

C++ and Beyond 2011, Banff

Welcome!

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Why C++ ?



power: driver at all scales – on-die, mobile, desktop, datacenter



size: limits on processor resources – desktop, mobile

experiences: bigger experiences on smaller hardware; pushing envelope means every cycle matters



1979-1989

Research: C with Classes, ARM C++

1989-1999

Mainstream
C++ goes to town (& ISO, & space, &c)

1999-2009

Coffee-based languages for productivity

Q: Can they do *everything* important?





“

3. Efficiency and performance optimization will get more, not less, important. Those languages that already lend themselves to heavy optimization will find new life; those that don't will need to find ways to compete and become more efficient and optimizable. Expect long-term increased demand for performance-oriented languages and systems.

”

from “The Free Lunch is Over,” December 2004



Reality Check

Which statement is most correct?

“The world is built on ...

- C
- C++**
- C#
- Cobol
- Fortran
- Java
- Javascript
- Perl
- Python
- Ruby

.”

Where the Focus Is

	Efficiency BOT – 1999, 2009 – EOT	Flexibility	Abstraction (OO, Generics)	Productivity (Automatic Services, Tools)
C = efficient high-level portable code. Structs, functions.	●	●	<i>non-goal</i>	<i>non-goal</i>
C++ = C + efficient abstraction. Classes, templates.	●	●	●	<i>non-goal</i>
Java, C# = productivity. Mandatory metadata & GC, JIT compilation.	<i>at the expense of</i>	<i>at the expense of</i>	●	●

Creating an Internet Explorer Add-in Toolbar Button using 22 FEB 2011 C++ and ATL

Pete Brown is the lead of the Developer Guidance Community Team at Microsoft, and focuses on WPF, Silverlight, XNA and other "code on the client" technologies.

Now, you can actually accomplish creating a basic add-in simply by storing a little hunk of script on the drive and adding the right registry keys. However, I specifically wanted to do this in C++.

No, not because I hate myself, but because I'm starting to see a resurgence of interest in C++.

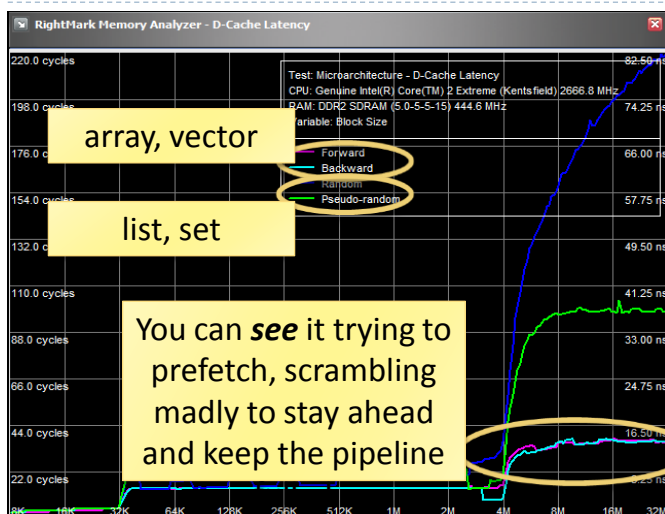
You can create add-ins using .NET and Script, but both have significant limitations as well as performance concerns. If you want to write an add-in of any complexity, you'll almost certainly want to write it in C++. So, that's what I decided to do.

Cache-Conscious Design

- ▶ **Locality is more than ever a first-order performance issue.**
- ▶ Arrange your data carefully:
 - ▶ **First: Keep data that is not used together apart**, on separate cache lines. Avoids the invisible convoying of false sharing (ping-pong).
 - ▶ **Second: Keep data that is *frequently* used together close together.** If a thread that uses A frequently also needs B, try to put them in one cache line.
 - ▶ **Third: Keep “hot” and “cold” data that is not used with the same frequency apart.** Fit “hot” data in the fewest possible cache lines and memory pages, to reduce (a) the cache footprint and cache misses, and (b) the memory footprint and virtual memory paging.

