Memory Channel Storage™ (MCS™) Demystified

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AGENDA

+ INTRO AND ARCHITECTURE
+ PRODUCT DETAILS
+ APPLICATIONS
THE COMPUTE-STORAGE DISCONNECT

+ Compute And Data Have Far Outgrown Storage Advancements

Enterprises need a solution to close the gap...
TODAY’S SOLUTION...

+ Processor, memory and applications are tightly coupled
+ Storage not local to processor and application execution
+ SSDs deployed to minimize the disconnect, but critical issues remain:
  - Long trips required for data retrieval
  - Resource contention
  - Response Time (Latency) suffers
WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF RESPONSE TIME (A.K.A. LATENCY)?

RESPONSE TIME ➔ USER EXPERIENCE

SLOW RESPONSE TIME ➔ APPLICATION LAG

FAST RESPONSE TIME ➔ CRITICAL BUSINESS ADVANTAGES

DETERMINISTIC RESPONSE TIME ➔ QUALITY OF SERVICE
THE PERFORMANCE TRADE-OFF

Traditionally customers have faced a suboptimal trade-off in storage system design:

- Optimize Latency → Sacrifice IOPS
- Optimize IOPS → Sacrifice Latency

A Painful Workaround...

- When SSD “IOPS vs. Latency” trade-offs are unacceptable, adding expensive RAM is a traditional recourse.
- However, adding RAM can create an imbalance between incremental performance requirements and rapidly growing solution cost.
MEMORY CHANNEL STORAGE SOLUTION

+ MCS is coupled with the processor, application, and system memory
+ Distance and contention issues are eliminated
+ Data stays within memory subsystem for local access
  + Achieves ultra-low latency
  + Enables linear “performance vs. cost” scalability
+ Enabled by a unique architectural approach
MCS SYSTEM VIEW

Leveraging the Power of Parallelism...

Massive Flash capacity exposed through the low-latency memory subsystem.
The best location for application data is within the NUMA architecture.

Highly parallel (threaded) applications running on parallel processors and cores, with highly parallel memory and storage access.
SO, WHAT IS MEMORY CHANNEL STORAGE?

+ An Architecture (not a single product)
  + Enables Flash Storage to Directly Interface on the Memory Channel
+ Presents as a Block I/O Device
  + Can be Managed just like Existing Storage Devices
+ DDR3 Interface, Standard RDIMM Physical Form Factor
  + Plugs into Standard DIMM Slots
  + Self-contained, No External Connections Required
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS & COMPATIBILITY

+ **Hardware and BIOS Requirements**
  + Server enabled with MCS UEFI BIOS modifications
  + DDR3-compatible processor
    + MCS is compatible with standard JEDEC-compliant 240-pin RDIMMs
    + Supports DDR3-800 through DDR3-1600
  + 8GB of standard memory (RDIMM) installed in the system
  + MCS follows standard server DIMM population rules

+ **Initial OS Support**
  + Linux (RHEL, SLES)
  + Windows Server
  + VMware ESXi
TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION TO CREATE
THE FIRST MCS-ENABLED PRODUCT

+ Reference architecture design
+ DDR3 to SSD ASIC/firmware
+ Kernel and application level software development
+ OEM System Integration and enterprise application domain knowledge

+ Guardian Technology for enterprise applications
+ SSD controller & FTL firmware development and test
+ Supply Chain and Manufacturing with flash partner
+ System Validation
SanDisk™ “ULLtraDIMM™”
POWERED BY MCS

**MEMORY CHANNEL INTERFACE**
- DDR3 PROTOCOL
- CONFIGURABLE AS BLOCK DEVICE
- STANDARD RDIMM FORM FACTOR

**GUARDIAN™ TECHNOLOGY**
- 19nm MLC
- 10 DRIVE WRITES PER DAY
- 5 YEAR WARRANTY

**ENTERPRISE CLASS RELIABILITY**
- BACKUP POWER CIRCUITRY
- END-TO-END DATA PROTECTION
- 2M HOURS MTBF

**SCALABLE & COST EFFECTIVE MEDIA**
- 200, 400GB CAPACITIES
- SCALABLE ARCHITECTURE
- 19nm MLC NAND

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**
- S.M.A.R.T. MONITORING
- SUPPORTS TRIM
- MAINTENANCE TOOLS
SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE ACROSS WORKLOADS

**4K Random 100% Write**

- 8x 200G MCS
- PCIe Competitor A
- PCIe Competitor B

**4K Random 100% Read**

- 8x 200G MCS
- PCIe Competitor A
- PCIe Competitor B

**4K Random 70/30 Read/Write**

- 8x 200G MCS
- PCIe Competitor A
- PCIe Competitor B

+ Enables standardization on a flexible, low-latency platform

Tested using MCS prototype modules.
IT’S ALL ABOUT THE APPLICATIONS!

