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UEFI ARM Update

UEFI Summerfest – July 15-19, 2013

Presented by Dan Handley (ARM)

Agenda

- ARM Economics
- ARM UEFI Strategy
- Current Status
- Future Work
- Questions

Economics

- What are the ARM numbers?
  - Processors shipped in 2012 : **~8.7 B** (~7.9 B in '11)
  - Processors shipped in total : **>30 B**
  - Processor licenses : **~960** (850 in '12)
  - Semiconductor partners : **310** (290 in '12)
  - Process technology : **14 – 250 nm**
  - Connected community members : **1000+** (950 in '12)

Economics (1000+)

ARM UEFI Strategy

Why UEFI on ARM?

- Driving forces for UEFI on ARM
  - Processor and system complexity increasing
  - Support existing partners' ARM processor-based UEFI solutions
  - Help standardize boot process for ARM processor-based platforms
  - Improve hw-sw interface for OS that target the ARM architecture

- Advantages to ARM partners and OEMs
  - Write once per platform, saving costs in bootloader development
  - UEFI specification written down and peer reviewed
  - Tested UEFI drivers available from 3rd party peripherals providers
  - Provides an environment for manufacturing tests

ARM UEFI Vision

- Provide standard ARM architectural support
  - Correctness in implementation within ARMv7-A and ARMv8-A architectures
  - Future-proof through standardized (rather than proprietary) reference software
  - Focus on reducing fragmentation and overall partner support costs
- Provide reference ports of UEFI for ARM development platforms
- Support BIOS (and other) partners' UEFI development
  - Directly and through Linaro

ARM Engineering Strategy

- UEFI support for the ARM Architecture
  - Maintain ARM packages and docs in Tianocore EDK2 repository
  - Implement support for new ARM architectures, CPUs and system IP
  - Implement common UEFI features or applications for ARM
  - Maintain SCT for ARM and validate on standard platforms
  - Align with relevant ARM Platform Design Documents (PDDs)
- UEFI support for ARM platforms
  - Porting for new ARM development platforms
  - Maintained within EDK2 (for standard platforms) or other neutral repository
- Help partners with UEFI platform code management and development

