HIGH-PERFORMANCE POWER-EFFICIENT X86-64 SERVER AND DESKTOP PROCESSORS
Using the core codenamed “Bulldozer”

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THE DIE
Overview, Floorplan, and Technology
THE DIE | Photograph
THE DIE / What’s on it?

- Eight “Bulldozer” cores
  - High-performance, power-efficient AMD64 cores
    - First generation of a new execution core family from AMD (Family 15h)
    - Two cores in each Bulldozer module
  - 128 KB of Level1 Data Cache, 16 KB/core, 64-byte cacheline, 4-way associative, write-through
  - 256 KB of Level1 Instruction Cache, 64 KB/Bulldozer module, 64-byte cacheline, 2-way associative
  - 8 MB of Level2 Cache, 2 MB/Bulldozer module, 64-byte cacheline, 16-way associative

- Integrated Northbridge which controls:
  - 8 MB of Level3 Cache, 64-byte cacheline, 16-way associative, MOESI
  - Two 72-bit wide DDR3 memory channels
  - Four 16-bit receive/16-bit transmit HyperTransport™ links
THE DIE | Floorplan (315 mm²)

- HyperTransport™ Phy
- Bulldozer Module
- 2MB L2 Cache
- 2MB L3 Cache
- Bulldozer Module
- 2MB L2 Cache
- 2MB L3 Cache
- Bulldozer Module
- 2MB L2 Cache
- 2MB L3 Cache
- Northbridge
- MiscIO
THE DIE / Process Technology

- 32-nm Silicon-On-Insulator (SOI) Hi-K Metal Gate (HKMG) process from GlobalFoundries

- 11-metal-layer-stack

- Low-k dielectric

- Dual strain liners and eSiGe to improve performance.

- Multiple VT (HVT, RVT, LVT) and long-channel transistors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Pitch</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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¹ Contacted poly pitch
THE BULLDOZER CORE
A few highlights
A Bulldozer module contains 2 cores

Functions with high utilization that can’t be shared without significant compromises exist for each core
- Ex: Integer pipelines, Level1 data caches

Other functions are shared between the cores
- Ex: Floating point pipelines, Level2 cache

This allows two cores to each use a larger, higher-performance function (ex: floating point unit) as they need it for less total die area than having separate, smaller functions for each core
Decoupled predict and fetch pipelines

Prediction-directed instruction prefetch

Instruction cache: 64K Byte, 2-way

32-Byte fetch

Instruction TLBs:
- Level1: 72 entries, mixed page sizes
- Level2: 512 entries, 4-way, 4K pages

Branch fusion
THE BULLDOZER CORE | Microarch: Separate Integer Units

- Thread retire logic
- Physical Register File (PRF)-based register renaming
- Unified scheduler per core
- Way-predicted 16K Byte Level1 Data cache
- Data TLB: 32-entry fully associative
- Fully out-of-order load/store
  - 2 128-bit loads/cycle
  - 1 128-bit store/cycle
  - 40-entry Load queue
  - 24-entry Store queue
THE BULLDOZER CORE / Microarch: Shared FPU

- Co-processor organization
- Reports completion back to parent core
- Dual 128-bit Floating Point Multiply/Accumulate (FMAC) pipelines
- Dual 128-bit Packed Integer pipelines
- PRF-based register renaming
- A single floating point scheduler for both cores
## THE BULLDOZER CORE | New Floating Point Instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Instructions</th>
<th>Applications/Use Cases</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| SSSE3, SSE4.1, SSE4.2 (AMD and Intel) | • Video encoding and transcoding  
• Biometrics algorithms  
• Text-intensive applications |
| AESNI PCLMULQDQ (AMD and Intel) | • Application using AES encryption  
• Secure network transactions  
• Disk encryption (MSFT BitLocker)  
• Database encryption (Oracle)  
• Cloud security |
| AVX (AMD and Intel) | Floating point intensive applications:  
• Signal processing / Seismic  
• Multimedia  
• Scientific simulations  
• Financial analytics  
• 3D modeling |
| FMA4 (AMD Unique) | HPC applications |
| XOP (AMD Unique) | • Numeric applications  
• Multimedia applications  
• Algorithms used for audio/radio |
THE BULLDOZER CORE | Microarch: Shared Level 2 Cache