EXHIBIT A
FROM “MACHINE
ARCHITECTURE” TALK

My Desktop Machine: 32K L1D\$, 4M L2\$, 4M L3\$



- ▶ Observations
- ▶ Access patterns matter:
 - ▶ Linear = not bad.
 - ▶ Random = awful.
- ▶ Vectors:
 - ▶ Smaller = further left, faster.
 - ▶ Lower curves = faster.
- ▶ Lists and sets:
 - ▶ Bigger = further right, slower.
 - ▶ On higher curves = slower.

EXHIBIT B
FROM “MACHINE
ARCHITECTURE” TALK



Exhibit: Size & Traversal Order

EXHIBIT B
FROM "MACHINE
ARCHITECTURE" TALK

- ▶ Q: Is it faster to sum an array of ints, an equivalent list of ints, or an equivalent set of ints? Which, how much so, and why?
- ▶ A1: Size matters. (Smaller = further left on the curve.)
 - ▶ All those object headers and links waste space.
- ▶ **A2: Traversal order can matter more.** (Linear = lower curve.)
 - ▶ Takes advantage of prefetching (as discussed).
 - ▶ Takes advantage of modern processors: They can potentially zoom ahead and make progress on several items in the array at the same time. Pointer-chasing = keep hitting latency.

Mobile





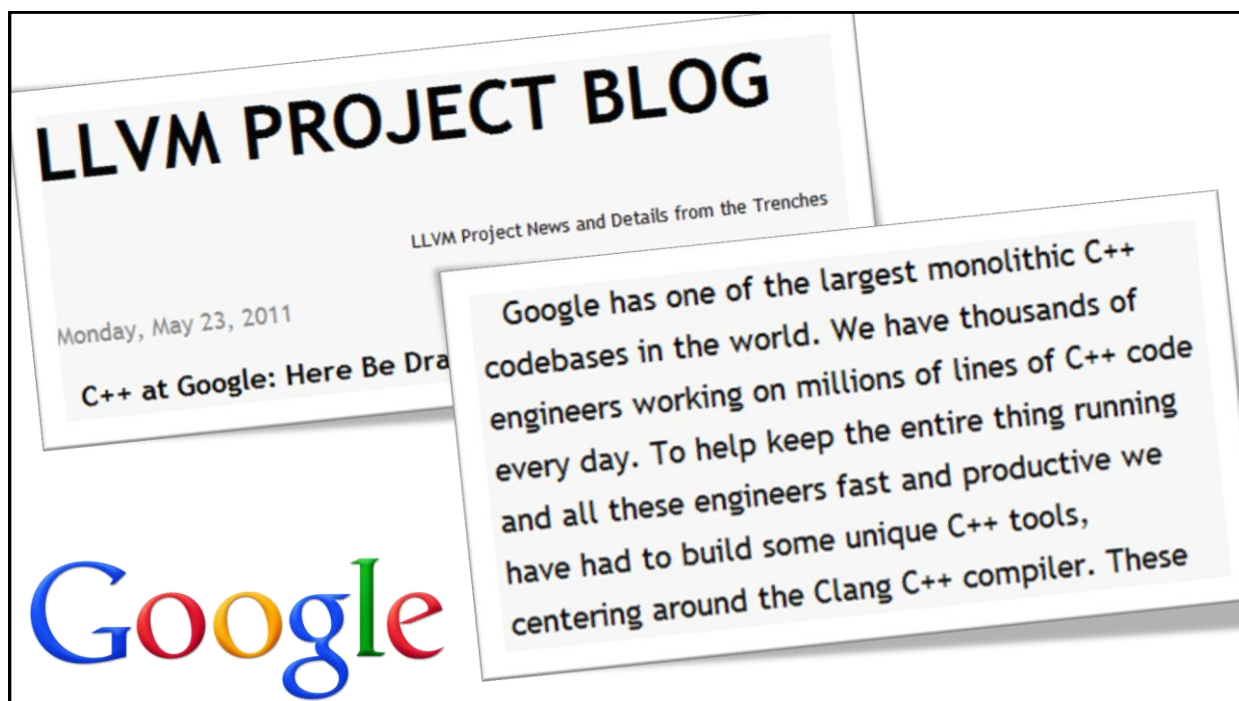
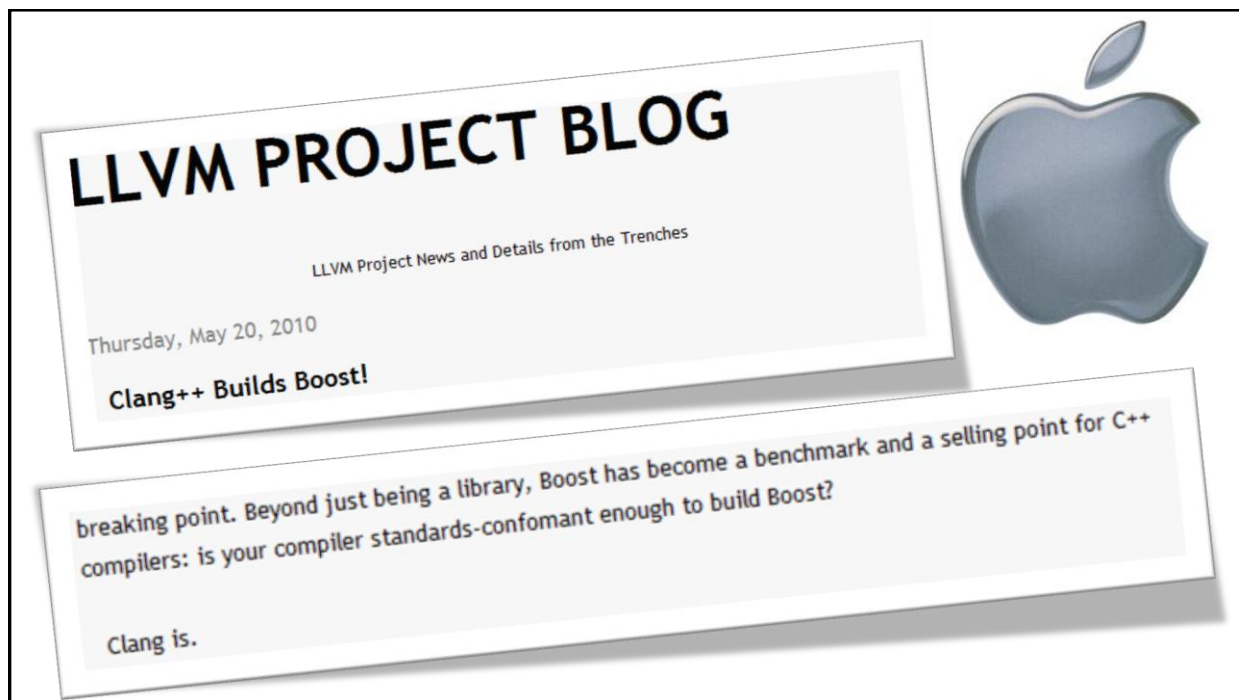
mobile requirements

