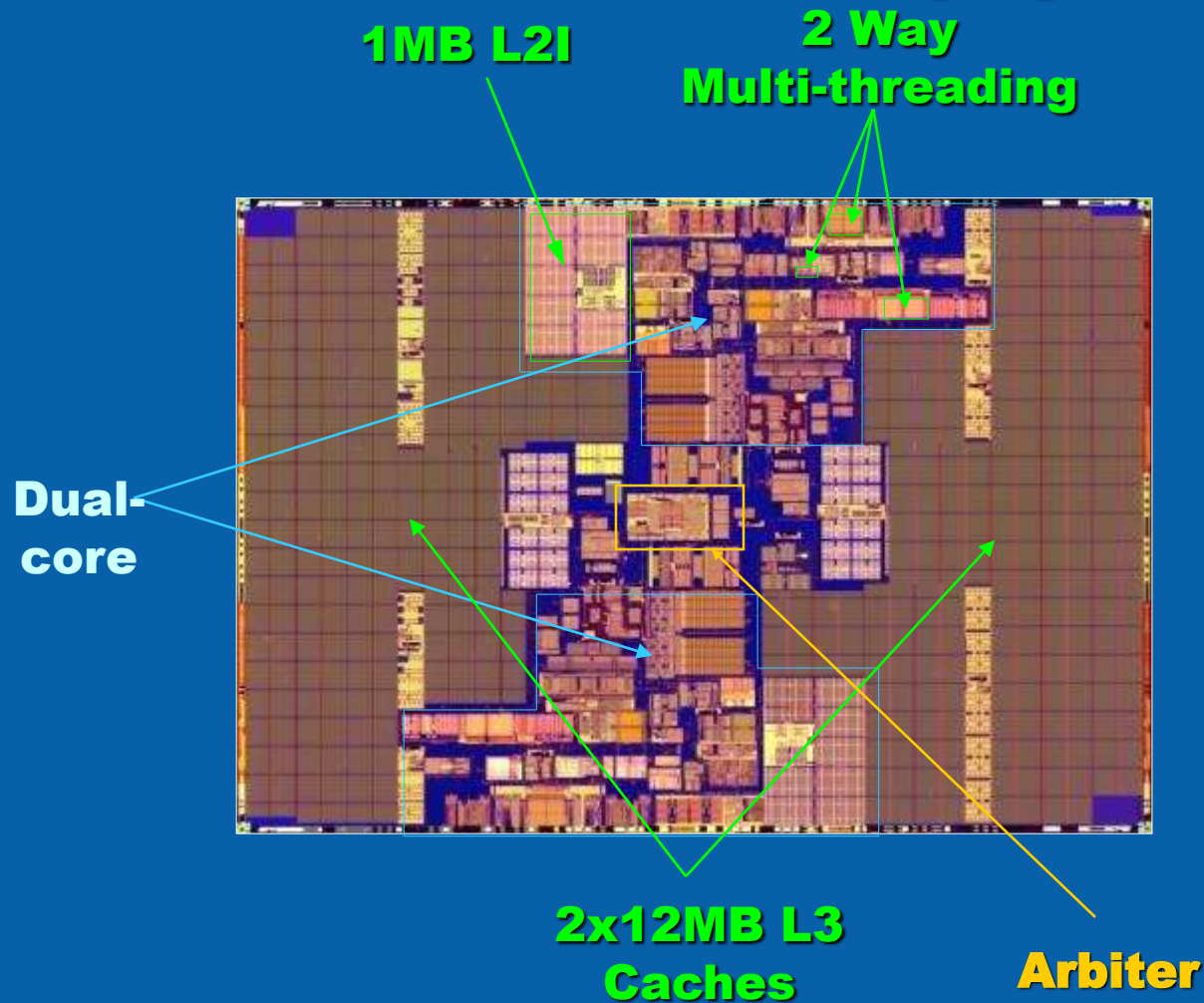


Intel® Core™ 2 Duo  
Processor



New Designs serve High End first and waterfall to more mainstream segments as die size decreases in subsequent nodes

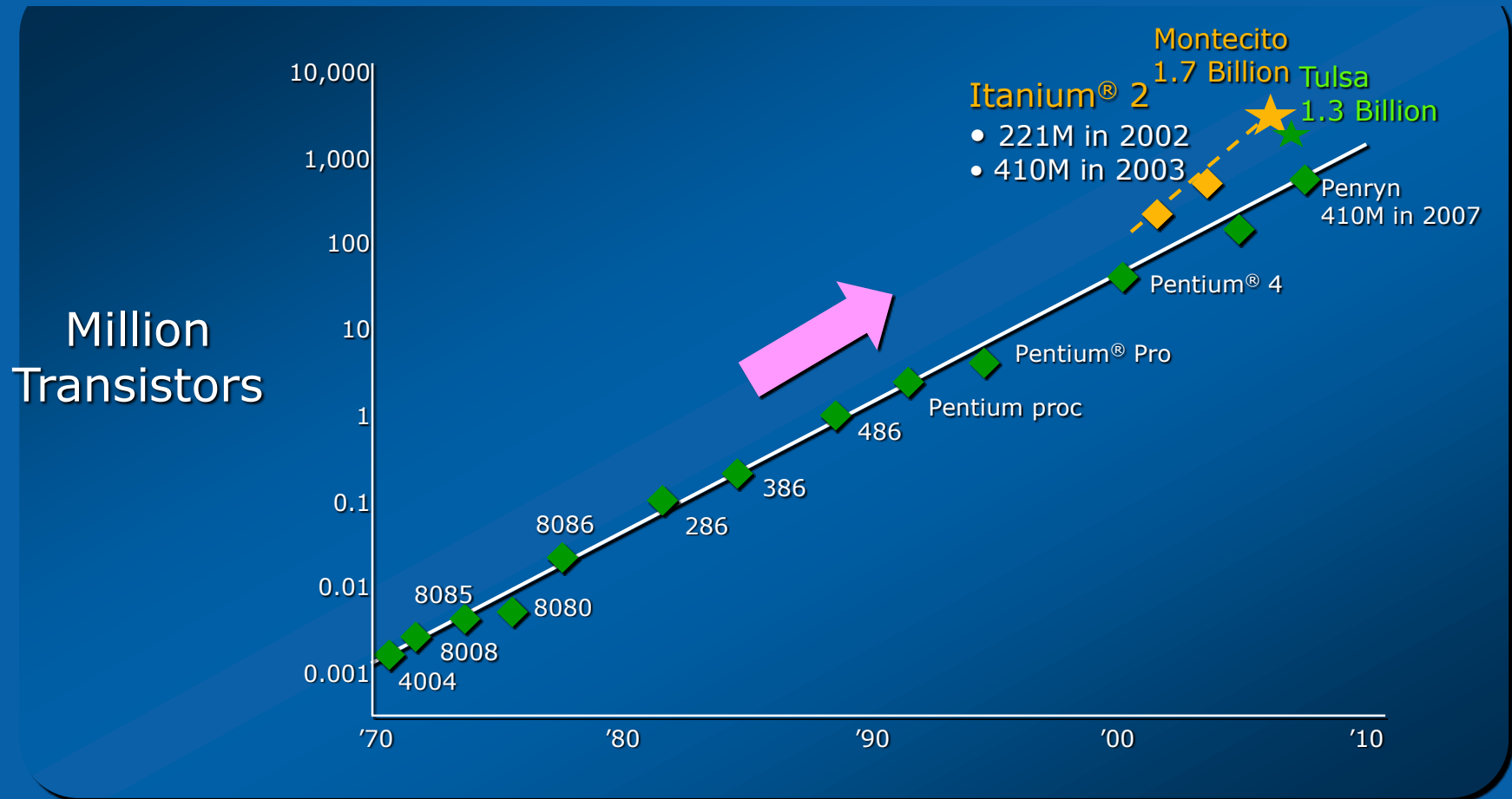
# 2006: Itanium 2: First Billion Transistor Dual Core Chip (90nm)