**Low Latency Applications**
- + 3X message rate
- + 40X reduction of max latency

**Virtual Desktop**
- + Low σ = consistent user experience
- + Meet QoS/SLA requirements

**Database/CLOUD**
- + 7X TPSE improvement
- + 3X reduction of average latency

**Big Data Analytics**
- + Minimize query times
- + Extend working set beyond RAM allocation

**Server Virtualization**
- + 2X VMs per node...
- ...using 1/6 the RAM per VM
REDUCED LATENCY ENABLES REAL-TIME ANALYTICS

15% Read Mix

15% Read/Write Ratio Overview

Transaction Publish Rate
- PCIe: 1.18 millions/second
- MCS™: 605 MB/sec

Mean Write Latency
- PCIe: 2130 microseconds
- MCS™: 29 microseconds

99.9 Percentile Write Latency
- PCIe: 57.2 microseconds
- MCS™: 2243 microseconds

THE APPLICATION HAS BECOME THE BOTTLENECK IN E-TRADING
VIRTUAL DESKTOPS
SCALABLE ARCHITECTURE

- 200 SERVERS, 8x SAS SSD
- 3 GB RAM / VM

10,000 VIRTUAL DESKTOP DEPLOYMENT

- 2X VIRTUAL DESKTOPS PER HOST
- 75% DRAM REDUCTION PER HOST
- MAINTAIN WORKLOAD PERFORMANCE

- 100 SERVERS, 4x MCS Modules
- 1/2 GB RAM / VM

- IT’S NOW EASY AND COST EFFECTIVE TO ADD USERS AND SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE
MEMORY MAPPED I/O ACCELERATION

10 million records (20GB mmap) using synchronous msync calls

+ MCS 99th-percentile latency is 2x lower than Competitor 2 and 10x lower than Competitor 1
+ MCS has the tightest latency distribution
TODAY’S FRAGMENTED STORAGE SOLUTIONS

INDEXING
ANALYTICS
SWAP AREA
CACHING
LOGGING
COLD STORAGE
METADATA
MORE...

SOLUTION 1
SOLUTION 2
SOLUTION 3
SOLUTION 4
SOLUTION n

SLOW DEPLOYMENT
MANAGEMENT COMPLEXITY
INCREASED COST
MCS-ENABLED HOMOGENOUS PLATFORM

- Indexing
- Analytics
- Swap Area
- Caching
- Logging
- Cold Storage
- Metadata
- More...

SanDisk + diablo technologies

Simplified Deployment
Management Consistency
Economies of Scale
**SUMMARY**

**Memory Channel Storage**
+ Leverages parallelism and scalability of the memory channel
+ Significantly reduces data persistence latencies and improves single thread throughput

**Benefits of MCS**
+ 200GB to tens of TB’s of flash in standard DIMM form factor and DDR3-CPU interface
+ Disruptive performance accelerates existing applications and enables new flash use cases
+ Scalability facilitates economic, “right-sized” system solutions
+ Form factor enables high-performance flash in servers, blades, and storage arrays
+ Future proofed with ability to utilize NAND-flash and future non-volatile memories
Thank You!

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Q&A

1. What is the difference between Memory Channel Storage and NVDIMMs?

2. What is the difference between Memory Channel Storage and SATADIMMs?

3. Though being on the memory channel will reduce latency to the CPU, isn’t I/O performance still limited by the IOPS & BW of the SSD NAND flash and controller?

4. How do Enterprise customers purchase Memory Channel Storage?

5. Will Memory Channel Storage support DDR4?

6. Will the Linux driver be open sourced?

7. Is there a limit to the number of MCS modules that can be deployed in single system?

8. What is the cost per GB for a Memory Channel Storage device?
Thank You!

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