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计算机组成与设计

硬件/软件接口 (MIPS版)

(美) David A. Patterson John L. Hennessy 著

加州大学伯克利分校

斯坦福大学

(英文版·第5版·亚洲版)

COMPUTER ORGANIZATION AND DESIGN

THE HARDWARE/SOFTWARE INTERFACE

FIFTH EDITION
ASIAN EDITION

DAVID A. PATTERSON
JOHN L. HENNESSY



机械工业出版社
China Machine Press

MK
MORGAN KAUFMANN

这本最畅销的计算机组成与设计的经典教材经过全面修订，关注后PC时代发生在计算机体系结构领域的革命性变革（从单处理器发展到多核微处理器，从串行发展到并行），并强调了新出现的移动计算和云计算。为了研讨和强调这种重大的变化，本书更新了许多内容，重点介绍平板电脑、云体系结构以及ARM（移动计算设备）和x86（云计算）体系结构。

因为正确理解现代硬件对于实现好的性能和能效至关重要，所以本版在全书中增加了一个新的实例“Going Faster”，以演示非常有效的优化技术。本版还新增了一个关于计算机体系结构“八大理念”的讨论。

与前几版一样，本书采用MIPS处理器来展示计算机硬件技术、汇编语言、计算机算术、流水线、存储器层次结构以及I/O等基本功能。

本书特色

- 包含新的实例、练习和资料，重点介绍新出现的移动计算和云计算。
- 涵盖从串行计算到并行计算的革命性变革，特别用一章篇幅讲述并行处理器，并且每章中还有一些强调并行硬件和软件主题的小节。
- 全书采用Intel Core i7、ARM Cortex-A8 和NVIDIA Fermi GPU作为实例。
- 增加一个新的实例“Going Faster”，展示正确理解硬件技术能够激发软件优化，提高200倍的性能。
- 讨论并强调计算机体系结构的“八大理念”——Performance via Parallelism; Performance via Pipelining; Performance via Prediction; Design for Moore's Law; Hierarchy of Memories; Abstraction to Simplify Design; Make the Common Case Fast; Dependability via Redundancy。
- 全面更新和改进了练习。

作者简介

David A. Patterson 加州大学伯克利分校计算机科学系教授，美国国家工程院院士，美国国家科学院院士，IEEE和ACM会士。他因为教学成果显著而荣获了加州大学的杰出教学奖、ACM的Karlstrom奖、IEEE的Mulligan教育奖章和本科生教学奖。因为对RISC技术的贡献，他获得IEEE的技术成就奖和ACM的Eckert-Mauchly奖；而在RAID方面的贡献为他赢得了IEEE Johnson信息存储奖。他还和John L. Hennessy分享了IEEE John von Neumann奖章和NEC C&C奖金。Patterson还是美国艺术与科学院院士、美国计算机历史博物馆院士，并被选入硅谷工程名人堂。Patterson身为美国总统信息技术顾问委员会委员，还曾担任加州大学伯克利分校电子工程与计算机科学系计算机科学分部主任、计算机研究协会（CRA）主席和ACM主席。这一履历使他荣获了ACM和CRA颁发的杰出服务奖。



John L. Hennessy 斯坦福大学的第10任校长，从1977年开始在该校电子工程与计算机系任教。Hennessy教授是IEEE和ACM会士，美国国家工程院、美国国家科学院和美国哲学院院士，美国艺术与科学院院士。他获得过众多奖项，如2001年度Eckert-Mauchly奖，表彰他对RISC技术的贡献；2001年度Seymour Cray计算机工程奖；与David Patterson共同获得的2000年度IEEE John von Neumann奖章。他还拥有7个荣誉博士学位。



本书影印自原版Computer Organization and Design: The Hardware/Software Interface, Fifth Edition, Asian Edition 并由Elsevier授权出版



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This Asian edition has been created with the input from several professors teaching in Asia, with changes to the content and exercises designed to match the needs of the local curriculum. If you are taking a course in any other parts of the world, this edition may not match your curriculum. Please refer to the edition bearing ISBN: 9780124077263 instead.