**1.72 Billion Transistors  
(596 mm<sup>2</sup>)**

# From 2300 to >1 Billion Transistors In < 40 Years of Moore's Law

Moore's Law video at [http://www.cs.ucr.edu/~gupta/hpca9/HPCA-PDFs/Moores\\_Law\\_Video\\_HPCA9.wmv](http://www.cs.ucr.edu/~gupta/hpca9/HPCA-PDFs/Moores_Law_Video_HPCA9.wmv)



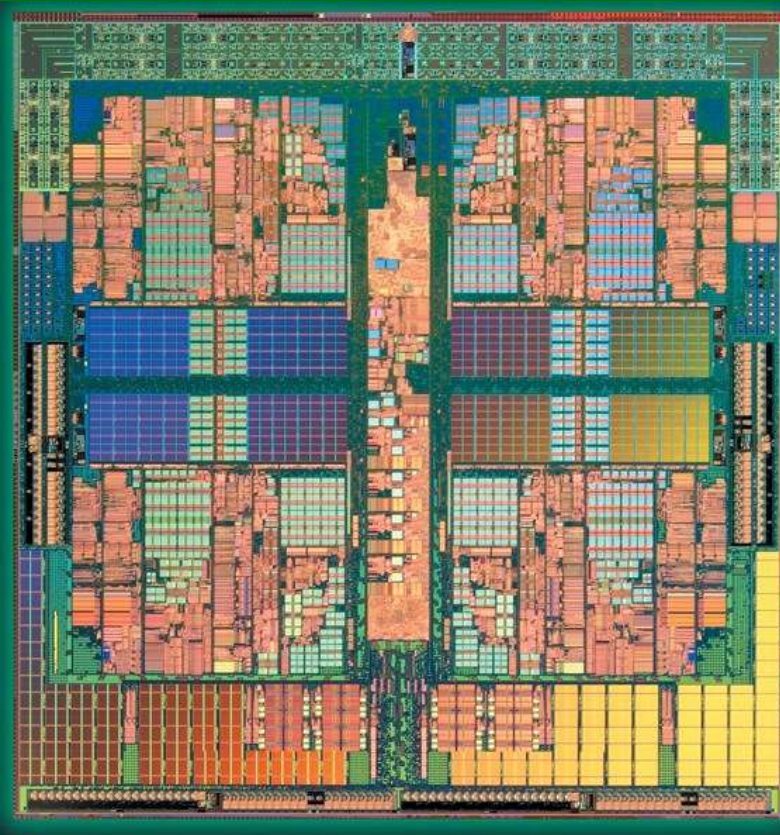
*More than 1 Billion Transistors in 2006!*

# Multi-Core Era

Who Has The Most Cores?

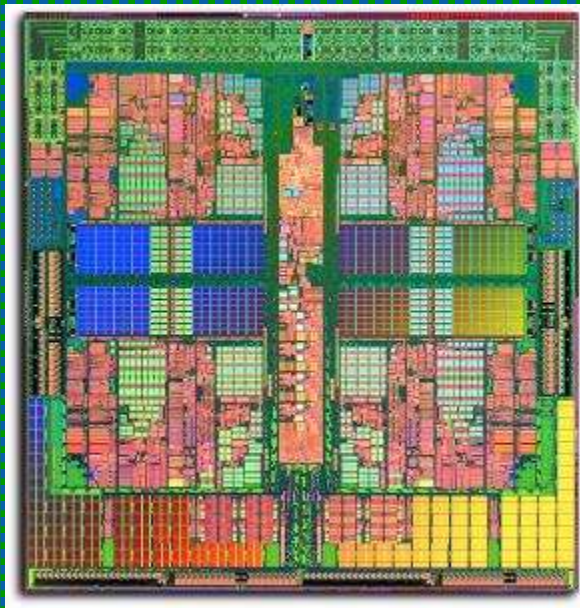
4 is Better Than 2!

# 2007: AMD Barcelona First Monolithic x86 Quad Core

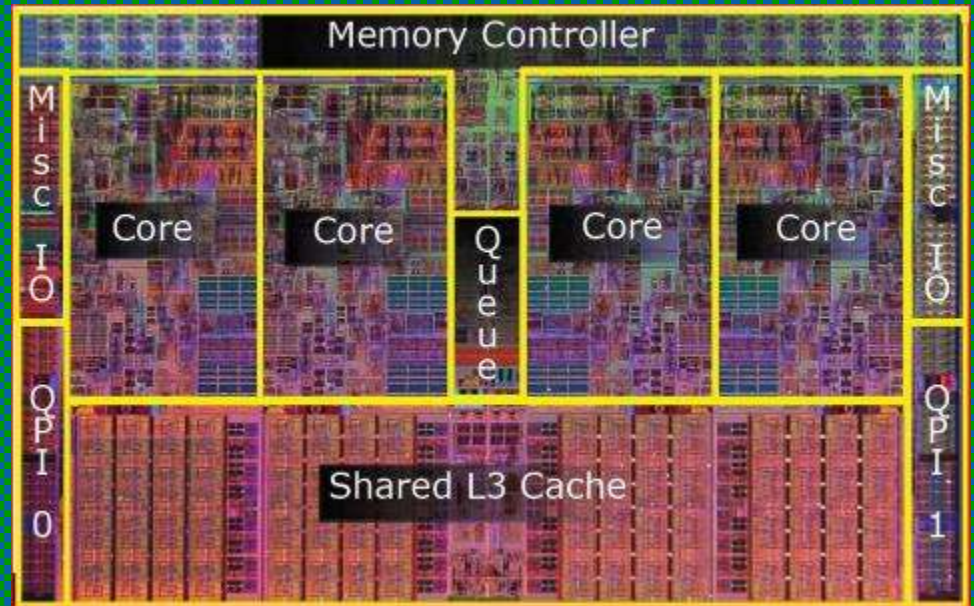


283mm<sup>2</sup> design with 463M transistors to implement four cores and a shared 2MB L3 cache in AMD's 65nm process