- 16-way unified L2 cache
- L2 TLB and page walker
  - 1024-entry, 8-way
  - Services both Instruction and Data requests
- Multiple data prefetchers
- 23 outstanding L2 cache misses for memory system concurrency
THE NORTHBIDGE
A few of its highlights
**System Request Queue and Crossbar**

The northbridge SRQ and crossbar form the traffic hub of the design, routing from any requestor to the appropriate destination.

Examples: A core request to the L3 cache; a request from another die or chip from a HyperTransport™ link to the memory controller, etc.

**Memory Controller**

Each memory controller enforces cache coherency and proper order of operations for the memory space it “owns”, distributing this responsibility across multi-die or multi-chip systems.

This allows multi-die or multi-chip systems to scale rather than bottleneck at a single coherency/ordering choke point in the system.

Obviously, the memory controller also sends the read/write requests to the DRAM controllers.
THE NORTHBRIDGE | DRAM Controllers, L3 Cache, Probe Filter

**DDR3 DRAM Controllers**

- Two per die
- Supports Unbuffered (UDIMM), Registered (RDIMM) and Load-Reduced (LRDIMM) memory, 1.50V, 1.35V and 1.25V depending on the processor package, with frequencies up to DDR3-1866
- New power-saving features: Low-voltage DDR3, fast self-refresh entry with internal clocks gated, aggressive precharge power down, tristate addr/cmd/bank w/chip-select deassertion, throttle activity for thermal or power reduction, put RX circuits in standby when no reads active, etc.

**L3 Cache and Probe Filter**

- Up to 8 MB of Level3 cache, normally shared, can be partitioned
- L3 data ECC protected (single-bit correct, double-bit detect)
- Probe Filter: the northbridge can filter coherency traffic to improve system bandwidth
- Space in the L3 array is used to hold Probe Filter data when it’s enabled
THE NORTHBRIDGE | Four 16-bit HyperTransport™ Links

- High-speed unidirectional signaling, 16-bits receive/16-bits transmit
- A 16-bit link can be unganged into two 8-bit links
- Up to 6.4 Gigatransfers/sec/bit (16-bit link = 12.8 GByte/s RX, 12.8 TX)
- Maximum link frequency depends on package, chipset capability and printed circuit board signal integrity

Number of links vary with package

- AM3+ has a single link to the chipset
- C32 has three links for chipset and/or dual-processor coherent interconnect
- G34 has four external links for chipset and/or multi-processor coherent interconnect (plus internal links between the dice in the multi-chip module)

In retry mode, bit errors on the link are detected on CRC error and packets are reissued for highly reliable operation.

Power consumption is minimized based on configuration (ex: link width/frequency) and activity.
POWER MANAGEMENT
A few key capabilities
The Bulldozer core is architected to be power-efficient
- Minimize silicon area by sharing functionality between two cores

All blocks and circuits have been designed to minimize power (not just in the Bulldozer core)
- Extensive flip-flop clock-gating throughout design
- Circuits power-gated dynamically

Numerous power-saving features under firmware/software control
- Core C6 State (CC6)
- Core P-states/AMD Turbo CORE
- Application Power Management (APM)
- DRAM power management
- Message Triggered C1E
Core C6: if a core isn’t active, remove power

Implemented in this physical design by a power gating ring that isolates the Core VSS for each Bulldozer module from the “Real” VSS

CC6 entry: when both Bulldozer cores in the module are idle, flush caches and dump register state to CC6 save space, then gate Core VSS

CC6 exit: ungate Core VSS, reload CC6 saved state, resume execution (ex: service interrupts, etc.)
POWER MANAGEMENT | P-states, AMD Turbo CORE

Core P-states specify multiple frequency and voltage points of operation:

- Higher frequency P-states deliver greater performance but require higher voltage and thus more power.
- The hardware and operating system vary which P-state a core is in to deliver performance as needed, but use lower frequency P-states to save power whenever possible.

