



The Paper Modem

June 2005 Volume 5 Issue 5

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AMD's Dual-Core Athlon Hits

By [Erin Joyce](#) -Google News - May 31, 2005

AMD has launched the next version of its dual-core processors for desktops and laptops with the release of the Athlon 64-bit X2 processors, upping the ante against rival Intel in the dual-core, 64-bit computing race.

Company officials said the two-brain functions of the Athlon 64 X2 dual-core processor are aimed at select consumer and digital media enthusiasts at this stage, as well as computer users who need to run many software applications simultaneously.

Teresa de Onis, a product manager with AMD, said the processors would shatter the so-called hourglass icon users experience with current processors. AMD is touting perform-

ance improvements of up to 80 percent on select digital media and productivity applications compared to single-core AMD Athlon 64 processors.

"It takes advantage of multi-threaded software," de Onis told *internetnews.com*. "Any applications that are multi-threaded will see immediate benefits."

AMD said it is confident that select markets are ready for the next-generation processors, such as online gaming and digital media enthusiasts. In that regard, at last, all the parts of the 64-bit ecosystem appear to be in place, she added.

Not only do the chipsets take advantage of multi-threaded software, as each core reads simultaneous instructions, the latest Athlon processors are suited to help multi-threaded software perform faster.

(Continued on page 2)



Fact:

Flat screen monitors use only about 1/3 the electricity of a traditional screen.

(Continued from page 1)

"There are tons of digital media applications on the market that are dual-threaded," she added. "The immediate benefit of this will be for digital media: photo editing, audio mixing software, video rendering, computer animation software, those kinds of things."

Even still, she said dual-core processors offer great benefits for multi-tasking among mainstream computer users that may not necessarily have to handle a lot of system-hungry digital media applications.

For example, she said the AMD Athlon 64 X2 dual-core processor is designed to allow consumers and businesses to simultaneously download audio files such as MP3s, burn a CD, check and write e-mail, edit a digital photo and run virus protection.

"They may be working on an average of six to eight applications simultaneously, and take care of simple stuff like taking redeye out of a photo," de Onis added.

Supporting the AMD Athlon 64 X2 dual-core processor are OEMs (*) such as Acer, Alienware, HP and Lenovo, as well as more than 40 leading system-builder partners worldwide. When asked to comment about other OEMs that are not currently supporting AMD, such as Intel's long-time partner Dell, de Onis said the company is always looking for new relationships to build with partner OEM companies.

Athlon is officially hitting the market about two years after the debut of AMD's x86 64-bit Opteron processor for servers and workstations. Now, AMD is moving to seed the consumer world with dual-core, 64-bit computing power

as digital media management on the PC -- and its processor-hungry requirements -- become more pervasive among consumers.

The release of Athlon also marks the completion of a dual-core plan the company hatched about six years ago. A huge part of the dual-core roadmap over those years, officials told *internetnews.com*, was to ensure that those migrating from single-core to dual-core processors based on AMD64 technology could be seamless.

That's why the AMD Athlon 64 processor is designed to deliver the performance of a multi-core processor with the same 939-pin infrastructure as the single-core AMD Athlon 64 processors, requiring only a BIOS upgrade. As such, platform manufacturers don't have to redesign components, which means they don't have to pass those costs along to consumers.

AMD said its Athlon 64 X2 comes in four different designs, ranging from the 4800+ running 2.4 GHz and two separate caches of 1MB apiece. AMD said it will also offer a 4600+, a 4400+ and a 4200+ with slightly slower clock speeds and variable cache configurations.

(*) = **OEM** pronounced as separate letters) Short for *original equipment manufacturer*, which is a misleading term for a company that has a special relationship with computer producers. OEMs buy computers in bulk and customize them for a particular application. They then sell the customized computer under their own name. The term is really a misnomer because OEMs are not the *original* manufacturers -- they are the customizers

Submitted By: Y. Bulger



Fact: Motherboard was the original name of the what is now called "main board." The difference is that motherboards had "daughter boards" plugged into them. These "daughter boards" later became simply "cards." Most brands of "main boards" have no cards, some don't even have plug-in slots for such.

Samsung: a Giant Goes Small

May 31, 2005 - www.redherring.com



The higher density makes it possible to fit 40 percent more flash memory chips on each silicon wafer than with 90 nm line-width process.

Just when you thought cell phones, MP3 players, and digital cameras couldn't possibly get any smaller, Samsung Electronics has announced mass production of the world's highest-density flash memory devices.

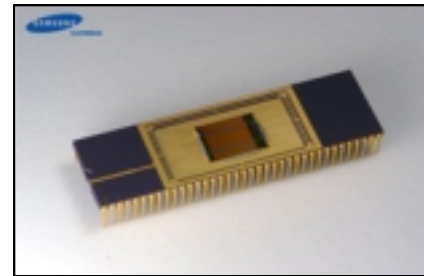
Samsung's 4 gigabit NAND flash memory, designed with the industry-leading 70 nanometer line-width process technology, boasts the smallest single-level cells of any chip on the market, at just .025 square micrometers.

