

All Flash Array Data Protection Schemes

Sean R. Barry
XtremIO System Engineer



All Flash Arrays – How Did We Get Here?

- 30+ years of HDD and distributed data and parity
- Built for spinning media
 - Data Protection built into the distribution schema

The First RAID Group – U.C. Berkley 1984

Dave Patterson



Garth Gibson



Randy Katz

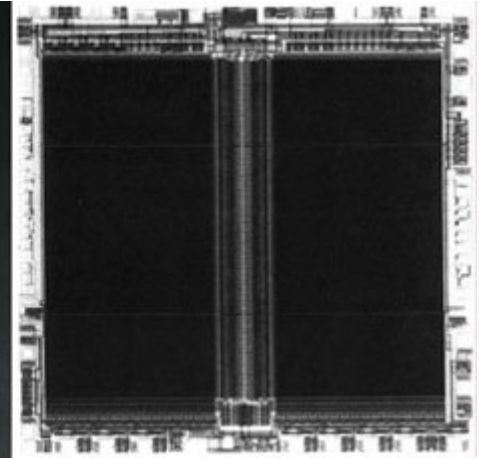


RAID1 (1989) - Sun 4/280 WS, 128 MB DRAM, 4 dual-string SCSI controllers, 28 5.25-inch SCSI disks with disk mirroring software

Source: gabrielchapman.com

All Flash Arrays – How Did We Get Here?

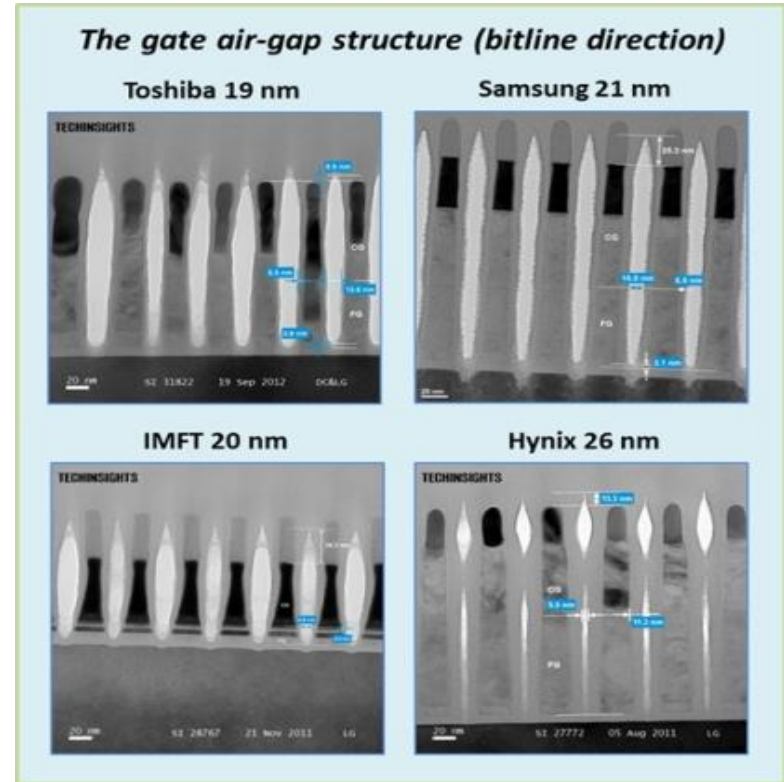
- Gen 1 - EPROM
NAND 35+ Years old
- Gen 2 – Flash
NAND 18+ Years of innovation



Source: spectrum.ieee.org

All Flash Arrays – How Did We Get Here?