battery: lower power, longer life

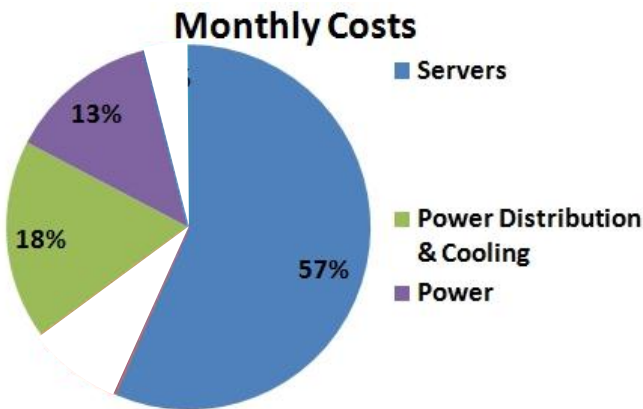
size: amount of hardware you can have

bigger experiences on smaller hardware: pushing the envelope means every cycle matters

			
Version 1	—	Java	.NET
Version 2+	Objective-C, C & C++	Java, C & C++ NDK	?
	incl. C++ wrappers over Objective-C	incl. Java-free C++ apps	



Datacenter



3yr server & 10 yr infrastructure amortization

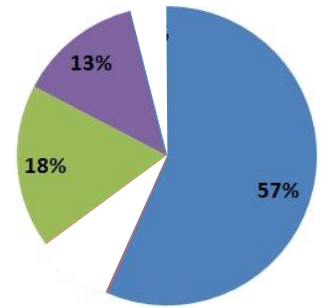
James Hamilton

<http://perspectives.mvdirona.com/2010/09/18/OverallDataCenterCosts.aspx>

Observations [*Enterprise vs. Cloud*]:

“

- People costs shift from top to nearly irrelevant.
- Work done/\$ and work done/W are what really matters (S/W issues dominate).
- Expect high-scale service techniques to spread to enterprise.