# 2008-9: Performance Race Gets Serious With Quad Core



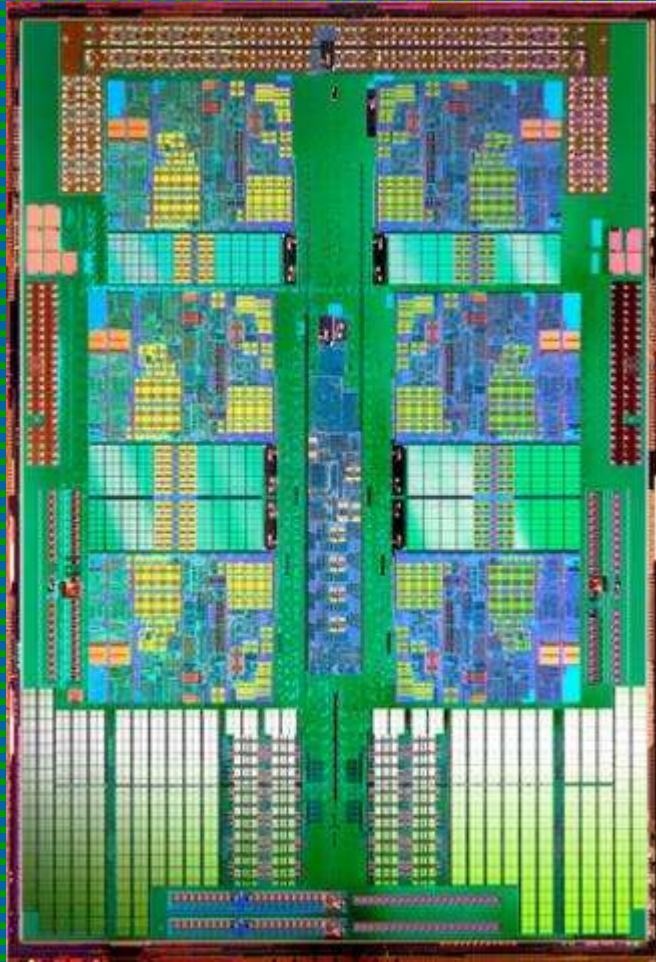
AMD Barcelona



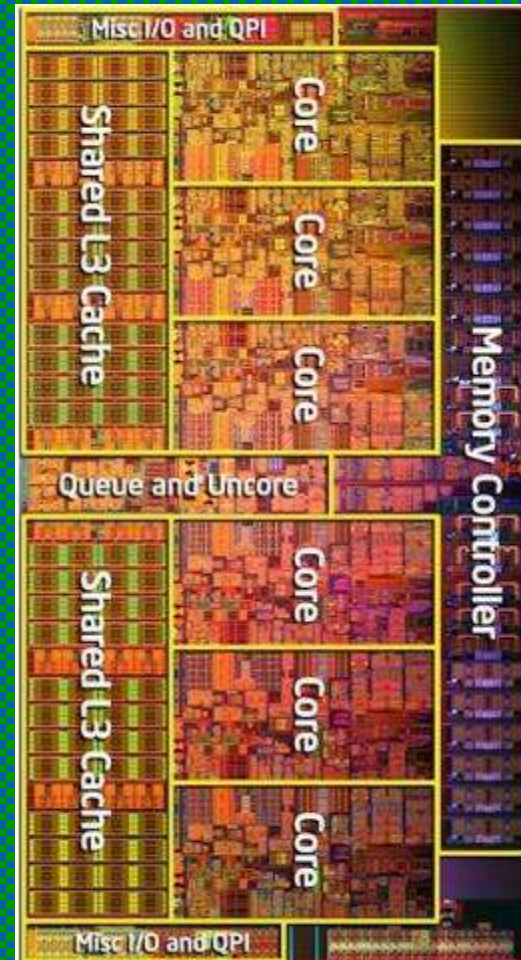
Intel Nehalem

Intel finally integrates Memory Controller and abandons shared Front Side Bus

# Six Cores



2009: AMD Istanbul



2010: Intel Westmere



# Mobile Computing Era

**SIZE MATTERS**

**SMALL & LIGHT**

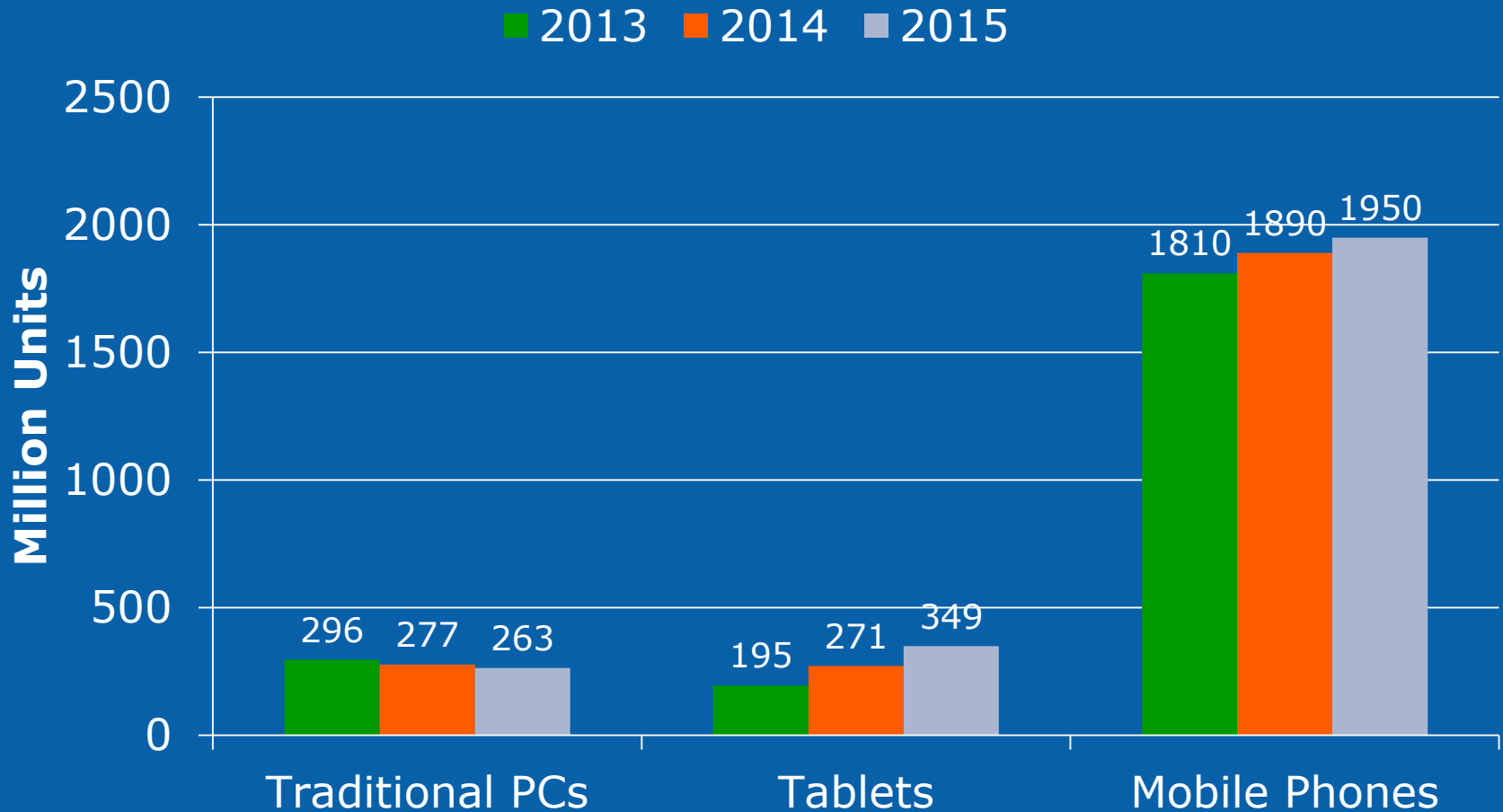
**LOW POWER**

# The Smart Phone Era Is Redefining Computing



“The phone in your pocket will be as much of a computer as anyone needs”.  
– Dr. Irwin Jacobs, 2000

