
Subject: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....

Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 16:25:53 GMT

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A Chip That Can Transfer Data Using Laser Light

By JOHN MARKOFF

Published: September 18, 2006

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 17 - Researchers plan to announce on Monday that they have created a silicon-based chip that can produce laser beams. The advance will make it possible to use laser light rather than wires to send data between chips, removing the most significant bottleneck in computer design.

The development is a result of research at Intel, the world's largest chip maker, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. Commercializing the new technology may not happen before the end of the decade, but the prospect of being able to place hundreds or thousands of data-carrying light beams on standard industry chips is certain to shake up both the communications and computer industries.

Lasers are already used to transmit high volumes of computer data over longer distances - for example, between offices, cities and across oceans - using fiber optic cables. But in computer chips, data moves at great speed over the wires inside, then slows to a snail's pace when it is sent chip-to-chip inside a computer.

With the barrier removed, computer designers will be able to rethink computers, packing chips more densely both in home systems and in giant data centers. Moreover, the laser-silicon chips - composed of a spider's web of laser light in addition to metal wires - portend a vastly more powerful and less expensive national computing infrastructure. For a few dollars apiece, such chips could transmit data at 100 times the speed of laser-based communications equipment, called optical transceivers, that typically cost several thousand dollars.

Currently fiber optic networks are used to transmit data to individual neighborhoods in cities where the data is then distributed by slower conventional wire-based communications gear. The laser chips will make it possible to send avalanches of data to and from individual homes at far less cost.

They could also give rise to a new class of supercomputers that could share data internally at speeds not possible today.

The breakthrough was achieved by bonding a layer of light-emitting indium phosphide onto the surface of a standard silicon chip etched with special channels that act as light-wave guides. The resulting sandwich has the

potential to create on a computer chip hundreds and possibly thousands of tiny, bright lasers that can be switched on and off billions of times a second.

"This is a field that has just begun exploding in the past 18 months," said Eli Yablonovitch, a physicist at the University of California, Los Angeles, a leading researcher in the field. "There is going to be a lot more optical communications in computing than people have thought."

Indeed, the results of the development work, which will be reported in a coming issue of Optics Express, an international journal, indicate that a high-stakes race is under way worldwide. While the researchers at Intel and Santa Barbara are betting on indium phosphide, Japanese scientists in a related effort are pursuing a different material, the chemical element erbium.

Although commercial chips with built-in lasers are years away, Luxtera, a company in Carlsbad, Calif., is already selling test chips that incorporate most optical components directly into silicon and then inject laser light from a separate source.

The Intel-Santa Barbara work proves that it is possible to make complete photonic devices using standard chip-making machinery, although not entirely out of silicon. "There has always been this final hurdle," said Mario Paniccia, director of the Photonics Technology Lab at Intel. "We have now come up with a solution that optimizes both sides."

In the past it has proved impossible to couple standard silicon with the exotic materials that emit light when electrically charged. But the university team supplied a low-temperature bonding technique that does not melt the silicon circuitry. The approach uses an electrically charged oxygen gas to create a layer of oxide just 25 atoms thick on each material. When heated and pressed together, the oxide layer fuses the two materials into a single chip that conducts information both through wires and on beams of reflected light.

"Photonics has been a low-volume cottage industry," said John E. Bowers, director of the Multidisciplinary Optical Switching Technology Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara. "Everything will change and laser communications will be everywhere, including fiber to the home."

Photonics industry experts briefed on the technique said that it would almost certainly pave the way for commercialization of the long-sought convergence of silicon chips and optical lasers. "Before, there was more hype than substance," said Alan Huang, a former Bell Laboratories researcher who is a pioneer in the field and is now chief technology officer of the Terabit Corporation, a photonics start-up company in Menlo Park, Calif. "Now I believe this will lead to future applications in optoelectronics

If I don't have one of these by next week, I will die.....

;o)

Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....

Posted by [rick](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 19:23:34 GMT

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and don't forget the welders goggles...orthe bactine for the burns.

On Mon, 18 Sep 2006 10:25:53 -0600, "DJ"

<animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 22:40:21 GMT
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Wow...

When I was recording Beyond 2000, in the 80's, (87 I think), we went to Bell Labs in New Jersey and they were just starting to work on a laser chip for computing...it was big...about the size of a dining room table, but they had it switching on and off....embryonic then.

Those guys there had dream jobs...PhD's, and all they had to do was dream, and think of "what is / what if...."

--

Martin Harrington
www.lendaneer-sound.com

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news:450ec8f5@linux...

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Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 01:03:11 GMT
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Fiber networks rock. I'm wondering though, when will this all hit a phase where a guy has to get a variance just to run his network :)

AA

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Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....
Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 02:12:53 GMT
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Ha! Having been a local downtown business owner, that ain't funny, actually.

Jimmy

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote in message
news:450f401a\$1@linux...