”

James Hamilton

VP & Distinguished Engineer, Amazon Web Services

http://www.mvdirona.com/jrh/TalksAndPapers/JamesHamilton_USenix2009.pdf

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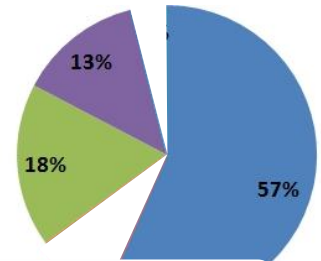
http://mvdirona.com/jrh/TalksAndPapers/JamesHamilton_WhereDoesThePowerGo.pdf

Observations

Programmers & Admins
(Productivity = Coffee)

“

- People costs shift from top to nearly irrelevant.
- Work done/\$ and work done/W are what really matters (S/W issues dominate).
- Expect high-scale service techniques to spread to enterprise.



HW + Power = 88%
(Performance = Native)

Blowback to
(rest of) mainstream

”

James Hamilton

VP & Distinguished Engineer, Amazon Web Services

http://www.mvdirona.com/jrh/TalksAndPapers/JamesHamilton_USenix2009.pdf

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My contribution to the fight against global warming is C++'s efficiency: Just think if Google had to have twice as many server farms! Each uses as much energy as a small town.

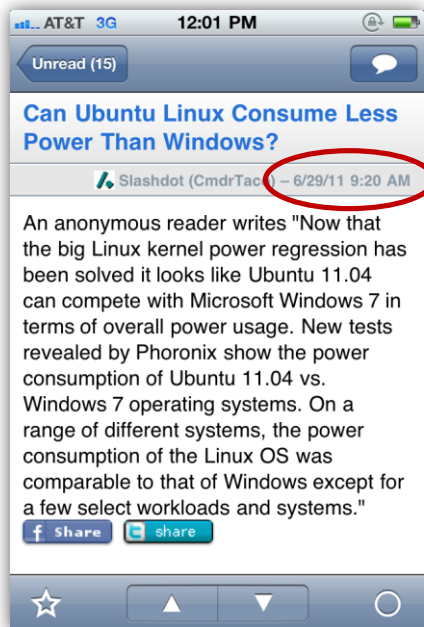
And it's not just a factor of two...

Efficiency is not just running fast or running bigger programs, it's also running using less resources.

”

