



# Thunderbolt™ Technology

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# Thunderbolt™ Technology Overview

#### Transformational high-speed, dual-protocol, PC I/ O delivering performance, simplicity, and flexibility

#### Leading Performance in PC I/O

• Faster speed and multi-tasking with bidirectional, dual-channel, 10 Gbps per channel

#### Simple

 Connect to more devices with data and display on ONE cable

#### Flexible

- Add more devices simply with daisy chaining
- Enables PCIe expansion outside of the PC chassis



#### Fastest Connection to Your PC Experience<sup>+</sup>

vary depending on the specific hardware and software used. For more information go to http://www.intel.com/technology/ io/thunderbolt/index.htm





\*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of



### **Protocol Overview**

- Transparent Tunneling of PCI Express\* / DisplayPort\*
- Common electrical interface
- Common Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> transport
- Connection managed by silicon / firmware









## Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> Connector and

- 2x channels per cable 10Gbps bidirectional per channel
- Active cables (circuitry in cable ends) enables cable length of up to 3m
  - Connection setup logic
  - Power logic
  - Clock/Data recovery circuitry

- Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> receptacle compatible with Mini DP (but is a new part)
- Silicon detects if native DisplayPort\* or Thunderbolt when plugged in









#### Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> Protocol Tunneling





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## **Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> Protocol**

Mapping a protocol to the Thunderbolttransport:





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- Underlying protocol untouched, 8b/10b encoding removed
- Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> header used for path routing
  - 10.3125Gbps signaling @ 66/64: 10Gbps of real data throughput
- Underlying electrical encoding replaced at endpoint







## **Technology Architecture**

- 10Gbps per channel, bidirectional performance
- PCI Express\* and DisplayPort\* protocols
- Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> ports compatible with standard DisplayPort
- Small connector with 12W power delivery
  - Devices can be bus or self A/C powered, 8.5 watts bus power available to power device
  - Bus powered devices can only be plugged into self A/C powered devices, or directly to host
- Daisy chain topologies







#### What the OS Sees - PCI











#### **Example Thunderbolt**<sup>™</sup>

A single connection for DisplayPort\*, and PCI Express\*









### **Daisy Chaining and Native**

Multiple Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> devices can be connected to a single Thunderbolt connector on a PC

- A native DisplayPort\*(DP++) display can be connected at the end of the daisy chain<sup>1</sup>
- Downstream TBT ports behave as a PC extension
- Daisy-chained device ports support either Thunderbolt or DisplayPort



#### **Native Thunderbolt Products**



#### **Native DisplayPort**



<sup>1</sup> The last Thunderbolt product before a native DisplayPort display cannot be a Thunderbolt display



# **Example Daisy Chain**







#### **Example Daisy Chain** Memory







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SUMMIT

## **Example Daisy Chain**



- PCI Express\* devices behind Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> controllers appear logically as behind PCIe switches
- Displayport\* connection across Thunderbolt is transparent to the system and is treated as a replacement for a DP cable
- Drivers require little modification to account for hot plug/unplug events
- Host I/F is used by HW to implement connection management





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### **PC Industry Support**

#### **PCs**





Apple iMac

Asus G55



Apple MacBook Air



Apple MacBook Pro

Acer Aspire S5



Apple Mac Mini

Asus G75

Gigabyte U2442P









ASUS PBZ77-V Premium Thunderbolt Thunderbolt

ASUS PBZ77-V PRO

**Motherboards** 

Gigabyte GA-Z77MX-



D3H













Gigabyte Z77X-UP5 TH

Intel DZ77-RE-75K

MSI Z77A-GD80

Intel NUC



LG







Lenovo Thinkpad \$430

Lenovo Thinkpad T430

MSI AIO















\*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.



### **Available Devices**







## **Thunderbolt Cables**



- Cables available in various lengths / colors
  - .1m to 3m for electrical cables
  - 10m to 20m for optical cables (Q4'12)
- Retail cables
  - Available now
  - Various brands
  - Multiple distribution outlets





SUMITOMO ELECTRIC

- StarTechcom
- Lower priced cables coming in Q4'12...

"...Lintes is pleased to announce new lower cost Thunderbolt cables...based on next generation components, these new cables will enable lower cable prices to the industry..." "By driving to lower cost Thunderbolt cable solutions, Sumitomo is actively working with Thunderbolt device vendors to get cables included in the box."

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#### Thunderbolt™ Technology Enabling

- Register with the Thunderbolt Technology Community at <u>https://thunderbolttechnology.net/</u> to get more Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> product, plugfest, developer lab information
- Sign Thunderbolt<sup>™</sup> Technology and trademark licenses







#### Summary

- Transformational high speed, dual-protocol, PC I/O delivering performance, simplicity and flexibility
- New connector which is compatible with DisplayPort\*
- Transparent protocol mapping
- Support for daisy chaining











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