

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MARSHALL DIVISION**

LIBERTY PATENTS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ASUSTEK COMPUTER INC.,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:20-cv-288

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR  
PATENT INFRINGEMENT

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff Liberty Patents, LLC (“Liberty Patents” or “Plaintiff”) files this original complaint against Defendants ASUSTeK Computer Inc. (“ASUS” or “Defendant”), alleging, based on its own knowledge as to itself and its own actions and based on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Liberty Patents is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business at 2325 Oak Alley, Tyler, Texas 75703.
2. Defendant ASUSTeK Computer Inc. is a foreign company organized and existing under the laws of Taiwan, with a place of business located at No. 15, Li-Te Road, Beitou District, Taipei 112, Taiwan. ASUSTeK Computer Inc. may be served with process by serving the Texas Secretary of State, 1019 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701, as its agent for service because it engages in business in Texas but has not designated or maintained a resident agent for service of process in Texas as required by statute. This action arises out of that business.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This is an action for infringement of a United States patent arising under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281, and 284–85, among others. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of the action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1338(a).

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over ASUS pursuant to due process and/or the Texas Long Arm Statute because, *inter alia*, (i) ASUS has done and continues to do business in Texas; and (ii) ASUS has committed and continues to commit acts of patent infringement in the State of Texas, including making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling accused products in Texas, and/or importing accused products into Texas, including by Internet sales and sales via retail and wholesale stores, inducing others to commit acts of patent infringement in Texas, and/or committing a least a portion of any other infringements alleged herein. In addition, or in the alternative, this Court has personal jurisdiction over ASUS pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(2).

5. Venue is proper as to Defendant ASUS, which is organized under the laws of Taiwan and has its principal place of business in Taiwan. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(3) provides that “a defendant not resident in the United States may be sued in any judicial district, and the joinder of such a defendant shall be disregarded in determining where the action may be brought with respect to other defendants.” *See also In re HTC Corp.*, 889 F.3d 1349 (Fed. Cir. 2018).

### **BACKGROUND**

6. The three patents-in-suit cover technology used in computer systems, such as notebook computers, laptop computers, desktop computers, tablets, and other electronic devices. More particularly, the patents-in-suit describe key improvements to electronic devices in the areas of more efficient handling of computer instructions for faster processing, better power

distribution and power management, and a better process for retrieving automatic software updates.

7. U.S. Patent No. 6,535,959 (“the ’959 Patent”) discloses a processor that includes an instruction cache. The instruction cache is a set-associative cache that comprises multiple blocks. Claim 1 of the ’959 patent is directed to a processor that generates a power reduction signal, which indicates whether the subsequent instruction to be executed resides in the same block of the instruction cache as the current instruction that is being executed. This advantageously allows, for example, the processor to read consecutive instructions (or instructions that are in the same block) quickly, without multiple additional steps. The novel system results in a processor with increased operating speed and decreased power consumption.

8. The invention described in the ’959 Patent was the result of research conducted by two inventors at Conexant Systems, Inc., which was—at the time—the world’s largest, standalone communications-IC company. Conexant, itself, was a spin-off from the semiconductor division of the well-known and well-regarded Rockwell International Corp. Conexant was known as a leading supplier of innovative semiconductor solutions for imaging, audio, embedded modem, and video surveillance applications.<sup>1</sup> Recently, Conexant was acquired by Synaptics, the leading developer of human interface solutions for over \$300 million. Since its formation, Conexant has been an innovator in the semiconductor field (and others) with more than a thousand patents assigned to it.

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<sup>1</sup> See Conexant’s Audio Solution Named CES Innovations 2011 Awards Honoree, BUSINESS WIRE (Nov. 9, 2010), [www.businesswire.com/news/home/20101109005618/en/Conexant%E2%80%99s-Audio-Solution-Named-CES-Innovations-2011](http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20101109005618/en/Conexant%E2%80%99s-Audio-Solution-Named-CES-Innovations-2011).

