

Tuesday, August 7, 2007

Niagara 2 news galore

Jonathan in Sun Enters the Commodity Silicon Business:

To add fuel to the fire, the blueprints for our UltraSPARC T2 (I personally like the moniker, "Niagara 2" - named after Niagara Falls, btw, and the great volumes of water that pass over them), the core design files and test suites, will be available to the open source community, via its most popular license: the GPL. Making Niagara 2 the only commodity silicon whose core designs are available to the open source community - whose strength, and market power, only grows by the day. BTW: Now I know why there were several articles about N2, while I bite myself on my tongue all day long: In the interim, on Monday a reporter accidentally violated our news embargo, which set off a flurry of press coverage. And Rick Hetherington and Hal Stern state in Innovation@Sun: A System on a Chip – The Sequel: And then being the leader in power efficiency, we paid special attention to how we can manage power internally, so we do have features like clock-gating, extensive clock-gating throughout the core. So if one is not running a floating point application, the clocks are not being submitted to that floating point unit. David Yen in an interview with ZDnet: "At the same time, we will [also] roll out a developer beta program in which we will provide access to Verilog RTL design file and test suites, so that we can get early feedback to refine our open source process and eventually complete the open-sourcing [of UltraSparc T2] by the summer of 2008," he explained. And even a enterprise systems affine news sites like Engadget write about the announcement.

Timothy Prickett Morgan writes Sun Polishes Up Sparc T2 Multithreaded Chips: Sun is not saying much about performance when it comes to the T2 chips, but the T2 is expected to have about 2.5 times the throughput performance of the T1, and Victoria Falls is expected to nearly double that again, with a 65 percent performance boost over the T2's at the system level.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Oracle at 18:53

IBM is already answering: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2195719/ibm-talks-virtualization>

Now, only "the real story behind niagara2" is missing from HP
Anonymous on Aug 7 2007, 19:25

What a lame reaction. BTW: Live migration for LDOMS is planned, too ... and XEN for Opensolaris contains it, too ... so when live migration is the only point for IBM ...
Anonymous on Aug 7 2007, 20:28