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硬件/软件接口

(MIPS版)

Computer Organization and Design

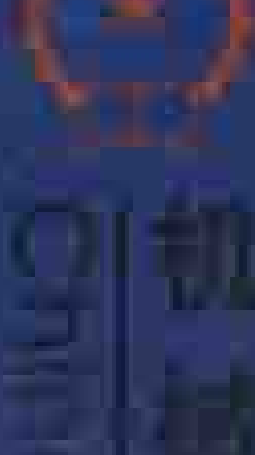
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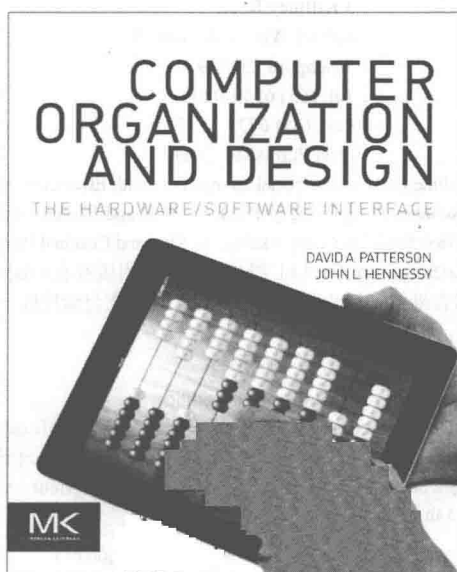
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出版者的话

文艺复兴以降，源远流长的科学精神和逐步形成的学术规范，使西方国家在自然科学的各个领域中取得了垄断性的优势；也正是这样的传统，使美国在信息技术发展的六十多年间名家辈出、独领风骚。在商业化的进程中，美国的产业界与教育界越来越紧密地结合，计算机学科中的许多泰山北斗同时身处科研和教学的最前线，由此而产生的经典科学著作，不仅肇划了研究的范畴，还揭示了学术的源变，既遵循学术规范，又自有学者个性，其价值并不会因年月的流逝而减退。

近年，在全球信息化大潮的推动下，我国的计算机产业发展迅猛，对专业人才的需求日益迫切。这对计算机教育界和出版界都既是机遇，也是挑战；而专业教材的建设在教育战略上显得举足轻重。在我国信息技术发展时间较短的现状下，美国等发达国家在其计算机科学发展的几十年间积淀和发展的经典教材仍有许多值得借鉴之处。因此，引进一批国外优秀计算机教材将对我国计算机教育事业的发展起到积极的推动作用，也是与世界接轨、建设真正的世界一流大学的必由之路。

机械工业出版社华章公司较早意识到“出版要为教育服务”。自1998年开始，我们就将工作重点放在了遴选、移译国外优秀教材上。经过多年的不懈努力，我们与Pearson, McGraw-Hill, Elsevier, MIT, John Wiley & Sons, Cengage等世界著名出版公司建立了良好的合作关系，从他们现有的数百种教材中甄选出Andrew S. Tanenbaum, Bjarne Stroustrup, Brian W. Kernighan, Dennis Ritchie, Jim Gray, Alfred V. Aho, John E. Hopcroft, Jeffrey D. Ullman, Abraham Silberschatz, William Stallings, Donald E. Knuth, John L. Hennessy, Larry L. Peterson等大师名家的一批经典作品，以“计算机科学丛书”为总称出版，供读者学习、研究及珍藏。大理石纹理的封面，也正体现了这套丛书的品位和格调。

“计算机科学丛书”的出版工作得到了国内外学者的鼎力襄助，国内的专家不仅提供了中肯的选题指导，还不辞劳苦地担任了翻译和审校的工作；而原书的作者也相当关注其作品在中国的传播，有的还专程为其书的中译本作序。迄今，“计算机科学丛书”已经出版了近两百个品种，这些书籍在读者中树立了良好的口碑，并被许多高校采用为正式教材和参考书籍。其影印版“经典原版书库”作为姊妹篇也被越来越多实施双语教学的学校所采用。

权威的作者、经典的教材、一流的译者、严格的审校、精细的编辑，这些因素使我们的图书有了质量的保证。随着计算机科学与技术专业学科建设的不断完善和教材改革的逐渐深化，教育界对国外计算机教材的需求和应用都将步入一个新的阶段，我们的目标是尽善尽美，而反馈的意见正是我们达到这一终极目标的重要帮助。华章公司欢迎老师和读者对我们的工作提出建议或给予指正，我们的联系方式如下：

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In Praise of *Computer Organization and Design: The Hardware/Software Interface*, Fifth Edition

"Textbook selection is often a frustrating act of compromise—pedagogy, content coverage, quality of exposition, level of rigor, cost. *Computer Organization and Design* is the rare book that hits all the right notes across the board, without compromise. It is not only the premier computer organization textbook, it is a shining example of what all computer science textbooks could and should be."