That means popular keychain USB drives, only recently available with 1 gig of memory, will soon see storage capacity increase by up to eight times without getting any larger.

The fine circuitry of the 70 nm process required the development of a new argon fluoride photo-lithography light source to etch the finer circuitry permitted by the process.

Flash Drive = A small, portable flash memory card that plugs into a computer's USB Port and functions as a portable Hard Drive

Submitted By:
Y. Bulger



As new Computer For Sale

2.6GHz Intel Celeron (Custom Built)
P4 VMM2 ECS Motherboard
80GB Samsung Hard Drive
256MB DDR400 PC3200 RAM
Panasonic 1.44M Floppy Drive
AOpen CD-RW (Burner)
17" Case w/350w Power Supply
6 x USB Ports (2Front/4Rear)
Integrated Audio, Video & 10/100BT Ethernet
Microsoft Keyboard & Optical Mouse

2Pc Speaker Set
Includes 17" True Flat CRT Monitor
Upgradeable to 2GB of RAM

\$625

This Computer is as new
.....bought in February 2005

Software—Incl. Office 2000 Suite,
Nero, Screen Saver etc ...

Contact :

Jim Ainsley 753-2281



Fact: Computers, per pound, are one of the most environmentally toxic products on the market? Although personal computers were hailed as the so-called "paperless revolution" when they first arrived, we in the western world now consume more paper than ever before, mostly thanks to inexpensive computer technology.



Telus moves

into VoIP market

*Financial Post
June 2, 2005*

TORONTO - Telus Corp. is moving into the Internet telephony market "over the coming months" even though the phone giant is unhappy about a recent regulatory decision that limits the company's ability to set prices.

Chief executive Darren Entwistle said Telus is going to sell Internet telephony in the company's traditional strongholds of British Columbia, Alberta and eastern Quebec. He made the statement to reporters after he delivered a lunchtime address at the Canadian Telecom Summit in Toronto.

Mr. Entwistle didn't say how much the service will cost. Internet telephony packages, sometimes called Voice over Internet Protocol services, sell for as little as \$9.95 a month.

His statement means Telus soon will join a long list of suppliers, including nemesis Bell Canada and upstarts such as Vonage Holdings Corp., that have begun selling Internet telephony to Canadians in the past 18 months.

Internet telephony, the computer-assisted way of making phone calls, is regularly touted as a "revolutionary" technology by companies and pundits because it's supposed to help people do more with their phones, such as check e-mail, and save money.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



PC Notes

Navigate With Just One Word - Submitted by: Greg Wilson

Don't bother typing entire domain names (for example, www.discoverycomputers.com) into your browser. Instead, simply type the site's name (discoverycomputers) in the Address bar and press Ctrl-Enter to automatically add **http://www** and **.com** on each side of the word -- a real time-saver.

Google Maps - Submitted by: Greg Wilson

The master of all search engines, Google, gets even more useful with its new Maps tool. Users can easily scroll the map and enter searches for specific addresses and businesses around the country, as well as get directions too! - <http://maps.google.com/>



Fact:

Chemicals found in Computers: Benzene - Vinyl Chloride - Xylene - Trichloroethylene— Trichloroethane - Dichloroethylene

Computer Club Meeting - Review Wednesday, May 11th, 2005.

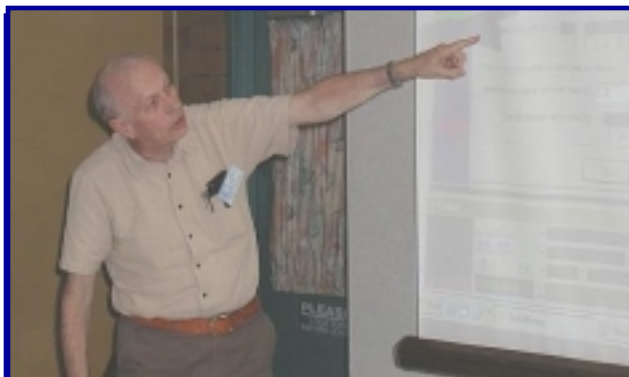
Recently Neil Jorgensen gave a most interesting presentation on originating and manipulating audio files. Using a program named GOLDWAVE he showed how to create files on the PC and enhance them to your taste. There is a free download of this program available which can be used for a limited time. The full version, which Neil strongly recommended costs \$55 CDN and is subject to upgrades.,

The source for the music was a vinyl record!! This he showed to the audience carefully, explaining what it was for the younger members of the audience – this was received with quite a bit of humour!! It was a German polka selection and as it was played quite a few toes started tapping. The screen showed the creation of the music file on a horizontal graph wave format and proceeded left to right as the recording was played. The frequency plot showed the peaks and valleys of the signal and “flat lined” in the space between the tracks.