> Fiber networks rock. I'm wondering though, when will this all hit a phase
> where a guy has to get a variance just to run his network :)
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> AA
>

Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 20 Sep 2006 01:34:03 GMT
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Actually, I wasn't joking J.... to get a decent light show laser, I'd have
to buy a freekin variance. I think I'm smart enough to not be pointing that
in people's eyes, and I don't really see how a variance would keep from
doing that if I wasn't.....

AA

"Uptown Jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote in message
news:450f504f@linux...

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Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....
Posted by [animix](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 15:37:05 GMT
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You don't own your coffeeshop any more?

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Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....
Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 16:50:47 GMT
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We lost it all a year ago or so. The business model was slowly failing due to insane amounts of competition from local dumbasses who thought we were millionaires and wanted a piece of the action, and from Starbucks, whose business model relies largely upon letting locally-owned cafes find and build the market, then move in and put them out of business. At one point I counted 14 different coffee shops in Athens/Clarke County, the smallest county in Georgia.

I finally convinced my business partner to go forward with a restaurant conversion, after years of trying. We brought in a third partner and started the process. I got sick, basically, borderline nervous breakdown due to

having to do all the work, never mind the years of trying to force myself to be something I can't be. Then the two of them ran the place into the ground in record time.

Sheer incompetence, really. My original partner had been a force of contrariness for years, so I wasn't surprised. I learned a lot of painful lessons. I hope I show better taste in friends and partners in the future.

But it was one of the best things that ever happened to me, losing that business. I was so utterly sick of that place I can't put it into words, but I would never have walked away willingly.

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Posted by [animix](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 17:17:47 GMT

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Hey man. You did yourself a favor. Working like that can kill you. I'm glad you cam out the other side of it a better man. Not everyone can say that.

Good for you Jimmy,

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Deej

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Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 17:58:55 GMT
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It's really scary how deep into it you can get without realizing how bad things are. My friends and family were suffering from it, too. Really scary.

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> > > You don't own your coffeeshop any more?
> > >
> > > "Uptown Jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote in message
> > > news:450f504f@linux...
> > > > Ha! Having been a local downtown business owner, that ain't funny,
> > > actually.
> > > >
> > > > Jimmy
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > "Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote in message
> > > > news:450f401a\$1@linux...
> > > > > Fiber networks rock. I'm wondering though, when will this all hit
a
> > > phase
> > > > where a guy has to get a variance just to run his network :)
> > > >
> > > > AA
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Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....

Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 18:41:53 GMT

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restaurants and studios...two sure fire ways to take a bath without water. glad you're better

On Thu, 21 Sep 2006 13:58:55 -0400, "Uptown Jimmy"
<johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote:

>It's really scary how deep into it you can get without realizing how bad
>things are. My friends and family were suffering from it, too. Really scary.

>
>Jimmy

>
>"DJ" <notachance@net.net> wrote in message news:4512ce9c\$1@linux...

>> Hey man. You did yourself a favor. Working like that can kill you. I'm
>glad

>> you cam out the other side of it a better man. Not everyone can say that.
>>

>> Good for you Jimmy,

>>
>> ;o)
>> Deej

>>
>> "Uptown Jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote in message
>> news:4512c107@linux...

>> > We lost it all a year ago or so. The business model was slowly failing
>due

>> > to insane amounts of competition from local dumbasses who thought we
>were

>> > millionaires and wanted a piece of the action, and from Starbucks, whose
>> > business model relies largely upon letting locally-owned cafes find and
>> > build the market, then move in and put them out of business. At one
>point

>> I
>> > counted 14 different coffee shops in Athens/Clarke County, the smallest
>> > county in Georgia.

>> >
>> > I finally convinced my business partner to go forward with a restaurant
>> > conversion, after years of trying. We brought in a third partner and
>> started
>> > the process. I got sick, basically, borderline nervous breakdown due to

>

Subject: Re: Before you drop a bunch of bucks on that next CPU upgrade.....

Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2006 19:51:31 GMT

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Thanks to all.

"rick" <parnell68@hotmail.com> wrote in message

news:a6n5h2tpa9ni96e3n4rgm30kme31ugbr1m@4ax.com...

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> >> > conversion, after years of trying. We brought in a third partner and
> >> started
> >> > the process. I got sick, basically, borderline nervous breakdown due
to
> >> > having to do all the work, never mind the years of trying to force
> >myself
> >> to
> >> > be something I can't be. Then the two of them ran the place into the
> >> ground
> >> > in record time.
> >> >
> >> > Sheer incompetence, really. My original partner had been a force of
> >> > contrariness for years, so I wasn't surprised. I learned a lot of
> >painful
> >> > lessons. I hope I show better taste in friends and partners in the
> >future.
> >> >
> >> > But it was one of the best things that ever happened to me, losing
that
> >> > business. I was so utterly sick of that place I can't put it into
words,
> >> but
> >> > I would never have walked away willingly.
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