—Michael Goldweber, *Xavier University*

"I have been using *Computer Organization and Design* for years, from the very first edition. The new Fifth Edition is yet another outstanding improvement on an already classic text. The evolution from desktop computing to mobile computing to Big Data brings new coverage of embedded processors such as the ARM, new material on how software and hardware interact to increase performance, and cloud computing. All this without sacrificing the fundamentals."

—Ed Harcourt, *St. Lawrence University*

"To Millennials: *Computer Organization and Design* is the computer architecture book you should keep on your (virtual) bookshelf. The book is both old and new, because it develops venerable principles—Moore's Law, abstraction, common case fast, redundancy, memory hierarchies, parallelism, and pipelining—but illustrates them with contemporary designs, e.g., ARM Cortex A8 and Intel Core i7."

—Mark D. Hill, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

"The new edition of *Computer Organization and Design* keeps pace with advances in emerging embedded and many-core (GPU) systems, where tablets and smartphones will be quickly becoming our new desktops. This text acknowledges these changes, but continues to provide a rich foundation of the fundamentals in computer organization and design which will be needed for the designers of hardware and software that power this new class of devices and systems."

—Dave Kaeli, *Northeastern University*

"The Fifth Edition of *Computer Organization and Design* provides more than an introduction to computer architecture. It prepares the reader for the changes necessary to meet the ever-increasing performance needs of mobile systems and big data processing at a time that difficulties in semiconductor scaling are making all systems power constrained. In this new era for computing, hardware and software must be co-designed and system-level architecture is as critical as component-level optimizations."

—Christos Kozyrakis, *Stanford University*

"Patterson and Hennessy brilliantly address the issues in ever-changing computer hardware architectures, emphasizing on interactions among hardware and software components at various abstraction levels. By interspersing I/O and parallelism concepts with a variety of mechanisms in hardware and software throughout the book, the new edition achieves an excellent holistic presentation of computer architecture for the PostPC era. This book is an essential guide to hardware and software professionals facing energy efficiency and parallelization challenges in Tablet PC to cloud computing."

—Jae C. Oh, *Syracuse University*

Preface

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.

Albert Einstein, *What I Believe*, 1930

About This Book

We believe that learning in computer science and engineering should reflect the current state of the field, as well as introduce the principles that are shaping computing. We also feel that readers in every specialty of computing need to appreciate the organizational paradigms that determine the capabilities, performance, energy, and, ultimately, the success of computer systems.

Modern computer technology requires professionals of every computing specialty to understand both hardware and software. The interaction between hardware and software at a variety of levels also offers a framework for understanding the fundamentals of computing. Whether your primary interest is hardware or software, computer science or electrical engineering, the central ideas in computer organization and design are the same. Thus, our emphasis in this book is to show the relationship between hardware and software and to focus on the concepts that are the basis for current computers.

The recent switch from uniprocessor to multicore microprocessors confirmed the soundness of this perspective, given since the first edition. While programmers could ignore the advice and rely on computer architects, compiler writers, and silicon engineers to make their programs run faster or be more energy-efficient without change, that era is over. For programs to run faster, they must become parallel. While the goal of many researchers is to make it possible for programmers to be unaware of the underlying parallel nature of the hardware they are programming, it will take many years to realize this vision. Our view is that for at least the next decade, most programmers are going to have to understand the hardware/software interface if they want programs to run efficiently on parallel computers.

The audience for this book includes those with little experience in assembly language or logic design who need to understand basic computer organization as well as readers with backgrounds in assembly language and/or logic design who want to learn how to design a computer or understand how a system works and why it performs as it does.

About the Other Book

Some readers may be familiar with *Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach*, popularly known as Hennessy and Patterson. (This book in turn is often called Patterson and Hennessy.) Our motivation in writing the earlier book was to describe the principles of computer architecture using solid engineering fundamentals and quantitative cost/performance tradeoffs. We used an approach

that combined examples and measurements, based on commercial systems, to create realistic design experiences. Our goal was to demonstrate that computer architecture could be learned using quantitative methodologies instead of a descriptive approach. It was intended for the serious computing professional who wanted a detailed understanding of computers.

A majority of the readers for this book do not plan to become computer architects. The performance and energy efficiency of future software systems will be dramatically affected, however, by how well software designers understand the basic hardware techniques at work in a system. Thus, compiler writers, operating system designers, database programmers, and most other software engineers need a firm grounding in the principles presented in this book. Similarly, hardware designers must understand clearly the effects of their work on software applications.