# PC Market Shift



# Continued smartphone momentum



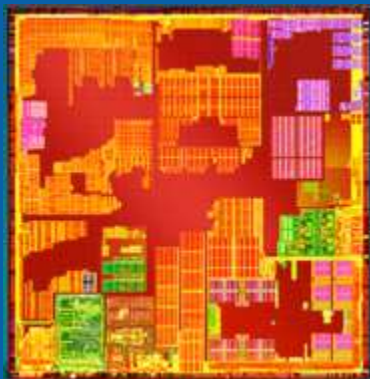
**>8B**

cumulative smartphone  
unit shipments forecast  
between 2014–2018

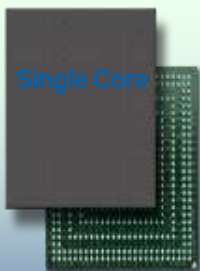
**~2x**

smartphone installed  
base 2018 vs. 2014

# Qualcomm Processor Progression

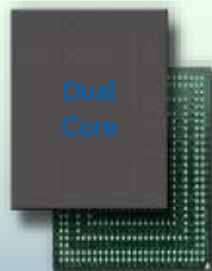


2011



First 1GHz  
Single Core

2012



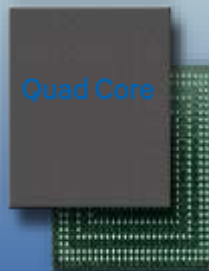
Dual  
Core

2013



Dual Kraits

- Dual "Krait" CPUs
- Adreno GPU
- 28nm process
- Faster memory
- Industry leading modem
- Integrated Connectivity
- GPS

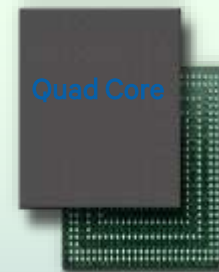


Quad Core

Quad  
Core

- Quad Core A5 CPUs
- Adreno GPU
- LPDDR2
- DSDS and DSDA
- 720p capture and playback
- Up to 8 Megapixel camera

2015



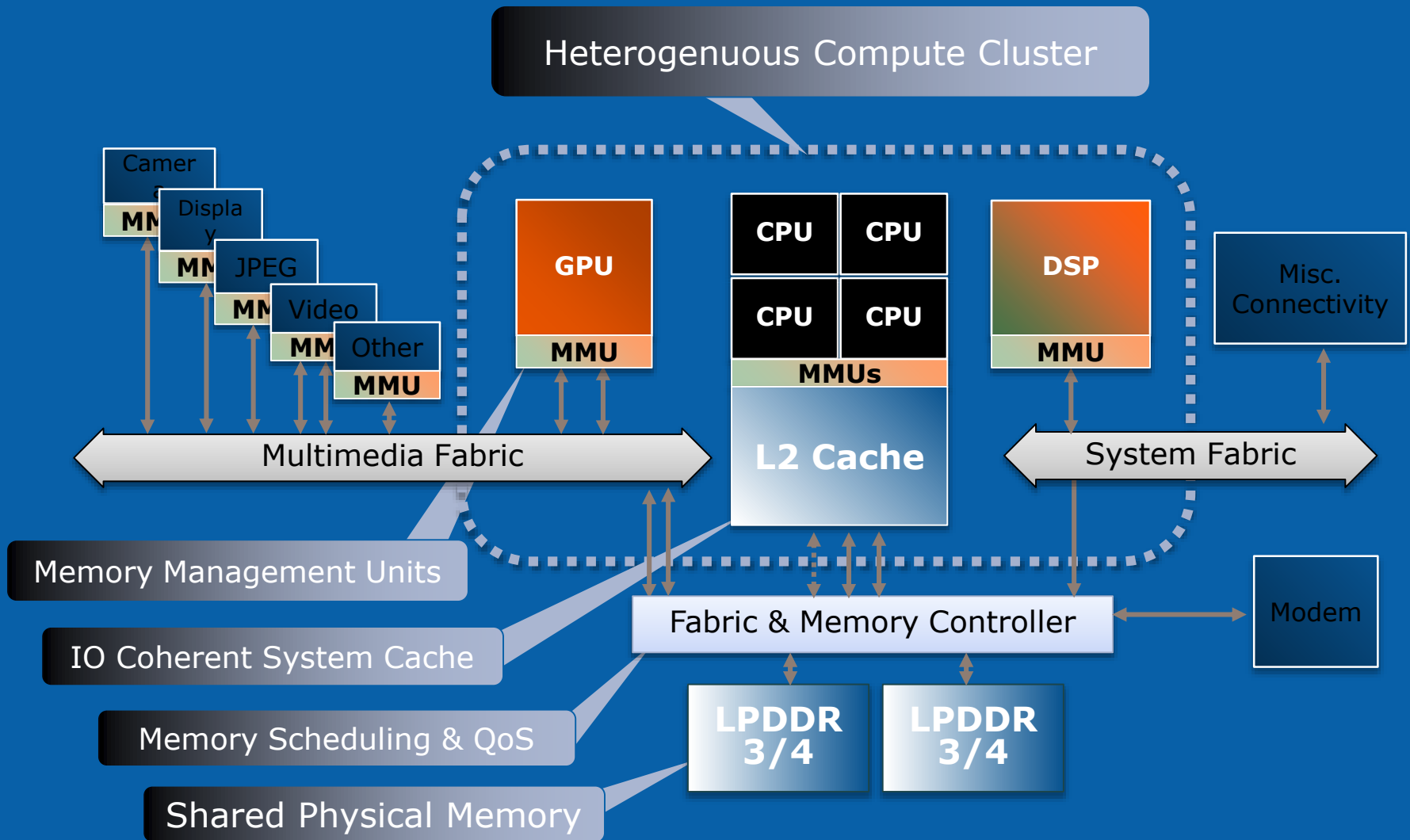
Quad Core

64 bit Quad + quad  
Core (20 nm)

- Quad Core A57 CPUs
- Quad Core A53 CPUs
- Adreno 430 GPU
- Hexagon™ V56 DSP
- Integrated X10 LTE
- DSDS and DSDA
- 4K capture and playback
- Up to 55 MP Dual ISP camera

