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TALK TO US

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Intel, Arm to Collaborate on IoT

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9th-Gen Intel Core CPUs Take Aim at AMD's Ryzen

SAN FRANCISCO — Intel officially unveiled its ninth-generation Core desktop processors, clearly targeted at smaller rival AMD's Ryzen devices with a focus on PC gaming and creative professionals.

At a New York City event that was webcasted globally, Intel also provided more details on its new Core X-series high-performance processors for content creators such as animators and provided updates on its 28-core Xeon workstation chip for compute-intensive workloads.

The success of Ryzen — combined with Intel's stumbles in moving to 10 nm into production — has enabled AMD to grow its processor market share from less than 10% to what some analysts say could be 25% to 30% over the next few years.

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There is no better example than Apple's iPhone. Apple altered the competitive landscape of the mobile market by launching iPhones equipped with an innovative touchscreen that covers the entire surface of the device. Consumers ate it up.

Boréas Technologies, a 12-member startup based in Québec, is positioning itself to push touch tech a few steps further.

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Calling the current AI landscape still in flux, Geoff Lees, senior vice president and general manager of microcontrollers at NXP, told us, "The first- and second-generation AI accelerators proved to be not scalable." Although a host of AI SoC startups are developing new acceleration architecture, Lees said that customers today want more scalable general processors to meet their AI needs, he noted.

NXP's resulting strategy is to avoid locking into any specific AI acceleration architecture. It prefers to be a chip supplier offering machine-learning (ML) solutions across a variety of MCU and application processor platforms.

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Chips for the initial 60-GHz Wi-Fi standard, .11ad, rolled out six years ago, but as of last year, they still make up only a small sliver of the vast Wi-Fi chip market. The .11ay standard adds dual-channel bonding to double data rates up to nearly 10 Gbits/s but cannot overcome the physics that limit the reach of 60-GHz signals typically to within a room.

A version of the new chips for access points (APs) supports indoor line-of-sight distances of up to 50 m at 4.5 Gbits/s. A mobile version consumes up to a watt at peak transmission rates.

Intel, Arm to Collaborate On IoT

SAN FRANCISCO — Intel and Arm announced a strategic partnership that aims to eliminate a major barrier to IoT deployment, reducing the complexity associated with the onboarding process for IoT devices and enabling customers to choose their onboarding systems without being locked into a single device architecture or single cloud provider's provisioning method.

The companies said that the partnership aims to extend the capability of Intel's Secure Device Onboard onboarding service to include Arm devices. The collaboration will also enable Arm's Pelion IoT Platform to onboard and manage x86 platforms in addition to Arm-based IoT devices and gateways, they said.

Collaboration between the two most prevalent semiconductor architectures could be an important step toward reducing bottlenecks to the wide-scale deployment of IoT — lack of interoperability, standards, and common technologies.