9. The '959 Patent has been cited by multiple technology companies—as recently as 2017—including, Apple, Fujitsu, IBM, Honeywell, Intel, Matsushita, Oracle, and Samsung.

10. U.S. Patent No. 6,920,573 (“the '573 Patent”) generally relates to a system for conserving energy in electronic systems. Specifically, the system provides much-needed energy savings for computers, such as notebooks and laptops, by including various operating modes that limit power usage. In particular, the '573 Patent describes three operating modes. The first mode is a regular operating mode where the electronic device is fully powered on and where the main microprocessor is running. The second mode is a power-saving mode where the main microprocessor is not running, yet the system is still activated. The third mode is also a power-saving mode, and more specifically, a standby mode from which the first mode can be activated. The '573 Patent also discloses components to power the system, such as a rechargeable battery, and components to control the system, such as a power button.

11. Major companies in the electronics industry have cited the invention of the '573 Patent during patent prosecution. Indeed, the '573 Patent has been cited over fifty times by leading companies, including Google, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Matsushita, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Sony, and Transmeta.

12. U.S. Patent No. 7,493,612 (“the '612 Patent”) discloses systems and methods for automatically updating the system software of an embedded system. Claim 1 describes an embedded system capable of automatically updating system software using update agent interface programming (UAIP)—code that initiates an update of the system software during the boot process. The embedded system includes first system software and a boot image. The system also includes a micro-controller capable of transforming the first system software into system code and the boot image into boot code. The boot code includes update agent interface

programming (UAIP) for initiating updating of the first system software before executing the system code. The system can be coupled to an external data storage device, which contains the second system software (i.e., the updated system code). If there is an update to the system software, the second system software is read from the external data storage device. As a result of the '612 Patent's inventive system, a computer can advantageously retrieve automatic updates during boot without loading its outdated OS—a more efficient, time-saving solution.

13. The '612 Patent's inventive system was developed by the Taiwanese company, Lite-On Technology Corp., which develops a wide range of consumer electronics products, such as semiconductors, monitors, motherboards, etc. Lite-On was originally founded in 1975 by former employees of Texas Instruments. While the company originally developed LEDs, it branched into other industries, such as embedded systems and related software, and stayed on the forefront of developing technologies. Lite-On was recently purchased by the Japanese company, Kioxia—a former division of Toshiba—for \$165 million.

## COUNT I

### DIRECT INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,535,959

14. On March 18, 2003, the '959 Patent was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for an invention entitled "Circuit and Method for Reducing Power Consumption in an Instruction Cache."

15. Liberty Patents is the owner of the '959 Patent, with all substantive rights in and to that patent, including the sole and exclusive right to prosecute this action and enforce the '959 Patent against infringers, and to collect damages for all relevant times.

16. ASUS made, had made, used, imported, provided, supplied, distributed, sold, and/or offered for sale products and/or systems including, for example, its ASUS ZenPad Z8

(ZT581KL), and other products that include processors with the capability to ignore reading the tag field when a sequential instruction is to be loaded<sup>2</sup> (processors such as the ARM Cortex-A72, Cortex-A57, Cortex-A15, Cortex-A9, Cortex-R5, Cortex-R4, ARM11, etc.) (“accused products”):



**Source:** [www.asus.com/us/Tablets/ASUS-ZenPad-Z8-ZT581KL-Verizon-exclusive/](http://www.asus.com/us/Tablets/ASUS-ZenPad-Z8-ZT581KL-Verizon-exclusive/)

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., ASUS Chromebook Flip C101PA, Chromebook Tablet CT100, Tinker Edge R, Tinker Edge T, Zenpad Z8 Tablet, ZenPad 3, ZenPad 3S, ZenPad Z10, ZenPad Z8s, ZenFone 3 Ultra, etc.

