

IO Virtualization (Intel Platforms)

Training

Let MindShare bring “IO Virtualization” to life for you

Virtualization is one of the hot, exciting areas in the industry today, generating significant revenue, and solving critical problems in data centers and in embedded and mobile markets. However, software virtualization techniques add too much overhead to allow virtualization to be used for some applications. This class will look at those problem applications and the hardware solutions architected by Intel as well as support in standards like PCI Express (PCIe). The course focuses on the Intel processor SoC or Chipset VT-d elements that support DMA and Interrupt remapping. The course also discusses details of Address Translation Services (ATS), Access Control Services (ACS) and Single-Root IOV (SRIOV) implementations (though not multi-root IOV MRIOV).

You Will Learn:

- What virtualization is, and the revenue generating uses for virtualization
- The major sources of overhead with software-only virtualization techniques
- How I/O virtualization will use the new hardware assists, to solve these problems
- Intel architecture focused VT-d (multiple generations)
- DMA remapping (Guest Physical to Host Physical as well as Shared Virtual Memory)
- PCIe Address Translation Services (ATS)
- PCIe Access Control Services (ACS)
- Single Root IOV (SRIOV)
- Process Address Space IDs (PASIDs)

Who Should Attend?

This class targets hardware and software engineers who desire to understand the full picture of how IOV hardware is to be used, and the software needed to drive that hardware.

Course Length: 2-Days

Course Outline:

- Introduction to Virtualization
 - What is virtualization
 - Why is it important
 - Software Techniques
 - Performance Issues
 - PCI Pass-through (DirectPath IO)
- PCIe Address Translation Services (ATS)
 - What it is and how it helps
 - Performance benefits
 - ATS Protocol
 - Changes to PCIe packets
 - Address Translation Caches (ATCs)
- PCIe Access Control Services (ACS)
 - What it is and why it's needed
- PCIe Single-Root IO Virtualization (SRIOV)
 - What it is and how it helps
 - Functions vs. Physical Functions (PFs) vs. Virtual Functions (VFs)
 - SRIOV Capability Structure (including VF BARs)
 - Config space of VFs
 - PCIe Alternative Routing ID (ARI)
- Intel VT-d: DMA Remapping

- What it is and how it helps
 - Performance benefits
 - Security benefits
- Guest Virtual vs. Guest Physical vs. Host Physical Addresses
- Remap Engine Functionality
- Latency issues
- Shared Virtual Memory
 - What it is and how it helps
 - PCIe Process Address Space IDs (PASIDs)
 - Intel VT-d support of PASIDs
- Intel VT-d: Interrupt Remapping
 - What it is and why it's needed
 - Big security issue
 - Virtualization performance improvements
 - MSI / MSI-X review (interrupt delivery)
 - Compatibility Format vs. Remappable Format
 - Direct Remapping (good)
 - Posted Remapping (better)
 - Virtual Local APICs

Recommended Prerequisites:

PCI Express architecture background as well as general understanding of PC architecture.

Course Material:

- 1) Downloadable PDF version of the presentation slides.
- 2) Optional: MindShare [Arbor software tool](#), used for student labs in the class.