The future is more about Heterogeneous Computing Cores

# Representative System Architecture



# Smartphones demand more processing horsepower

While consuming little power

## New Apps

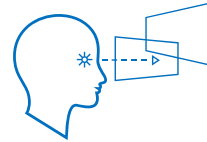
Emerging Workloads

Compute Intensive

Diverse Characteristics



Realistic Physics



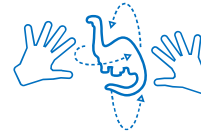
Computer Vision



Web Browsing



Computational Photography



Augmented Reality



Natural UI & Gestures



Contextual Awareness



## Mobile Device Constraints

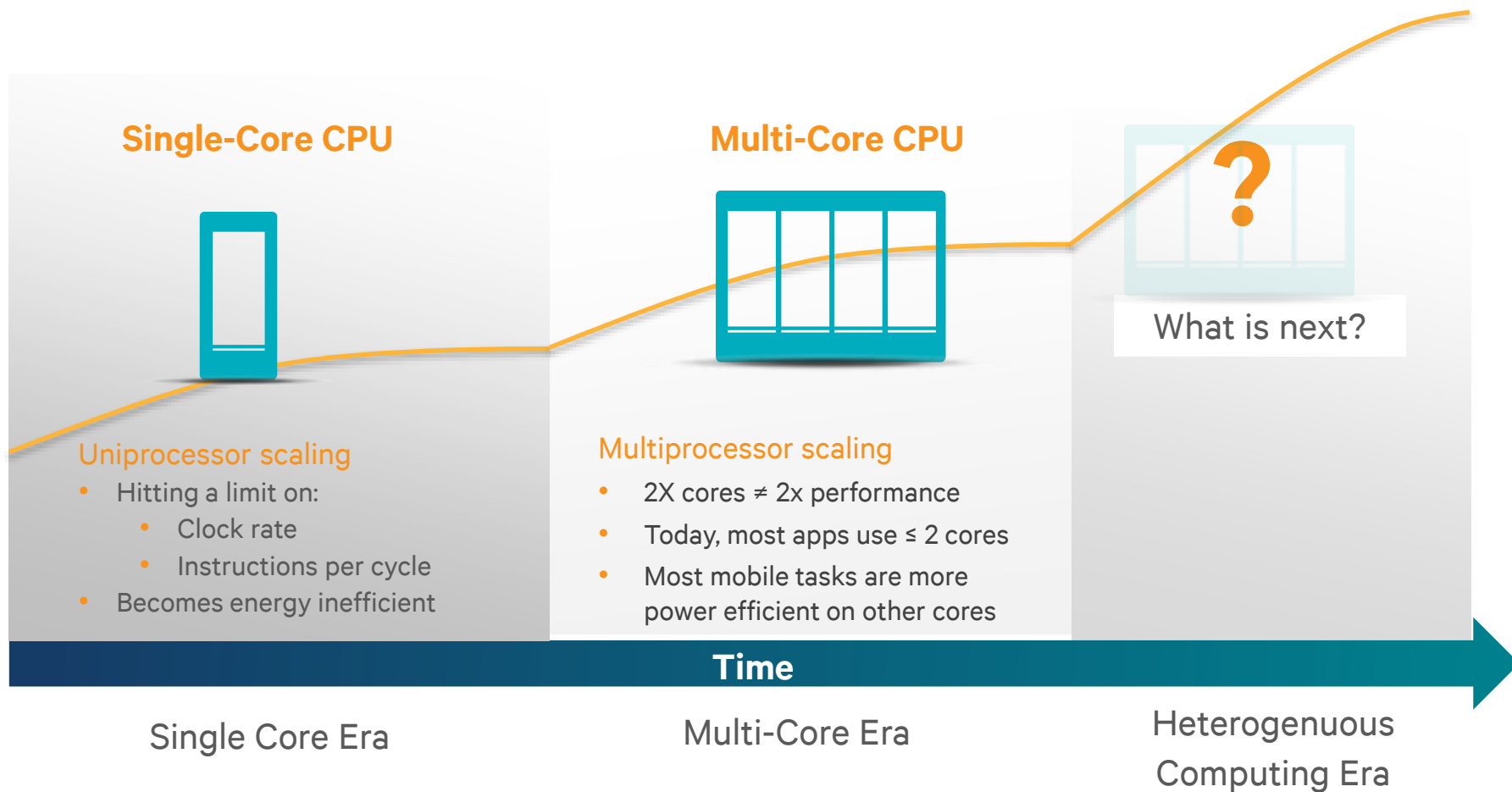
Sleek, Ultra-Light

Long Battery Life

Thermal Efficiency



# CPU scaling is reaching diminishing returns





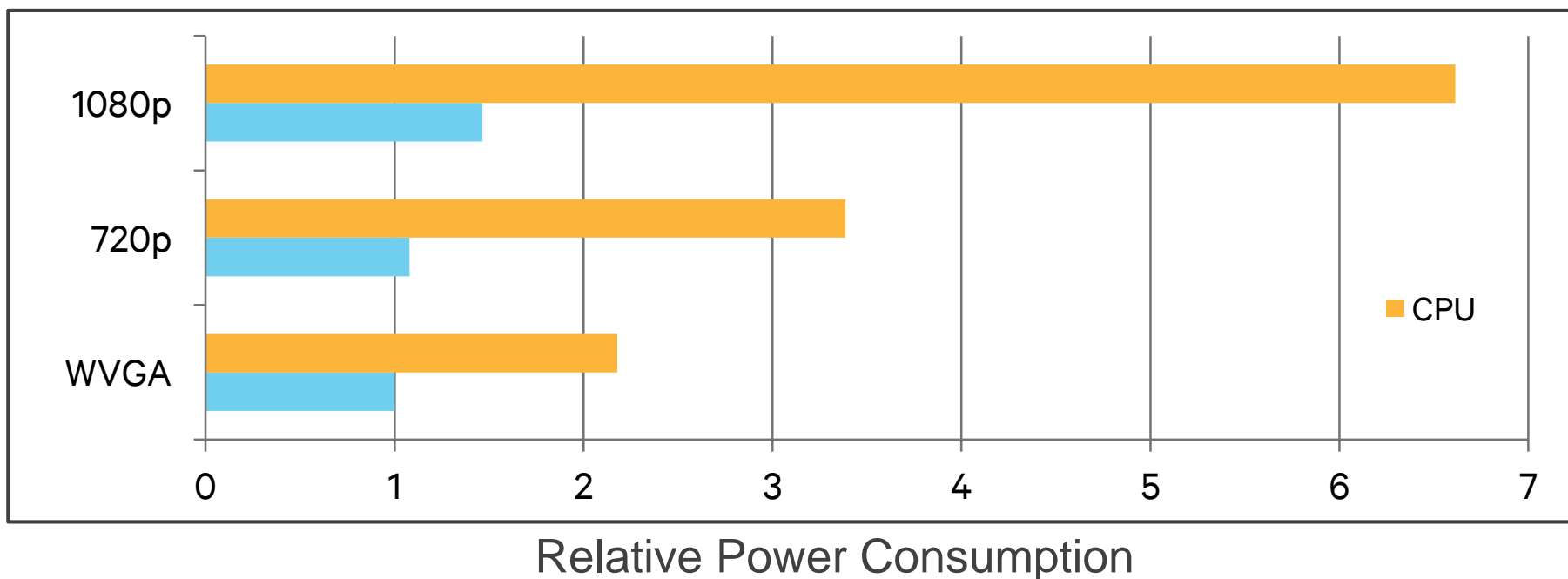
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## CPU takes a small area in modern mobile SoCs