## ASUS ZenPad Z8 (ZT581KL, Verizon exclusive)

Operating System	Tablet: Android™ 6.0
Display	7.9" LED Backlight Touchscreen LCD Panel QXGA (1536 x 2048) Screen IPS Panel 10 finger multi-touch support Multi-touch Support Anti-fingerprint coating ASUS Tru2Life+ Technology
CPU	Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 650 Hexa Core, 1.8 GHz

Source: [www.asus.com/us/Tablets/ASUS-ZenPad-Z8-ZT581KL-Verizon-exclusive/specifications/](http://www.asus.com/us/Tablets/ASUS-ZenPad-Z8-ZT581KL-Verizon-exclusive/specifications/)



### Snapdragon 650 Mobile Platform

## Features

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- 4K video capture and playback
- 64-bit dual ARM Cortex-A72 CPU and quad Cortex-A53 CPU
- Integrated X8 LTE
  - LTE Advanced Carrier Aggregation up to 2x20 MHz in the downlink and uplink
  - Cat 7 with support for peak speeds of 300 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload
- Next generation Qualcomm® Adreno™ 510 GPU makes high-tier graphics and gaming more immersive than ever
- Quad HD (2K) displays and wireless streaming full HD
- Dual ISP (image signal processor) offers support for up to 21MP zero shutter lag (ZSL) photos at 24fps
- Tight system integration and optimization for superior performance and power efficiency

Source: [www.qualcomm.com/products/snapdragon-650-mobile-platform](http://www.qualcomm.com/products/snapdragon-650-mobile-platform)

17. By doing so, ASUS has directly infringed (literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) at least Claim 1 of the '959 Patent. ASUS's infringement in this regard is ongoing.

18. For example, the ARM Cortex-A72 in the ASUS ZenPad Z8 is a processor that includes an instruction cache. The instruction cache includes multiple cache lines or blocks.

### Features

The Cortex-A72 processor includes the following features:

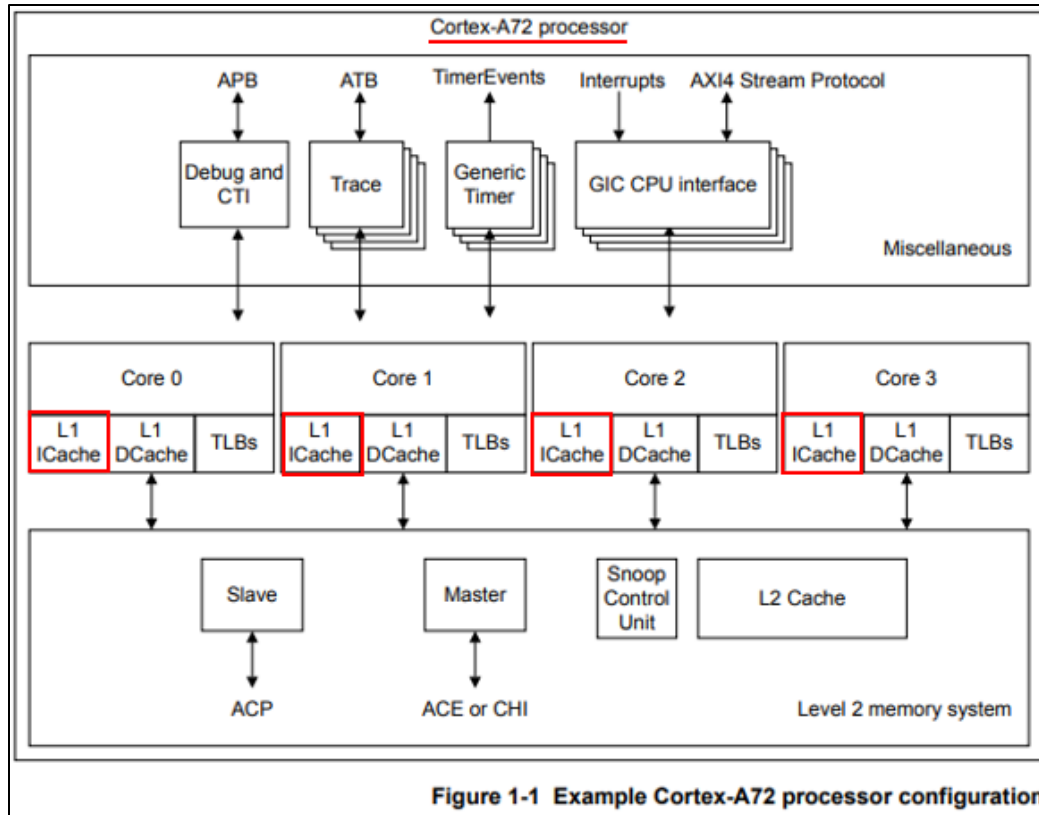
- Full implementation of the ARMv8-A architecture profile. See *1.2 Compliance* on page 1-15.
- Superscalar, variable-length, out-of-order pipeline.
- Dynamic branch prediction with *Branch Target Buffer (BTB)* and *Global History Buffer (GHB)* RAMs, a return stack, and an indirect predictor.
- 48-entry fully-associative L1 instruction *Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)* with native support for 4KB, 64KB, and 1MB page sizes.
- 32-entry fully-associative L1 data TLB with native support for 4KB, 64KB, and 1MB page sizes.
- 4-way set-associative unified 1024-entry *Level 2 (L2) TLB* in each processor.
- Fixed 48K L1 instruction cache and 32K L1 data cache.
- Shared L2 cache of 512KB, 1MB, 2MB or 4MB configurable size.