Bjarne Stroustrup, June 2011













Server and Desktop

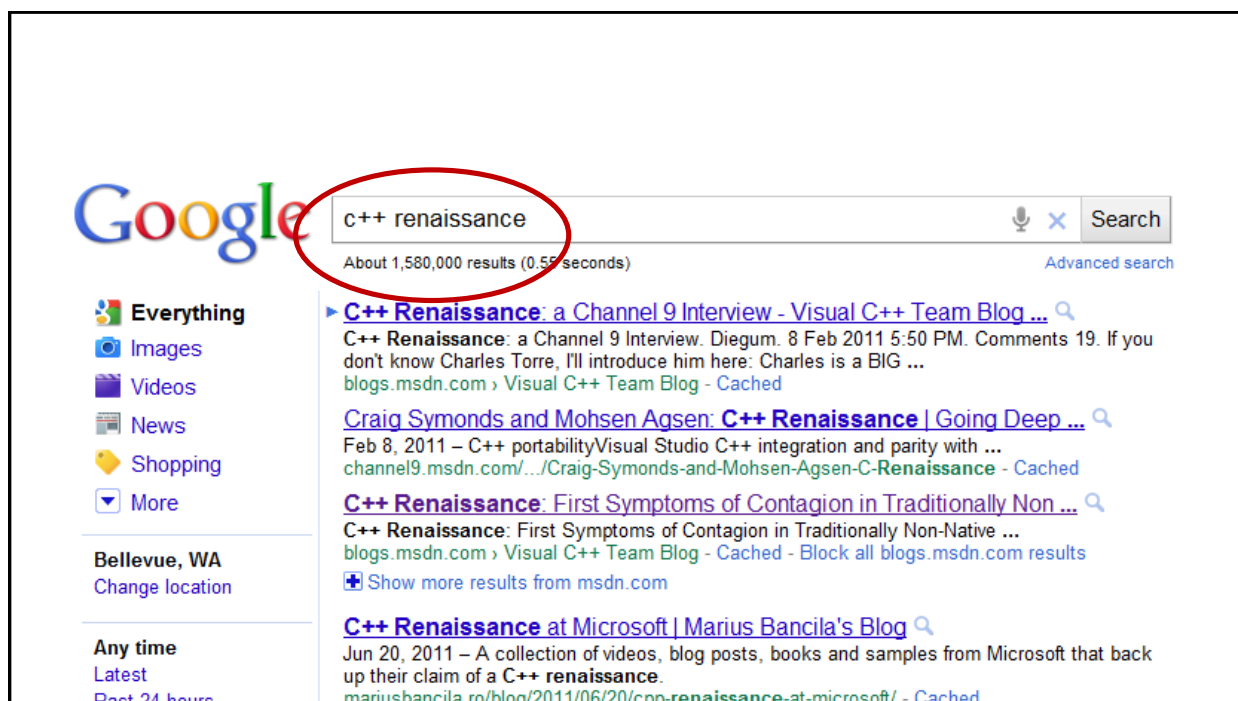
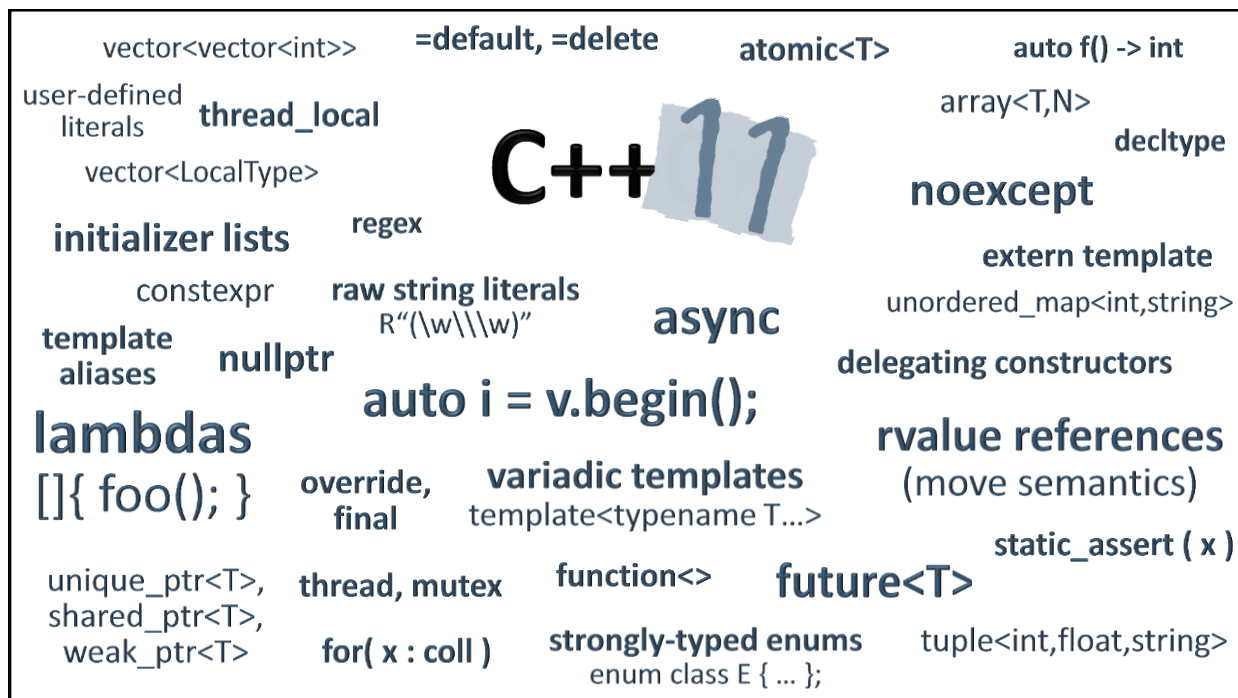