Thus, we knew that this book had to be much more than a subset of the material in *Computer Architecture*, and the material was extensively revised to match the different audience. We were so happy with the result that the subsequent editions of *Computer Architecture* were revised to remove most of the introductory material; hence, there is much less overlap today than with the first editions of both books.

About the Asian Edition

With the consent of the authors, we have developed this Asian Edition of *Computer Organization and Design: The Hardware/Software Interface*, to better reflect local teaching practice of computer course in Asian classrooms and the development of computer technology in this region. The major adjustments of content include:

- An introduction to the “TH-2 High Performance Computing System” (as a demonstration of cluster computing system) to replace Appendix B on digital logic, and a new section on “Networks-on-Chip” as Appendix F. Both reflect the latest progress in computer technology and can serve as good reference for readers.
- Abridgment of some sections of Chapter 2 to better suit the current curriculums applied in Asian classrooms.

With these adjustments listed above, the Asian Edition is enhanced with local features while keeping the main structure and knowledge framework of the original version.

Special thanks go to Prof. Zhiying Wang, Prof. Chung-Ping Chung, Associate Prof. Li Shen and Dr. Sheng Ma, for their contributions to the development of this Asian Edition.

Changes for the Fifth Edition

We had six major goals for the fifth edition of *Computer Organization and Design*: demonstrate the importance of understanding hardware with a running example; highlight major themes across the topics using margin icons that are introduced early; update examples to reflect changeover from PC era to PostPC era; spread the material on I/O throughout the book rather than isolating it into a single chapter; update the technical content to reflect changes in the industry since the publication of the fourth edition in 2009; and put appendices and optional sections online instead of including a CD to lower costs and to make this edition viable as an electronic book.

Chapter or Appendix	Sections	Software focus	Hardware focus
1. Computer Abstractions and Technology	1.1 to 1.11		
	 1.12 (History)		
2. Instructions: Language of the Computer	2.1 to 2.12		
	 2.13 (Compilers & Java)		
	2.14 to 2.18		
	 2.19 (History)		
E. RISC Instruction-Set Architectures	 E.1 to E.17		
3. Arithmetic for Computers	3.1 to 3.5		
	3.6 to 3.8 (Subword Parallelism)		
	3.9 to 3.10 (Fallacies)		
	 3.11 (History)		
4. The Processor	4.1 (Overview)		
	4.2 (Logic Conventions)		
	4.3 to 4.4 (Simple Implementation)		
	4.5 (Pipelining Overview)		
	4.6 (Pipelined Datapath)		
	4.7 to 4.9 (Hazards, Exceptions)		
	4.10 to 4.12 (Parallel, Real Stuff)		
	 4.13 (Verilog Pipeline Control)		
	4.14 to 4.15 (Fallacies)		
D. Mapping Control to Hardware	 4.16 (History)		
	 D.1 to D.6		
5. Large and Fast: Exploiting Memory Hierarchy	5.1 to 5.10		
	 5.11 (Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks)		
	 5.12 (Verilog Cache Controller)		
	5.13 to 5.16		
	 5.17 (History)		
6. Parallel Process from Client to Cloud	6.1 to 6.8		
	 6.9 (Networks)		
	6.10 to 6.14		
	 6.15 (History)		
A. Assemblers, Linkers, and the SPIM Simulator	A.1 to A.11		
C. Graphics Processor Units	 C.1 to C.10		

Read carefully Read if have time Reference Review or read Read for culture 

Before discussing the goals in detail, let's look at the table on page vii. It shows the hardware and software paths through the material. Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 6 are found on both paths, no matter what the experience or the focus. Chapter 1 discusses the importance of energy and how it motivates the switch from single core to multicore microprocessors and introduces the eight great ideas in computer architecture. Chapter 2 is likely to be review material for the hardware-oriented, but it is essential reading for the software-oriented, especially for those readers interested in learning more about compilers and object-oriented programming languages. Chapter 3 is for readers interested in constructing a datapath or in learning more about floating-point arithmetic. Some will skip parts of Chapter 3, either because they don't need them or because they offer a review. However, we introduce the running example of matrix multiply in this chapter, showing how subword parallels offers a fourfold improvement, so don't skip sections 3.6 to 3.8. Chapter 4 explains pipelined processors. Sections 4.1, 4.5, and 4.10 give overviews and Section 4.12 gives the next performance boost for matrix multiply for those with a software focus. Those with a hardware focus, however, will find that this chapter presents core material; they may also, depending on their background, want to read Appendix C on logic design first. The last chapter on multicores, multiprocessors, and clusters, is mostly new content and should be read by everyone. It was significantly reorganized in this edition to make the flow of ideas more natural and to include much more depth on GPUs, warehouse scale computers, and the hardware-software interface of network interface cards that are key to clusters.