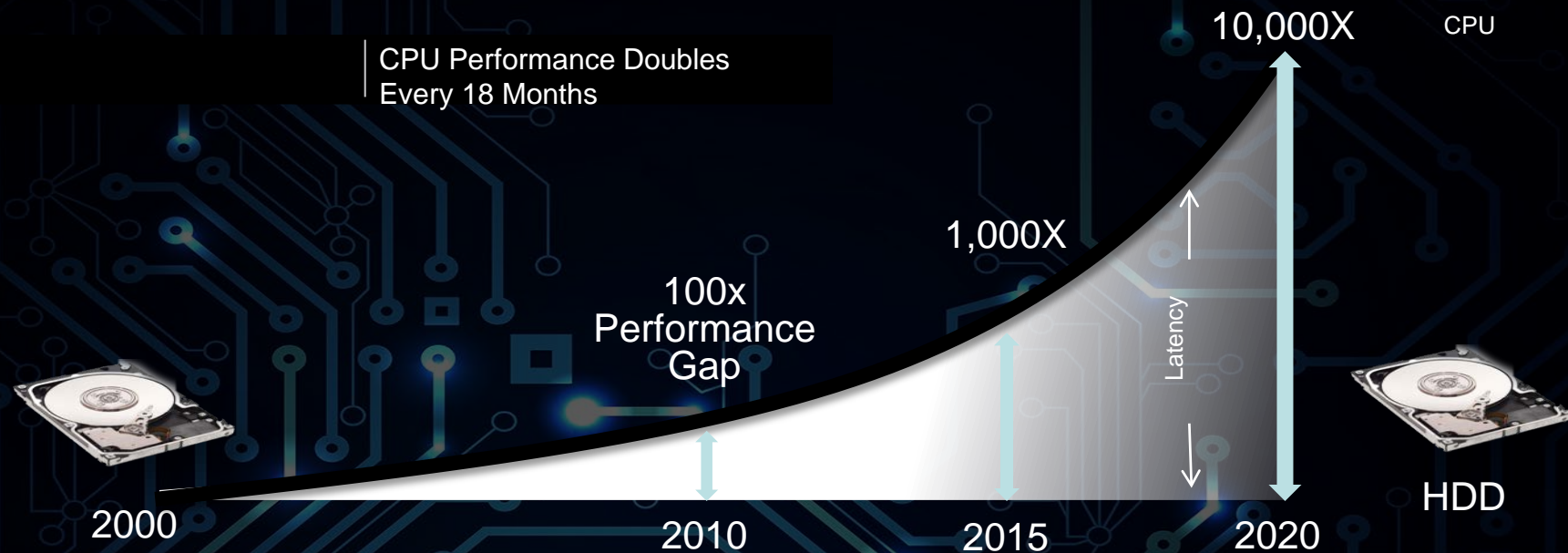
- Gen 2 – Flash NAND 18+ Years of innovation:
 - Substrate
 - Gates
 - Bit Density
 - Manufacturing



