

Protocol OffLoading vs OnLoading in High Performance Networks



Hot Interconnects Panel
August 23, 2006

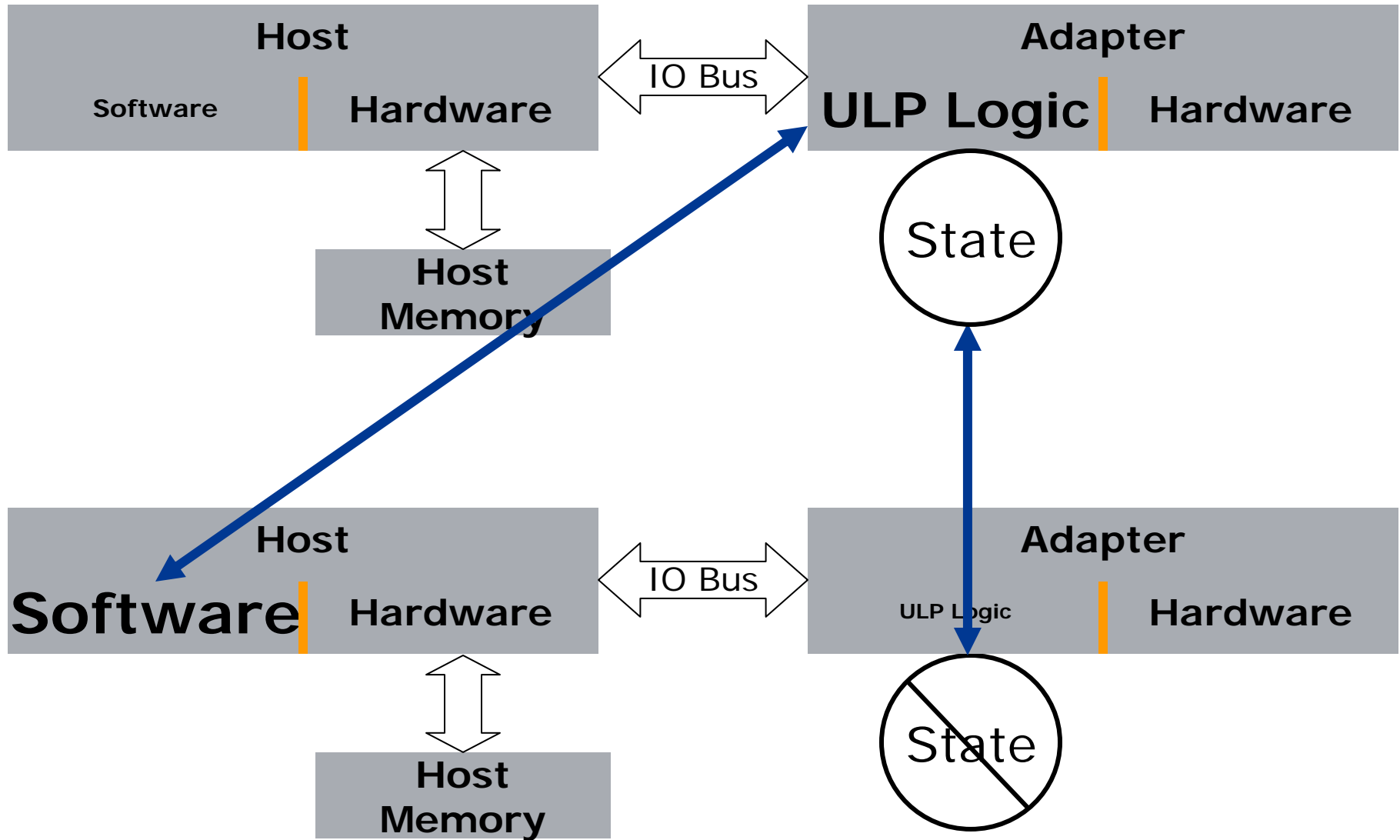
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OffLoad vs OnLoad: Two Continuums



What is the optimal point in the continuum?



It depends on:

... application space

... how performance is measured by benchmarks and applications

... which performance metrics are to be optimized

... desired RAS characteristics

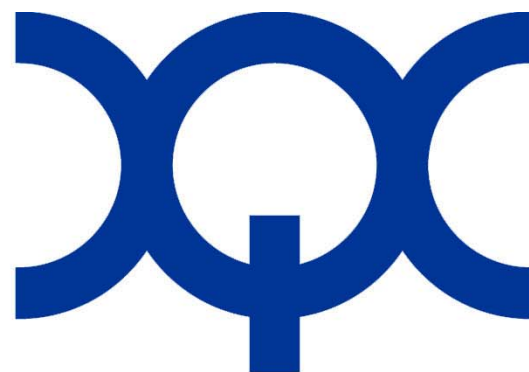
- Increasing data rates relative to system and memory bus bandwidth argues for:
 - Direct data transmission
 - DMA
 - Sending from cache
 - Direct data placement on receive
 - "Source routed" receive
 - Cache injection

- Increasing core counts relative to adapter clock frequency improvements, and relatively high overhead required to off-load work argues for:
 - Higher ratio of Host-based:Adapter-based protocol handling

- Increasing RAS requirements and containment of system bus utilization argue for:
 - Stateless adapters

- Increasing use of one-sided programming models needs to be supported:
 - shmem, PGAS languages

Thank You



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A word (or two) from our attorneys ...



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