Source:

[https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex\\_a72\\_mpcore\\_trm\\_100095\\_0002\\_03\\_en.pdf](https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex_a72_mpcore_trm_100095_0002_03_en.pdf)

(Page 17).





Source:

[https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex\\_a72\\_mpcore\\_trm\\_100095\\_0002\\_03\\_en.pdf](https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex_a72_mpcore_trm_100095_0002_03_en.pdf)

(Page 14).

### Instruction fetch

The instruction fetch unit fetches instructions from L1 instruction cache and delivers up to three instructions per cycle to the instruction decode unit. It supports dynamic and static branch prediction.

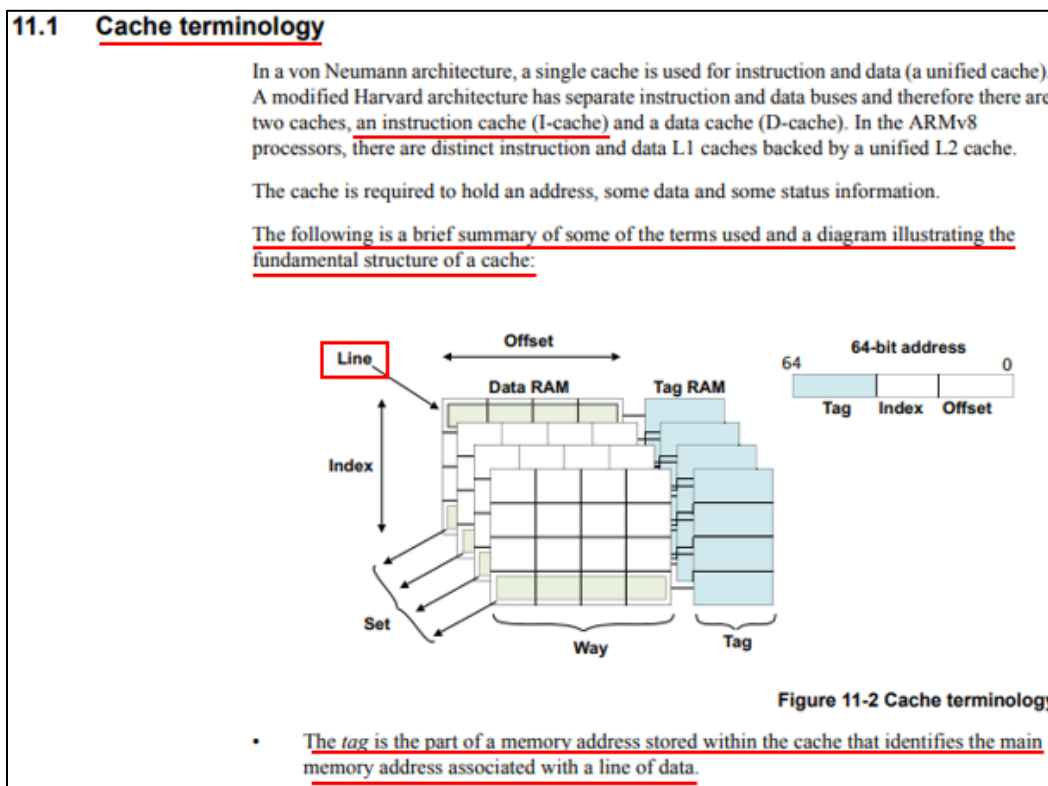
The instruction fetch unit includes:

- L1 instruction cache that is a 48KB 3-way set-associative cache with a 64-byte cache line and optional dual-bit parity protection per 32 bits in the Data RAM and 36 bits in the Tag RAM.
- 48-entry fully-associative L1 instruction *Translation Lookaside Buffer* (TLB) with native support for 4KB, 64KB, and 1MB page sizes.
- 2-level dynamic predictor with *Branch Target Buffer* (BTB) for fast target generation.
- Static branch predictor.
- Indirect predictor.
- Return stack.

Source:

[https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex\\_a72\\_mpcore\\_trm\\_100095\\_0002\\_03\\_en.pdf](https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex_a72_mpcore_trm_100095_0002_03_en.pdf)

(Page 26).



Source:

[https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A\\_v8\\_architecture\\_PG.pdf?\\_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365](https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A_v8_architecture_PG.pdf?_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365) (Page 145).

- It would be inefficient to hold one word of data for each tag address, so several locations are typically grouped together under the same tag. This logical block is commonly known as a cache line, and refers to the smallest loadable unit of a cache, a block of contiguous words from main memory. A cache line is said to be valid when it contains cached data or instructions, and invalid when it does not.

Source:

[https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A\\_v8\\_architecture\\_PG.pdf?\\_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365](https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A_v8_architecture_PG.pdf?_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365) (Page 145).

<b>Cache set</b>	A cache set is a <u>group of cache lines (or blocks)</u> . A set contains all the ways that can be addressed with the same index. The number of cache sets is always a power of two.  <i>See also</i> Cache terminology diagram on the last page of this glossary.
<b>Cache way</b>	A group of cache lines (or blocks). It is 2 to the power of the number of index bits in size.  <i>See also</i> Cache terminology diagram on the last page of this glossary.

**Source:**

[http://infocenter.arm.com/help/topic/com.arm.doc.ddi0301h/DDI0301H\\_arm1176jzfs\\_r0p7\\_trm.pdf](http://infocenter.arm.com/help/topic/com.arm.doc.ddi0301h/DDI0301H_arm1176jzfs_r0p7_trm.pdf) (Page 746).

19. The ARM Cortex-A72 processor in the ASUS ZenPad Z8 supports a power reduction method that is operational when an instruction is being accessed from the instruction cache. The instruction cache includes multiple cache lines or blocks, and each cache line or block is associated with a tag value. These tag values are stored in the tag RAM. The cache also includes data RAM for storing the instructions.

20. If a sequential (or subsequent) instruction to be read from the instruction cache is in the same cache line or block as the previous instruction, only the data RAM of the cache is accessed for the instruction, and the tag RAM is *not* accessed because the sequential instruction resides in the same cache line or block.

21. Accordingly, the ASUS ZenPad Z8, which includes an ARM Cortex-A72, includes a circuit that sends a signal (“power reduction signal”) if a sequential instruction to be accessed from the instruction cache is identified as being in the same cache line or block.