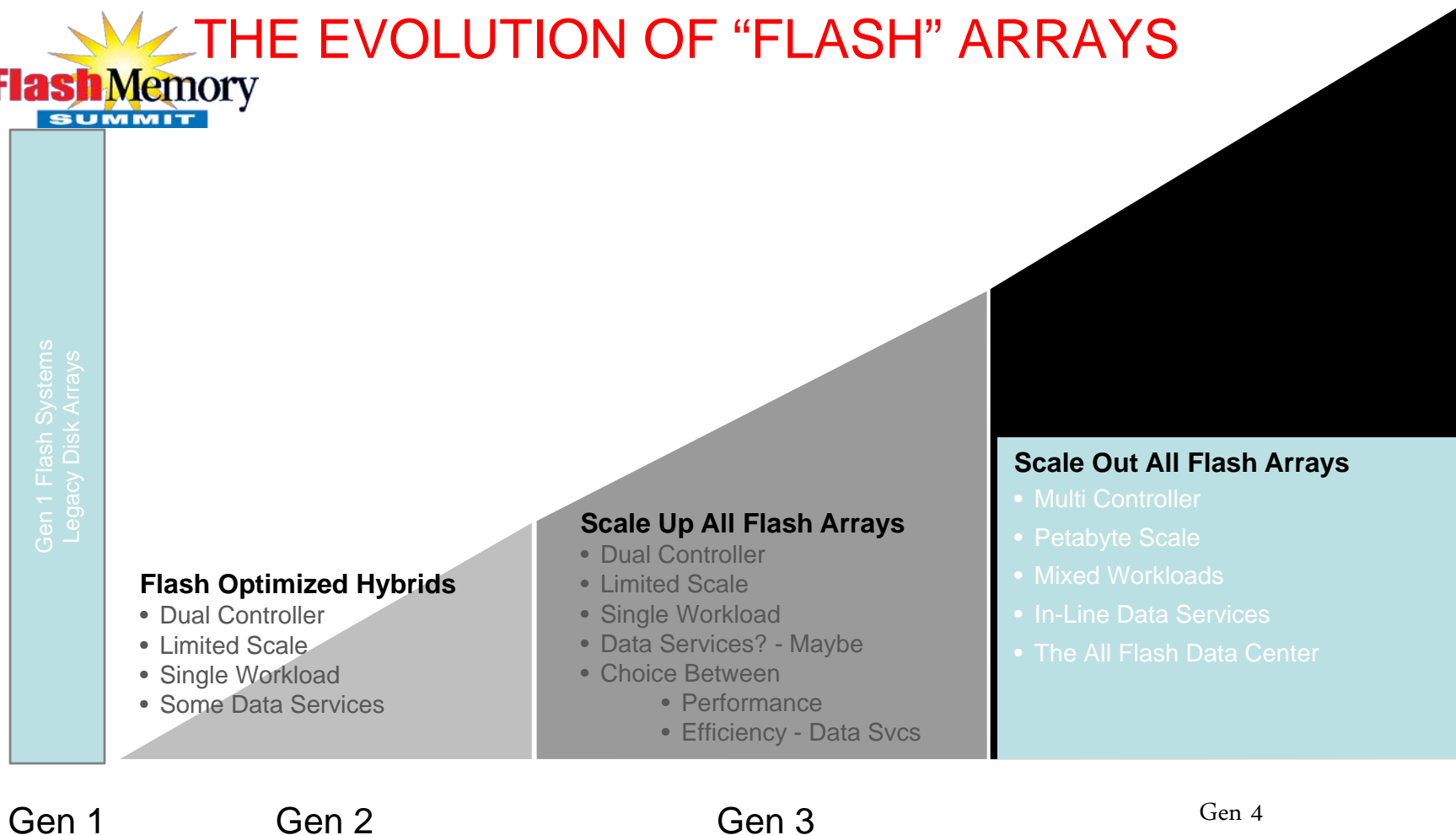
Source: www.eetimes.com

Hard Disk Drive Performance

Flash NAND Technology has an opportunity!



THE EVOLUTION OF “FLASH” ARRAYS



ON LOAN FROM THE DISK ERA

Log Structuring



Garbage Collection Nightmare

Post-Processing



Erratic Performance

Legacy RAID



Write Amplification

Scale Up Architecture



Front End Bottleneck

Data Protection Methods on Flash

- Flash-optimized data protection without compromise

	XDP	RAID 1	RAID 5	RAID 6
Capacity Overhead	8%	50%	25%	20%
Write I/O Overhead (stripe update)	1.22	2 (64%)	2 (64%)	3 (146%)
Read I/O Overhead (stripe update)	1.22	0	2 (64%)	3 (146%)