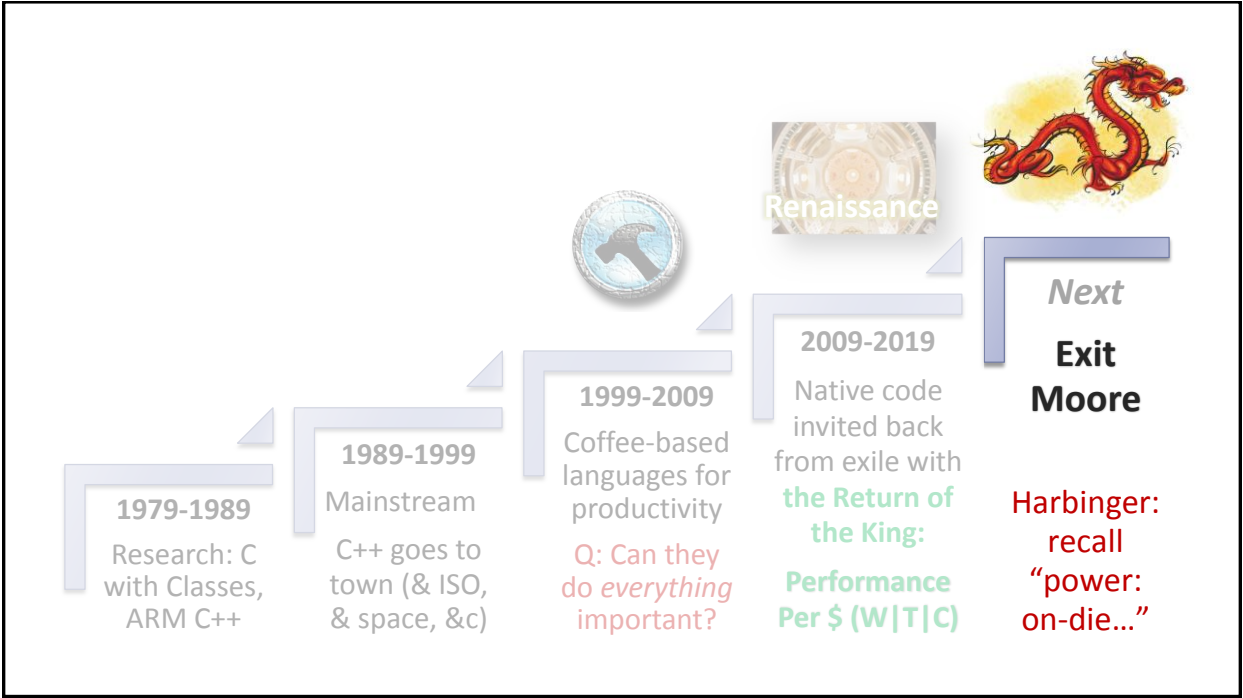
Renaissance



Where the Focus Is

	Efficiency (Perf/\$)	Flexibility (Do What You Need)	Abstraction (OO, Generics)	Productivity (Automatic Services, Tools)
1970s: C				
1980s: Smalltalk, Ada, C++				
1990s: C++, Visual Basic, Delphi, Java				
2000s: .NET, Java, Objective-C, C++, C				
2010s: C++, C				





Dark Silicon and the End of Multicore Scaling

Hadi Esmaeilzadeh[†] Emily Blem[‡] Renée St. Amant[§] Karthikeyan Sankaralingam[‡] Doug Burger[®]

[†]University of Washington [‡]University of Wisconsin-Madison
[§]The University of Texas at Austin [®]Microsoft Research

hadianeh@cs.washington.edu blem@cs.wisc.edu stamant@cs.utexas.edu karu@cs.wisc.edu dburger@microsoft.com

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