AMD Turbo CORE: when the processor is below its power/thermal limits the frequency and voltage can be boosted above the normal maximum and stay there until it gets back to the power/thermal limits.
Turbo Core / Base, All Core Boost and Max Boost

When there is TDP headroom in a given workload, AMD Turbo CORE technology is automatically activated and can increase clock speeds across all cores.

When a lightly threaded workload sends half the Bulldozer modules into C6 sleep state but also requests max performance, AMD Turbo CORE technology can increase clock speeds for the active Bulldozer modules.
THE 1-SOCKET DESKTOP AM3+ PROCESSOR CODENAMED “ZAMBEZI”

- 940-pin lidded micro PGA package
- 1.27mm pin pitch
- 31 row x 31 column pin array
- C4 die attach
"Zambezi", for the AM3+ Platform

AM3+ socket infrastructure adds:
- Support for low-voltage DRAM
- Increased ILDT current for higher frequency HyperTransport™ link (2.0A maximum per Gen3 link)
- Increase in IDDR current (4.0A maximum)

Older AM3 processors plug-in compatible with AM3+ motherboards
- 2 memory channels, unbuffered DIMMs, up to DDR3-1866
- 1 HyperTransport™ link, up to 5.2 GT/s
- For use with AMD 9-Series chipsets
  - AMD 990FX
  - AMD 990X
  - AMD 970
  - AMD SB950
THE 1 OR 2-SOCKET SERVER C32 PROCESSOR CODENAMED “VALENCIA”

- 1207-land lidded micro LGA package
- 1.10mm land pitch
- 35 row x 35 column land array
- C4 die attach
Valencia is compatible with existing C32 motherboards (AMD Opteron™ 4000 series processor-based platform) with appropriate BIOS update.

- 2 memory channels, UDIMM, RDIMM or LRDIMM, up to DDR3-1600
- 3 HyperTransport™ links, up to 6.4 GT/s
  - Most designs use only 2 links to achieve lower Thermal Design Power (TDP)
- Advanced Platform Management Link (APML)
- 1 or 2 socket systems
- For use with AMD server chipsets
  - AMD SR5690
  - AMD SR5670
  - AMD SR5650
  - AMD SP5100
VALENCIA / 2-socket system example

- System design optimized to provide maximum performance for minimum cost and power for 1-2 socket servers
- Up to 16 cores in a two socket system
- Two DDR3 Memory channels per socket
- Northbridge expansion I/O
  - AMD SR5690: 42 PCI Express® lanes
  - AMD SR5670: 30 PCI Express® lanes
  - AMD SR5650: 22 PCI Express® lanes
- SP5100 Southbridge: SATA, PCI, USB
THE 1 TO 4-SOCKET SERVER G34 PROCESSOR CODENAMED “INTERLAGOS”

- 1944-land lidded LGA package
- 1.00mm land pitch
- 57 row x 40 column land array
- C4 die attach
"Interlagos", for the G34 Platform

- Two die in a multichip module for 1 to 4 socket systems
- Compatible with existing G34 motherboards (AMD Opteron™ 6000 series processor-based platform) with appropriate BIOS update
- OS views it as one multi-core processor with up to 16 cores
- Up to 16 MB of combined Level3 cache
- 4 memory channels, UDIMM, RDIMM or LRDIMM, up to DDR3-1600
- 4 external HyperTransport™ links, up to 6.4 GT/s (plus internal die-to-die links)
- Advanced Platform Management Link (APML)
- For use with AMD server chipsets
  - AMD SR56x0, AMD SP5100
System design optimized to provide maximum performance for 1-4 socket servers

Up to 64 cores in a four socket system to support highly multi-threaded workloads

Database, Web, Virtualization, Cloud Computing, High-Performance Computing, etc.

16 DDR3 channels w/4 sockets

To support demanding memory-bandwidth-intensive workloads

High-performance PCI Express® links via SR56x0 chipset to support demanding I/O-intensive workloads (high-speed network, storage, etc.)
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