

IBM Deep Computing Team

CAE Performance Trends in 2007

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Challenge







2002: System z + Linux = 97,000





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2007: System z + Cell Broadband Engine





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Leading Performance Issues – 2007

- **1.** "The System x world keeps changing rapidly"
- 2. "We have hit the wall in terms of performance"
- 3. "We are moving to a multicore world"
- 4. "Power consumption is becoming important"
- 5. "Price/Performance is the key buying factor"



1 - "The System x world keeps changing rapidly"

Processor design

- single-core
- dual-core
- quad-core

Performance leadership

– Pentium 4 ... Opteron ... Xeon 5160

Interconnect

- Myrinet ... InfiniBand ... SDR ... DDR
- LAM/MPI ... Scali ... Open MPI

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of performance"

2 - "We have hit the wall in terms

As feature size shrinks, passive power grows

- Now more important than active power
- No longer can we rely on steady clock speed increases to gain more performance



Gate Length (microns)

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Moving to an Ultra-Low Voltage Operating Point

10X power reduction for only 3X performance penalty



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3 - "We are moving to a multicore world"

IBM

- Cell Broadband Engine, Sony Toshiba IBM joint project
- 1 PowerPC, plus 8 "synergistic processing units"
- AMD
 - "Fusion" project goal of 1 teraFLOP/socket in 2010
 - 48 GPU pipes x 8 FLOPS/cycle x 3 GHz = 1 teraFLOP
- Intel
 - project "Larrabee", due out in 2009
 - 80-core chip reaching 2 teraFLOPS at 191 Watts, or 1 teraFLOP at 46 Watts



4 - "Power consumption is becoming important"

Old measures of performance

- FLOPS
- elapsed time to solution

New measures of performance

- FLOPS per kiloWatt
- cooling required per rack



Power & cooling spending will exceed new server spending (Gartner 2006)



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5 - "Price/Performance is the key buying factor"







1 - "The System x world keeps changing rapidly"





2 - "We have hit the wall in terms of performance"

11 April, 2007: "though-silicon vias"

vertical connections etched through the silicon wafer and filled with metal, allowing multiple chips to be stacked

shortens distance information needs to travel by 1000 times, and allows for up to 100 times more channels

"result of more than a decade of pioneering research at IBM" – Lisa Su, VP of Semiconductor Research

2008 – production status. Starting with wireless communications chips.

more uniform power distribution, putting power closer to cores, so clock speed increases and power consumption reduced up to 20%

Blue Gene chip getting converted to 3-D stacked chip. Also, 3-D technology will fundamentally change the way memory communicates with a microprocessor.

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27 January, 2007 innovation from IBM: High-k Metal Gate





3 May, 2007 – "Using self assembly to create airgap processors





Options (choose 1)

- electrical signals can flow 35% faster on the chip
- chips can consume 15% less energy





The SIA CMOS Roadmap





2 - "We have hit the wall in terms of performance"

- POWER6 should continue IBM tradition of improved performance for CAE codes
- 6 February, 2006 International Solid-State Circuits Conference (ISSC) in San Francisco
 - -65-nm processor
 - clock speed above 4 GHz



3 - "We are moving to a multicore world"

In CAE, we moved to multicore in the 1990's



Can we catch the next train which leaves the station?





Can we catch the next tank when it leaves the station?







4 - "Power consumption is becoming important"

IBM has seen this coming.

We've been responding on many fronts



230V AC in Power Supply 2V DC out Example: 770W AC in at 91% efficiency = 700W DC output

BladeCenter Basics:

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Blade Architecture & OS Flexibility All blades refreshed to 2nd Generation in 2006





IBM PowerExecutive



PAM-CRASH job running on IBM HS21 XM

- tracks actual power usage
- monitor installed systems
- provides better data for planning future installations



5 - "Price/Performance is the key buying factor"

Decision = Price Performance

Both price and performance depend on configuration

- single-core or dual-core best?
 - performance of various applications
 - application license costs
 - memory configuration
- SAS (serial attached SCSI) or SATA (serial ATA)?
- Interconnect
 - SDR or DDR?



LS-DYNA comparison: dual-core vs. quad-core





Pitfalls of focusing only on price / performance

Examples: difficult-to-quantify costs

- application licenses vs. number of cores
- lifetime costs, including cooling and power consumption

- ...

Examples: difficult-to-quantify benefits

- applications support
- stateless computing
 - simplified administration
 - fast booting

- ...



Summary

- Our IBM team is eager to help customers solve problems! We are working on solutions in many areas
 - performance of systems based on commodity processors
 - performance of systems based on IBM POWER
 - performance of innovative architectures Cell and Blue Gene
 - power and cooling
 - finding the best solution in terms of price and performance