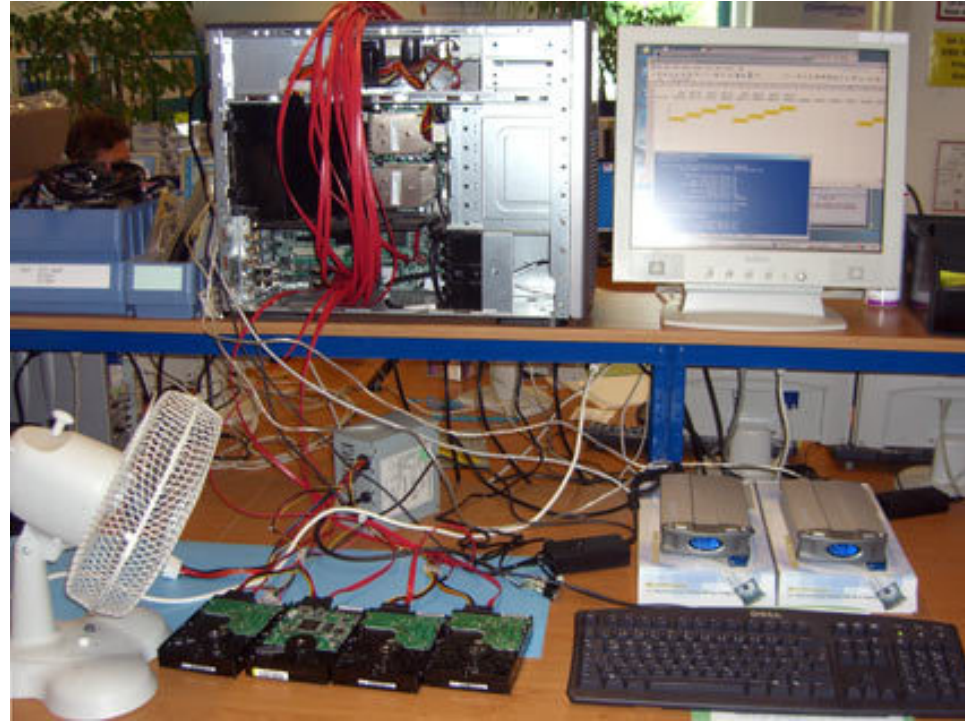
SUPERIOR
USABLE CAPACITY

UP TO 4X
BETTER ENDURANCE

UP TO 4X
BETTER PERFORMANCE

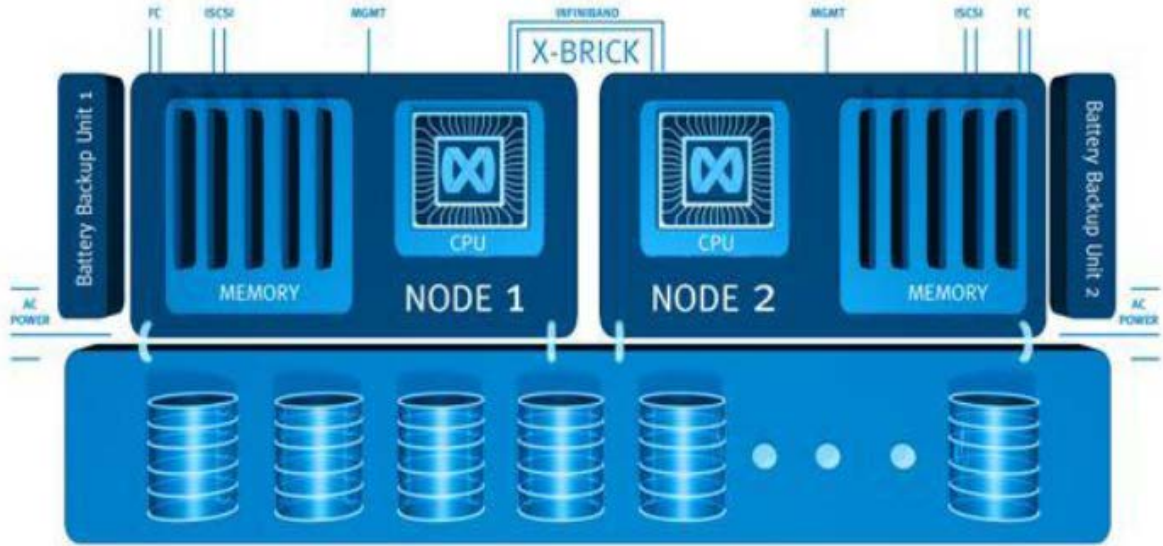
Data Protection Innovation Shift - Hardware

- Lessons learned from enterprise storage field deployments
- Innovation at controller and HDD levels
- When RAID failed, manual data stripe rebuilding



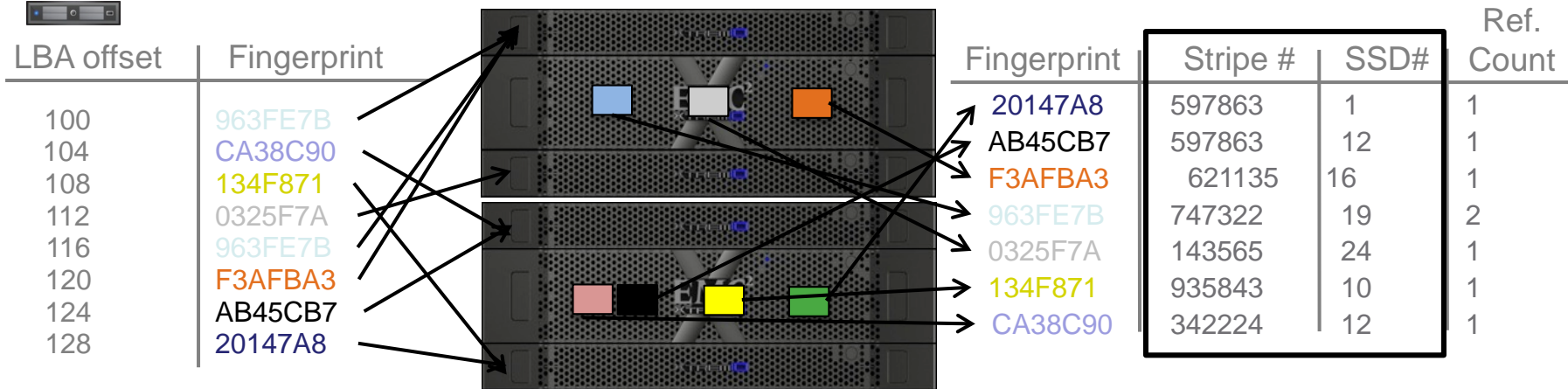
Data Protection Innovation Shift - Hardware

- Hardware Architecture completely different because of Flash NAND Media
- Dual storage controllers
- Software driven data protection



Data Protection Innovation Shift – Metadata and Database Transaction-like I/O Operations

Emptiest Stripe Always Known



Volume LBA to Fingerprint
(first stage metadata)

Fingerprint to Physical Location
(second stage metadata)

All Flash Array Take-Aways

- It's not about the Flash/SSDs—It's all about the architecture of NVM management
- All-Flash Arrays are more memory intensive to manage I/O and provide data services
- System design is key to All Flash Array longevity and datacenter utilization



Thank you!

Sean.Barry@emc.com