The first of the six goals for this fifth edition was to demonstrate the importance of understanding modern hardware to get good performance and energy efficiency with a concrete example. As mentioned above, we start with subword parallelism in Chapter 3 to improve matrix multiply by a factor of 4. We double performance in Chapter 4 by unrolling the loop to demonstrate the value of instruction level parallelism. Chapter 5 doubles performance again by optimizing for caches using blocking. Finally, Chapter 6 demonstrates a speedup of 14 from 16 processors by using thread-level parallelism. All four optimizations in total add just 24 lines of C code to our initial matrix multiply example.

The second goal was to help readers separate the forest from the trees by identifying eight great ideas of computer architecture early and then pointing out all the places they occur throughout the rest of the book. We use (hopefully) easy to remember margin icons and highlight the corresponding word in the text to remind readers of these eight themes. There are nearly 100 citations in the book. No chapter has less than seven examples of great ideas, and no idea is cited less than five times. Performance via parallelism, pipelining, and prediction are the three most popular great ideas, followed closely by Moore's Law. The processor chapter (4) is the one with the most examples, which is not a surprise since it probably received the most attention from computer architects. The one great idea found in every chapter is performance via parallelism, which is a pleasant observation given the recent emphasis in parallelism in the field and in editions of this book.

The third goal was to recognize the generation change in computing from the PC era to the PostPC era by this edition with our examples and material. Thus, Chapter 1 dives into the guts of a tablet computer rather than a PC, and Chapter 6 describes the computing infrastructure of the cloud. We also feature the ARM, which is the instruction set of choice in the personal mobile devices of the PostPC era, as well as the x86 instruction set that dominated the PC Era and (so far) dominates cloud computing.

The fourth goal was to spread the I/O material throughout the book rather than have it in its own chapter, much as we spread parallelism throughout all the chapters in the fourth edition. Hence, I/O material in this edition can be found in Sections 1.4, 4.9, 5.2, 5.5, 5.11, and 6.9. The thought is that readers (and instructors) are more likely to cover I/O if it's not segregated to its own chapter.

This is a fast-moving field, and, as is always the case for our new editions, an important goal is to update the technical content. The running example is the ARM Cortex A8 and the Intel Core i7, reflecting our PostPC Era. Other highlights include an overview of the new 64-bit instruction set of ARMv8, a tutorial on GPUs that explains their unique terminology, more depth on the warehouse scale computers that make up the cloud, and a deep dive into 10 Gigabyte Ethernet cards.

To keep the main book short and compatible with electronic books, we placed the optional material as online appendices instead of on a companion CD as in prior editions.

Finally, we updated all the exercises in the book.

While some elements changed, we have preserved useful book elements from prior editions. To make the book work better as a reference, we still place definitions of new terms in the margins at their first occurrence. The book element called “Understanding Program Performance” sections helps readers understand the performance of their programs and how to improve it, just as the “Hardware/Software Interface” book element helped readers understand the tradeoffs at this interface. “The Big Picture” section remains so that the reader sees the forest despite all the trees. “Check Yourself” sections help readers to confirm their comprehension of the material on the first time through with answers provided at the end of each chapter. This edition still includes the green MIPS reference card, which was inspired by the “Green Card” of the IBM System/360. This card has been updated and should be a handy reference when writing MIPS assembly language programs.

Changes for the Fifth Edition

We have collected a great deal of material to help instructors teach courses using this book. Solutions to exercises, figures from the book, lecture slides, and other materials are available to adopters from the publisher. Check the publisher's Web site for more information:

textbooks.elsevier.com/9780124077263

Concluding Remarks

If you read the following acknowledgments section, you will see that we went to great lengths to correct mistakes. Since a book goes through many printings, we have the opportunity to make even more corrections. If you uncover any remaining, resilient bugs, please contact the publisher by electronic mail at cod5asiabugs@mkp.com or by low-tech mail using the address found on the copyright page.

This edition is the second break in the long-standing collaboration between Hennessy and Patterson, which started in 1989. The demands of running one of the world's great universities meant that President Hennessy could no longer make the substantial commitment to create a new edition. The remaining author felt

once again like a tightrope walker without a safety net. Hence, the people in the acknowledgments and Berkeley colleagues played an even larger role in shaping the contents of this book. Nevertheless, this time around there is only one author to blame for the new material in what you are about to read.