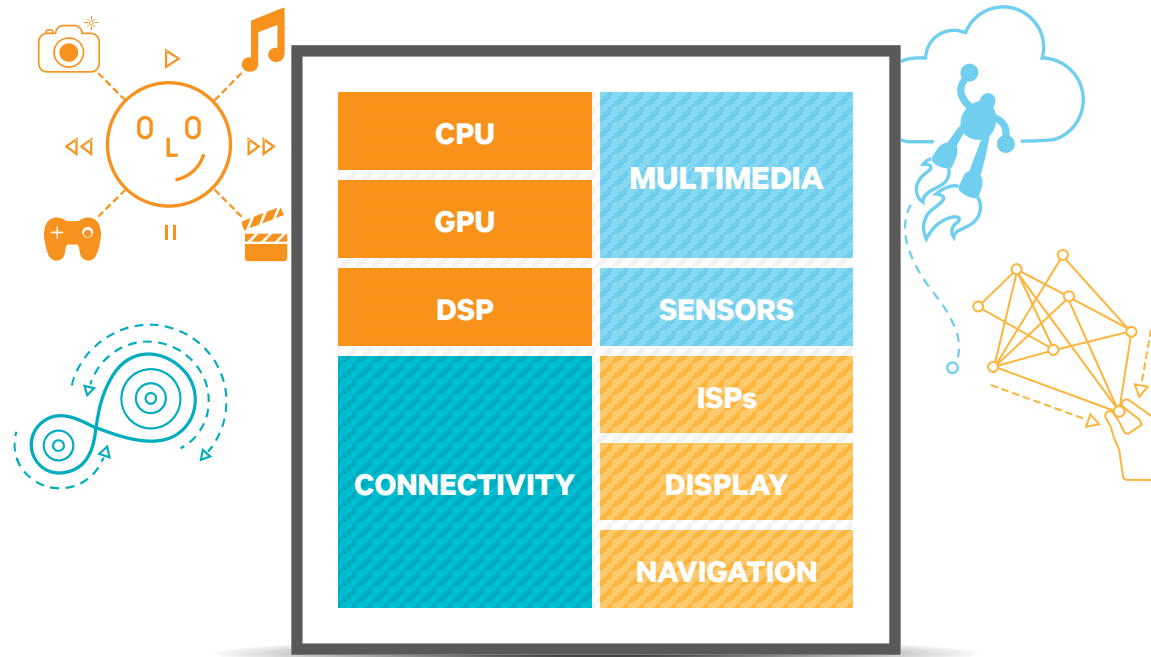
Most mobile tasks are more power efficient on other cores

Specialized hardware can be an order of magnitude more power-efficient than the CPU



**For all-day usage, video should be done on a dedicated video engine**

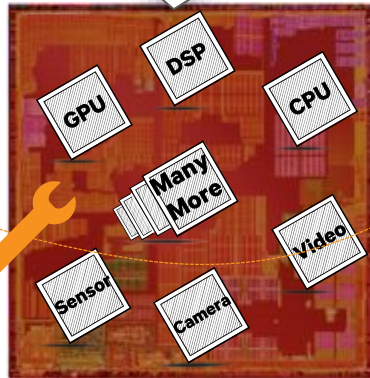
# Mobile SoCs are made of many processing engines



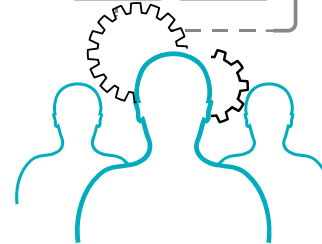
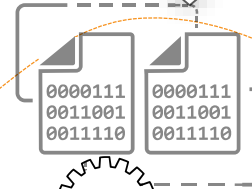
## Mobile Heterogeneous Computing Architecture

# Mobile heterogeneous computing

A computing approach that intelligently uses fundamentally different types of processing engines



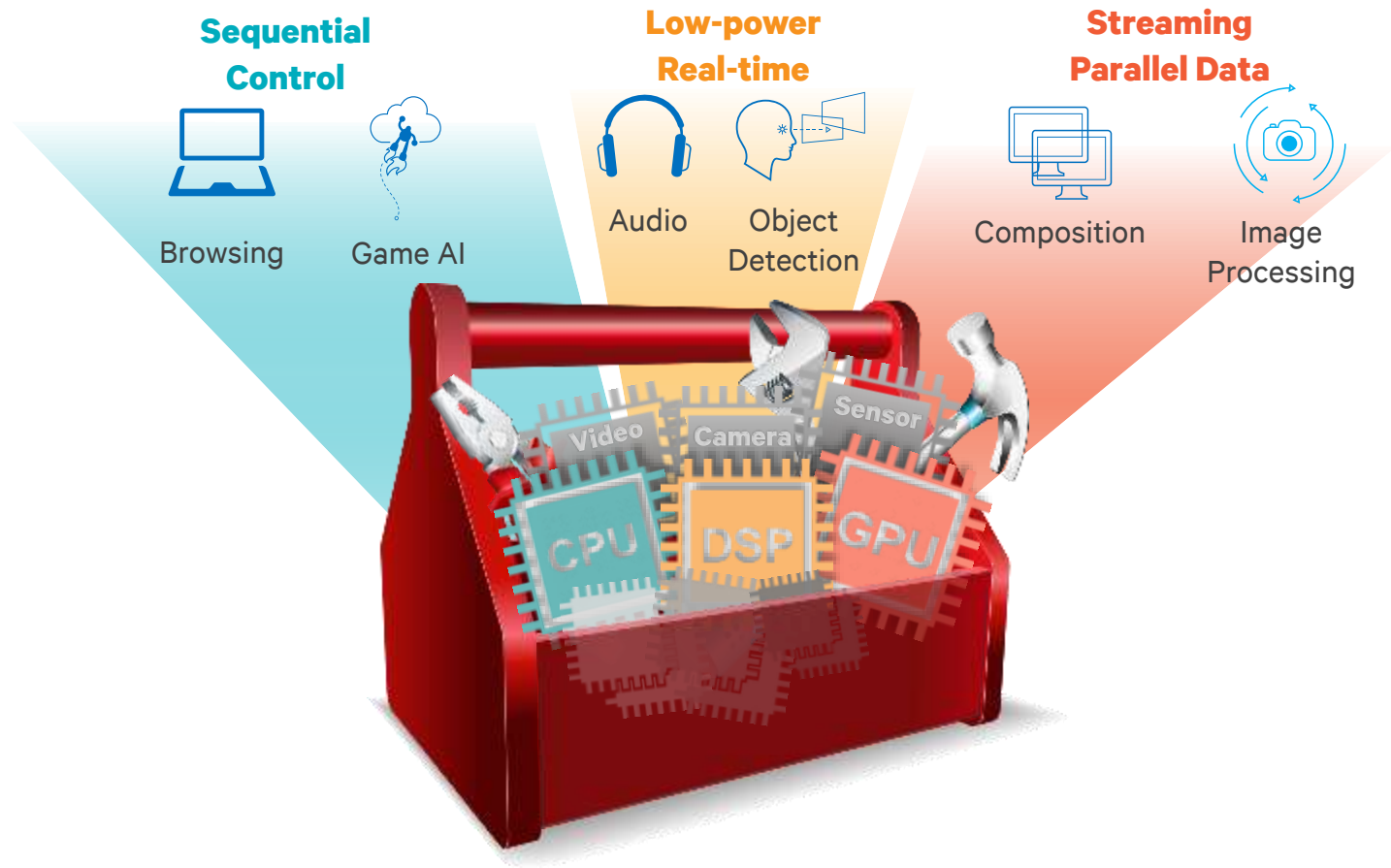
Assign right task for the right processing engine