The program had many features, amongst which were opening sound increased and closing diminishment of volumes. If there was a “pop or click” present, Neil showed how this can be eliminated without interfering with the quality of the new file created.

If the sound on a particular part of the music needed to be increased or diminished, this could be done quite easily. The playback sound was very good and Neil pointed out that the files made were large.

Submitted by: Allan Forrest



Fact:

More than 700 compounds are used to make one computer work station.

AOpen Aopen Takes Wraps Off Mini PC

By TechWeb News
2:25 PM EDT Wed. Jun. 01, 2005

A Taiwanese PC maker that's part of the Acer group on Wednesday strutted a miniature Intel-based system that mimics the size and look of Apple's Mac mini, a small, brick-like computer introduced earlier this year.

Called the "Mini PC," the AOpen-developed computer takes the tape at about 6 inches square by 2 inches high, just slightly smaller than its Mac ancestor. Powered by Intel's Pentium M processors, the Mini PC sports a built-in DVD-RW drive, a 2.5-inch hard drive, and both wireless and Bluetooth support. Like the Mac mini, AOpen's puny PC comes sans monitor, but includes jacks for DVI, S-Video, and composite connectors.

AOpen designed the Mini PC in cahoots with

Intel, and debuted the machine at Computex, a trade show in Taipei. The company did not disclose pricing information, nor has it set a ship date for the petite PC.

Submitted By: Ben Poudrier



Top-level Domain Name Suggested for Porn

Restricting adult content to .xxx domain

could create a virtual red-light district.

John Blau, IDG News Service
Thursday, June 02, 2005

DUSSELDORF, GERMANY -- Numerous groups, including several outspoken U.S. politicians, have been demanding for some time a separate Internet domain for pornography in a move to prevent sexually explicit content from landing on the screens of young Net users.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) took a big step this week to meet that demand by approving a plan for pornographic Web sites to use new addresses that end with ".xxx." ICANN, the nonprofit organization that oversees technical matters related to the Internet, said it will begin negotiations with ICM Registry to resolve commercial and technical issues associated with operating the .xxx TLD (Top Level Domain).

The decision in favor of establishing a virtual red-light district for providers of pornographic content and their customers represents a U-turn for ICANN, which rejected ICM's first application for the .xxx TLD in November 2000. Reasons for the objection are published in a document on ICANN's Web site.

(Continued on page 7)



Always try to be modest and be proud of it!

(Continued from page 6)

ICANN representatives in Marina del Rey, California, were not immediately available for comment.

Submitted by: G. Bulger

ICANN Website:

<http://www.icann.org/registrars/accredited-list.html>



Surfing The Galaxy

www.smartcomputing.com

Some amazing websites to look into:

Spaceweather.com
www.spaceweather.com

ESA
www.esa.int

NASA Human Space Flight
www.spaceflight.nasa.gov

Hubble Heritage Project
Heritage.stsci.edu

X Prize
www.xprizefoundation.com

Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum
www.nasm.si.edu

APOD
Antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Just for Laughs



A man and wife were both in an Internet business, but it was the husband who truly lived, ate and breathed computers. His wife finally realized how bad it gotten when one day she was scratching his back, and he said "No, not there. Scroll down a little."

You know you've been on the computer too long when you are reading a book and look for the scroll bar to get to the next page.



Fact:
Before computers, memory was something you lost with age!

LightScribe



CREATE SILKSCREEN-QUALITY LABELS FOR ALL YOUR CDS AND DVDS, RIGHT FROM YOUR COMPUTER.

Until now there hasn't been much choice when it comes to creating labels for your CDs and DVDs. Messy markers or sticky adhesive labels were pretty much the only affordable option. But imagine creating professional-looking labels using the same laser that burns your data-right inside your CD/DVD drive! Well, now it's easy with LightScribe Direct Disc Labeling technology.

LABEL-MAKING REDEFINED.

LightScribe technology is an integrated system that combines the CD or DVD drive of your LightScribe-enabled computer with specially coated discs and enhanced disc-burning software to produce precise, laser-etched labels. You can design and produce labels to express your creativity and personality-the sky's the limit!

With LightScribe, the disc is the label. This amazing technology is the no-hassle way to create elegant labels for all your CDs and DVDs. Simply burn your music mix, digital-video/photo archives, or business application. Then flip the disc and burn your own unique label.



Read more about Litescribe technology:
<http://www.lightscribe.com/index.aspx>

LightScribe Direct Disc Labeling is a revolutionary technology whose time has come. The days of markers and adhesive labels are over. Now there's LightScribe-the only method available to burn elegant, laser-etched CD and DVD labels right from your computer's disc drive.



The End