Acknowledgments for the Fifth Edition

With every edition of this book, we are very fortunate to receive help from many readers, reviewers, and contributors. Each of these people has helped to make this book better.

Chapter 6 was so extensively revised that we did a separate review for ideas and contents, and I made changes based on the feedback from every reviewer. I'd like to thank **Christos Kozyrakis** of Stanford University for suggesting using the network interface for clusters to demonstrate the hardware-software interface of I/O and for suggestions on organizing the rest of the chapter; **Mario Flajsilk** of Stanford University for providing details, diagrams, and performance measurements of the NetFPGA NIC; and the following for suggestions on how to improve the chapter: **David Kaeli** of Northeastern University, **Partha Ranganathan** of HP Labs, **David Wood** of the University of Wisconsin, and my Berkeley colleagues **Siamak Faridani**, **Shoaib Kamil**, **Yunsup Lee**, **Zhangxi Tan**, and **Andrew Waterman**.

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I am also very grateful to **Jason Bakos** of the University of South Carolina, who updated and created new exercises for this edition, working from originals prepared for the fourth edition by **Perry Alexander** (The University of Kansas); **Javier Bruguera** (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela); **Matthew Farrens** (University of California, Davis); **David Kaeli** (Northeastern University); **Nicole Kaiyan** (University of Adelaide); **John Oliver** (Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo); **Milos Prvulovic** (Georgia Tech); and **Jichuan Chang**, **Jacob Leverich**, **Kevin Lim**, and **Partha Ranganathan** (all from Hewlett-Packard).

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The contributions of the nearly 150 people we mentioned here have helped make this fifth edition what I hope will be our best book yet. Enjoy!

David A. Patterson

About the Author

David A. Patterson has been teaching computer architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, since joining the faculty in 1977, where he holds the Pardee Chair of Computer Science. His teaching has been honored by the Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of California, the Karlstrom Award from ACM, and the Mulligan Education Medal and Undergraduate Teaching Award from IEEE. Patterson received the IEEE Technical Achievement Award and the ACM Eckert-Mauchly Award for contributions to RISC, and he shared the IEEE Johnson Information Storage Award for contributions to RAID. He also shared the IEEE John von Neumann Medal and the C & C Prize with John Hennessy. Like his co-author, Patterson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Computer History Museum, ACM, and IEEE, and he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame. He served on the Information Technology Advisory Committee to the U.S. President, as chair of the CS division in the Berkeley EECS department, as chair of the Computing Research Association, and as President of ACM. This record led to Distinguished Service Awards from ACM and CRA.

At Berkeley, Patterson led the design and implementation of RISC I, likely the first VLSI reduced instruction set computer, and the foundation of the commercial SPARC architecture. He was a leader of the Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) project, which led to dependable storage systems from many companies. He was also involved in the Network of Workstations (NOW) project, which led to cluster technology used by Internet companies and later to cloud computing. These projects earned three dissertation awards from ACM. His current research projects are Algorithm-Machine-People and Algorithms and Specializers for Provably Optimal Implementations with Resilience and Efficiency. The AMP Lab is developing scalable machine learning algorithms, warehouse-scale-computer-friendly programming models, and crowd-sourcing tools to gain valuable insights quickly from big data in the cloud. The ASPIRE Lab uses deep hardware and software co-tuning to achieve the highest possible performance and energy efficiency for mobile and rack computing systems.

John L. Hennessy is the tenth president of Stanford University, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1977 in the departments of electrical engineering and computer science. Hennessy is a Fellow of the IEEE and ACM; a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Science, and the American Philosophical Society; and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Among his many awards are the 2001 Eckert-Mauchly Award for his contributions to RISC technology, the 2001 Seymour Cray Computer Engineering Award, and the 2000 John von Neumann Award, which he shared with David Patterson. He has also received seven honorary doctorates.

In 1981, he started the MIPS project at Stanford with a handful of graduate students. After completing the project in 1984, he took a leave from the university to cofound MIPS Computer Systems (now MIPS Technologies), which developed one of the first commercial RISC microprocessors. As of 2006, over 2 billion MIPS microprocessors have been shipped in devices ranging from video games and palmtop computers to laser printers and network switches. Hennessy subsequently led the DASH (Director Architecture for Shared Memory) project, which prototyped the first scalable cache coherent multiprocessor; many of the key ideas have been adopted in modern multiprocessors. In addition to his technical activities and university responsibilities, he has continued to work with numerous start-ups both as an early-stage advisor and an investor.

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