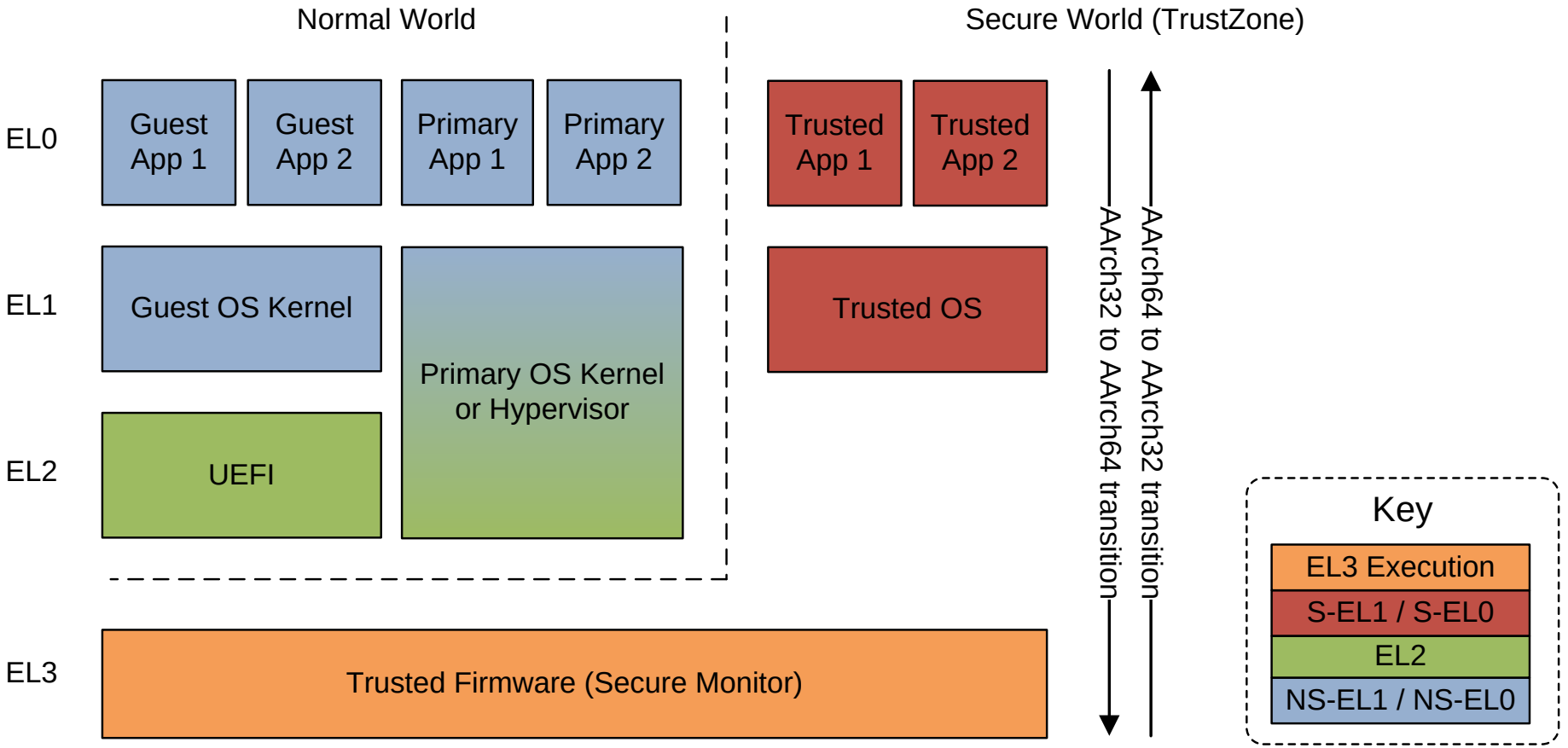
New Technologies

- **big.LITTLE**
  - Heterogeneous computing technology providing both high performance and extreme power efficiency, serving dynamic computing demands (32-bit & 64-bit)

- **Virtualization**
  - Includes Large Physical Address Extensions (LPAE), second level of MMU page table translations and support for hypervisors (32-bit & 64-bit)

- **ARMv8-A / AArch64**
  - Brings 64-bit support to the ARM Architecture increasing the register file, media instructions, addressing range and cryptography instructions (64-bit)

Example ARMv8-A Stack



Current Status

Specification

- ARM Binding Sub-Team (ABST) activities:
  - Created AArch64 UEFI Bindings
    - Support now available in UEFI 2.4
  - Virtualization Protocol Proposal
    - Standardize the way to start a hypervisor from AArch32 UEFI
  - Boot Architecture
    - Discussions around the standardization of the ARM Boot Architecture

Existing EDK2 Features

- ARMv7-A architectural support
  - Maintained by ARM since February 2011
  - With help from Apple, HP, Linaro, ...
- Standard implementations for ARM hardware IP
  - All Cortex-A class processors, caches, interconnects, memory controllers, ...
- ARM development platform support
  - Models, Versatile Express based systems (A9x4, A15x2 + A7x3)
- TrustZone initialization, big.LITTLE
- Booting ATAG and FDT Linux kernels
- Toolchain support (ARM, GNU, XCode)
- Debug (GDB, DS-5 integration)
  - http://blogs.arm.com/software-enablement/884-uefi-debug-made-easy/
- SCT port to ARM (integrated with main SCT package)
- Using any CPU as the primary