Accessible & programmable processing engines

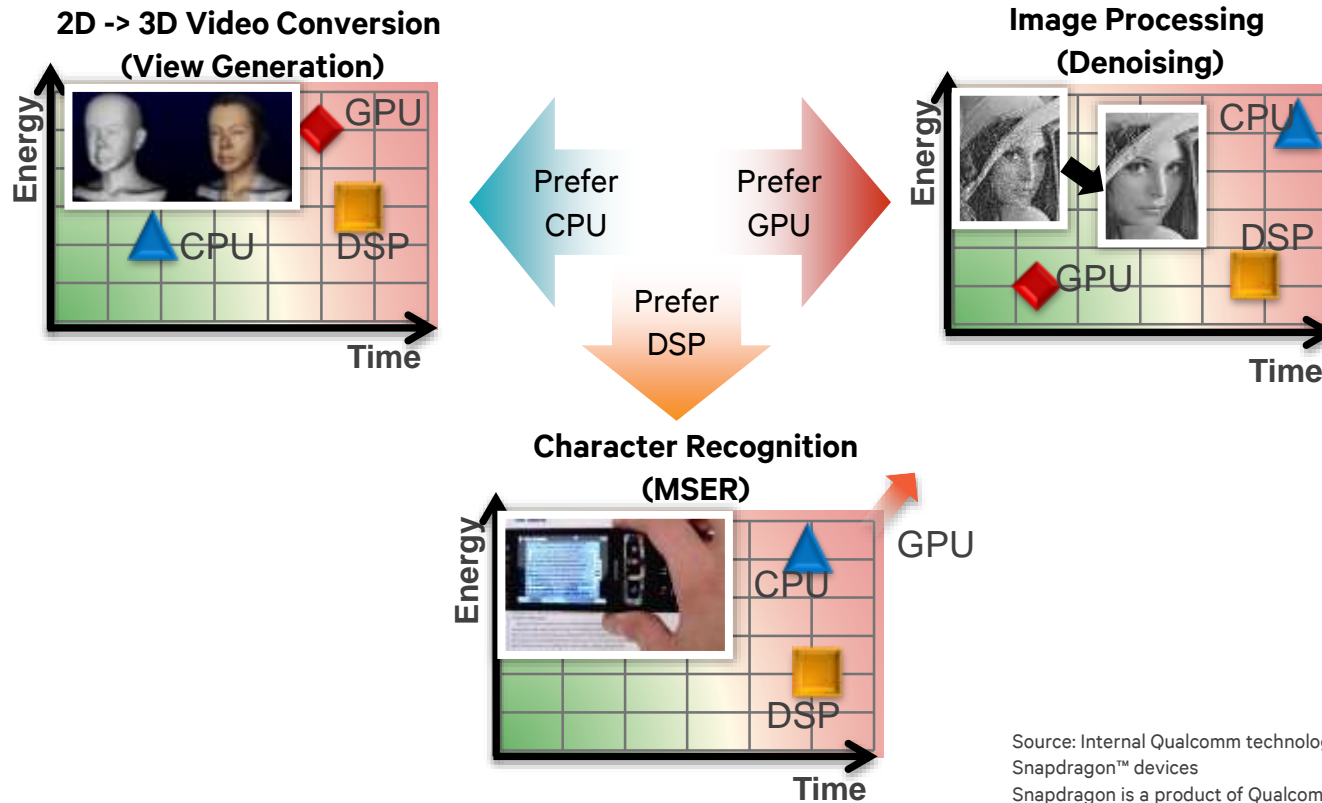
# Specialization is key for mobile

Each processing engine has its own strengths



# The performance and power benefits of heterogeneity

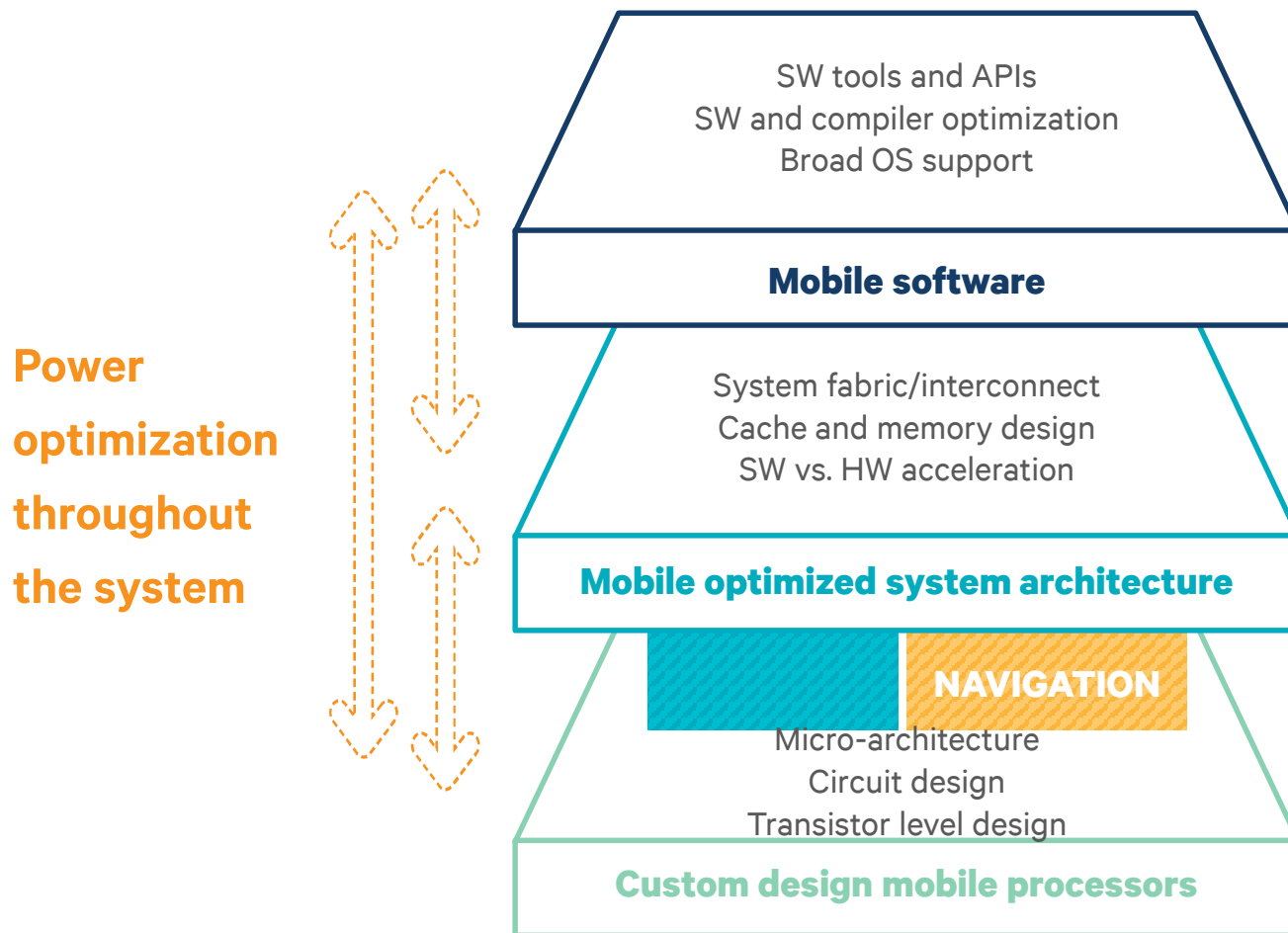
## Right task on the right processing engine



Source: Internal Qualcomm technologies measurements on existing Snapdragon™ devices  
Snapdragon is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.