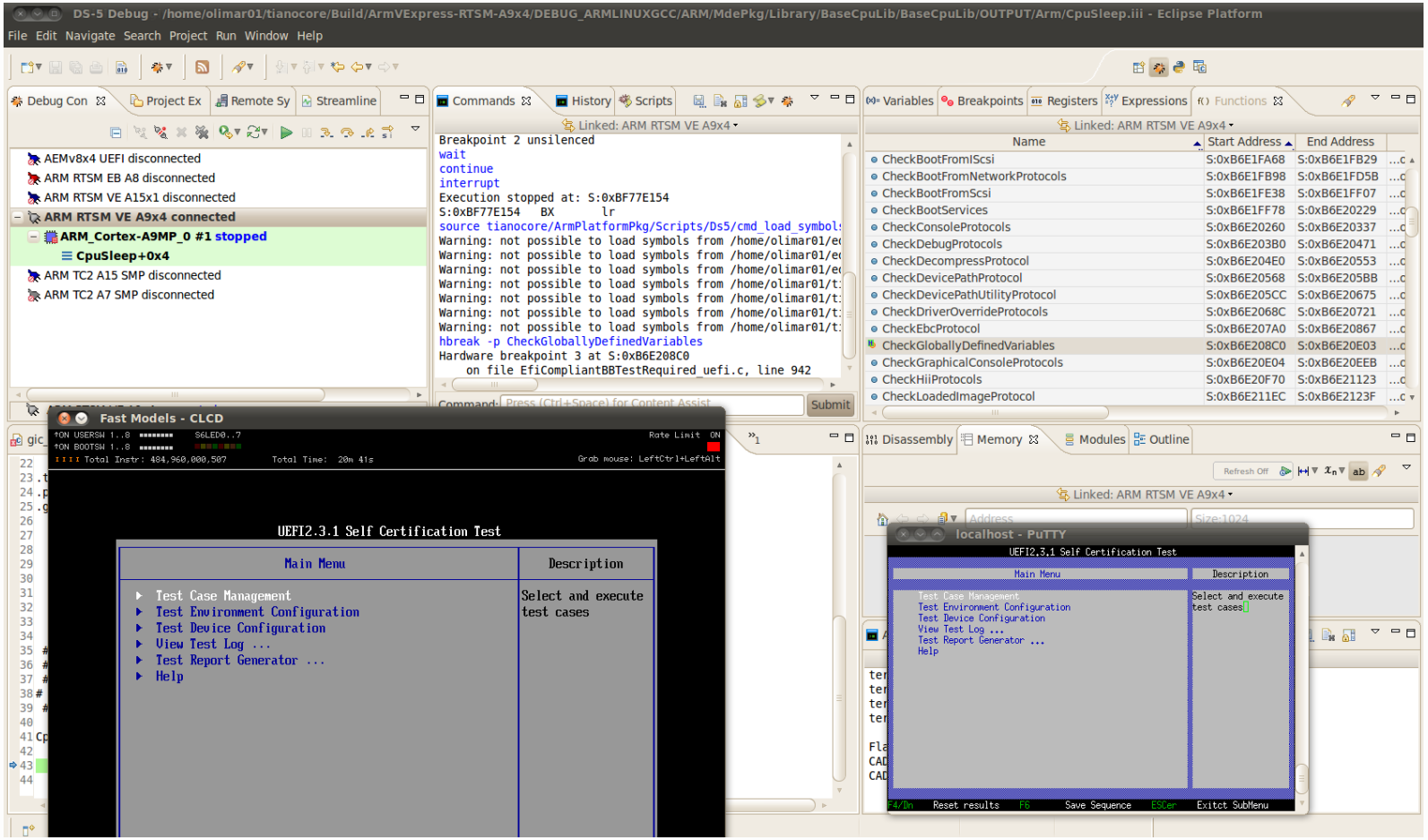
Current ARM EDK2 Focus

- Adding support for AArch64 in EDK2 and SCT
- Implementation of the ARM Virtualization Protocol proposal
- Aligning EDK2 with latest UEFI Specification
- Improving protocol support/compliance
- Enabling the ARM Ecosystem through Open Source contributions

AArch64 EDK2 support

- ARM recommends UEFI for all AArch64 systems
- Available to licensees for last few months
- Publication of UEFI 2.4 spec unblocks public release
  - Upstreaming to EDK2 imminent
- Focus is on ARM Fast Models for now
  - Fixed Virtual Platforms (FVPs)
  - AArch64 hardware not widely available yet
  - Platform support will be available from neutral repository

Fast Model Example



Fixed Virtual Platforms

- **Current: Two main flavours of FVP**
  - "AEMv8-RTSM-VE": primary development platform
  - Foundation: Free of charge entry offering (http://www.arm.com/fvp)
  - The key development platforms for key software activity
    - AArch64 tools (GNU and ARM), UEFI and Linux kernel
    - Linux filesystem and related packages
- **2013 H2: Address broader needs for software eco-system**
  - System Architecture (Platform Design Documents)
  - Dual cluster capability, power management emulation
  - Low-level software frameworks:
    - Support for all exception levels (secure world, virtualization support)
    - Power State Coordination Interface (PSCI)
  - "VE" => "Base" platform (generic AEMv8 and Cortex-A53/57 variants)

ARM Virtualization Protocol

- Problem: Need to make Virtualization Extensions available to OS
- For AArch64, can just run UEFI and OS in "Hyp Mode" (EL2)
- For AArch32, existing systems run UEFI in "SVC Mode" (EL1)
- Protocol allows new OS loaders to escalate UEFI into "Hyp Mode"
  - While providing compatibility with existing OS
- Can already start Linux KVM from AArch32 UEFI
  - Solution not yet complete

Future Work

- Create and manage regular stable branches
- Support latest ARM System IP
  - GICv3, interconnect, memory controllers, ...
- Improved virtualization support
  - Virtio drivers (block device, network)
  - VM booting via UEFI
- Maintenance, Consolidation, Housekeeping, Integration, Upstreaming, ...

Summary

- UEFI is a compelling solution for ARM and its partners
  - Recommended bootloader for AArch64
- ARM is investing in both specification and implementation
  - Keeping up to date with new technologies (big.LITTLE, Virtualization, AArch64, ...)
- AArch64 implementation available publically imminently
- ARM models used to drive standardization
- Supporting BIOS (and other) partners, directly and through Linaro

Questions?

Thanks for attending the UEFI Summerfest 2013

For more information on the Unified EFI Forum and UEFI Specifications, visit http://www.uefi.org

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