# Systems approach is needed for mobile solutions

High performance at low power and thermal



# Mobile Cores Coming To Servers

## Qualcomm to Build ARM-Based Server Chips

By Jeffrey Burt | Posted 2014-11-19 | [Email](#) | [Print](#)



## The Data Centers of Tomorrow Will Use the Same Tech Our Phones Do

By Peter Levine | Monday August 4, 2014



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Today, the mobile phone industry is where so much innovation has been concentrated—resulting in an entirely new class of components created just for this smaller form factor: flash memory, smaller CPUs, networking hardware, and so on. Which means lightweight processors (such as ARM) and low-cost, low-power mobile components are now becoming the foundation of the next-generation datacenter.

**MICROPROCESSOR** *report*  
 — Insightful Analysis of Processor Technology —  
**BROADCOM BARES MUSCULAR ARM**  
*Quad-Issue ARMv8 CPU Targets Xeon-Class Performance*  
 By Linley Gwennap (October 21, 2013)

**MICROPROCESSOR** *report*  
 — Insightful Analysis of Processor Technology —  
**THUNDERX RATTLES SERVER MARKET**  
*Cavium Develops 48-Core ARM Processor to Challenge Xeon*  
 By Linley Gwennap (June 9, 2014)

## Applied Micro's X-Gen challenges for server processor market

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Applied Micro leads the charge to infiltrate the \$12 billion server processor market with ARM-based ICs.

This is not a trivial task. The \$4 billion gorilla standing in Applied Micro's way is Intel with a 90% plus share of the server processor market.

So what, if any, are Applied Micro's selling points compared to Intel's?

First and foremost there's the business model.

"Competition is what we're bringing," says Gaurav Singh, vp of technical strategy at Applied Micro, "in most other markets there is very healthy competition with multiple silicon customers."



**BSC Barcelona Supercomputing Center**  
 Centro Nacional de Supercomputación

## EUROPE WANTS A SMARTPHONE SUPERCOMPUTER

A consortium hopes to build exaflop supercomputers from mobile CPUs

## Intel juices up microserver speeds with thrifty Avoton chip



**Summary:** Intel is claiming to have made significant strides in performance and power efficiency in the microserver market with its new Avoton system on a chip.



## AMD Announces the Availability of 64-bit ARM Optron Developer Kits

SUNNYVALE, Calif. 7/30/2014

AMD (NYSE: AMD) today announced the immediate availability of the AMD Optron™ A1100-Series developer kit, which features AMD's first 64-bit ARMv8-A-based processor, codenamed "Lettie." AMD is the first company to provide a standard ARM Cortex-A57-based server platform for software developers and integrators. Software and hardware developers as well as early adopters in large datacenters are eligible and can apply on [AMD.com/ARM](#).

"The journey toward a more efficient infrastructure for large-scale datacenters is taking a major step forward today with broader availability of our AMD Optron A1100-Series development kit," said Surash Gopalakrishnan, general manager and vice president, Server business unit, AMD. "After successfully sampling to major ecosystem partners such as Finestra, GS, and other providers, we are taking the next step in what will be a collaborative effort across the industry to reimagine the datacenter based on the open business model of ARM innovation."

With this announcement, AMD becomes the only provider of 64-bit ARM server hardware with complete ARMv8 instruction support to foster the development of the ecosystem for efficient storage, Web Applications and hosting. AMD is the only provider to offer the standard ARM Cortex-A57 technology.

**Contact:**  
 Kristin Lile  
 AVIO Public Relations  
 (512) 832-9023  
[kristin.lile@amd.com](mailto:kristin.lile@amd.com)





# Where is The Industry Today?

- 14 nm is in production but ramping slower than previous generations
  - Future Generations will be even harder!
- Costs per wafer increasing
  - Capital, more process steps, increased mask costs
  - Cost per transistor decreasing
- PC sales slowing; Server volume growing
- Mobile computing (Smartphones & Tablets) & IoT are driving growth at lower price points
- Moore's Law will slow down beyond 10 nm
  - Economics, Physics, Materials, Power
  - What is the best use for increased transistor density?
  - Heterogeneous Processing Engines Everywhere?

# What is Needed



1999 - Copper Interconnect

200x - SOI Wafers

2003 - Low-k Interlayer Dielectric

2003 - SiGe Strained Silicon Transistors

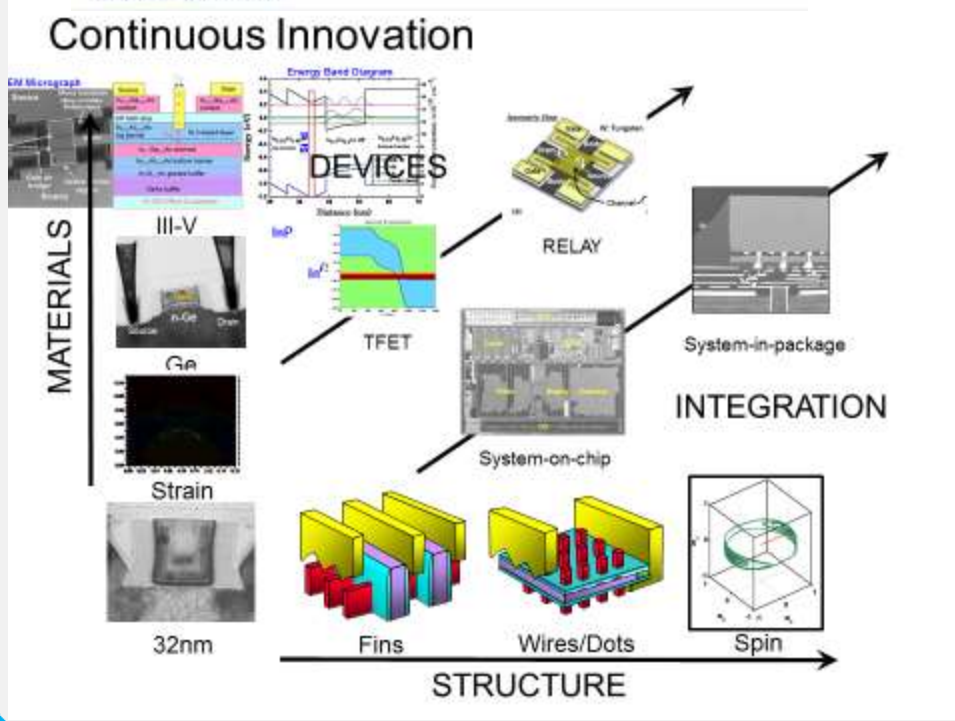
2007 - High-k/Metal Gate Transistors

2009 - Immersion Lithography

2011 - Tri-Gate Transistors

2015 and beyond: EUV, New Devices, Structures, and Material

What happens beyond 5 nm?



# Evolution of the Internet

Yesterday



Today



Tomorrow



# Questions?



5 nm

7 nm

10 nm

14 nm

22 nm

32 nm

45 nm

65 nm

[dbhandarkar@outlook.com](mailto:dbhandarkar@outlook.com)