**L1 instruction memory system**

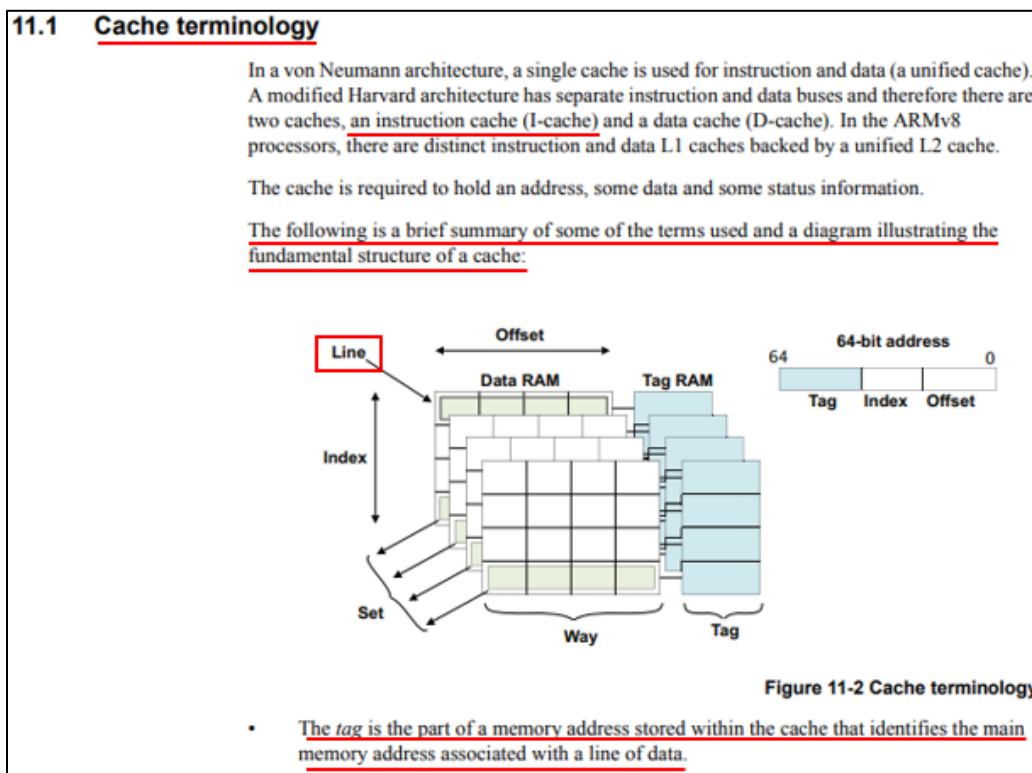
The instruction cache can source up to 128 bits per fetch depending on alignment.

Sequential cache read operations reduce the number of full cache reads. This has the benefit of reducing power consumption. If a cache read is sequential to the previous cache read, and the read is within the same cache line, only the data RAM way that was previously read is accessed.

**Source:**

[https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex\\_a72\\_mpcore\\_trm\\_100095\\_0002\\_03\\_en.pdf](https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex_a72_mpcore_trm_100095_0002_03_en.pdf)

(Page 287).

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[https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A\\_v8\\_architecture\\_PG.pdf?\\_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365](https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A_v8_architecture_PG.pdf?_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365) (Page 145).

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The instruction fetch unit includes:

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- 48-entry fully-associative L1 instruction *Translation Lookaside Buffer* (TLB) with native support for 4KB, 64KB, and 1MB page sizes.
- 2-level dynamic predictor with *Branch Target Buffer* (BTB) for fast target generation.
- Static branch predictor.
- Indirect predictor.
- Return stack.

**Source:**

[https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex\\_a72\\_mpcore\\_trm\\_100095\\_0002\\_03\\_en.pdf](https://static.docs.arm.com/100095/0002/cortex_a72_mpcore_trm_100095_0002_03_en.pdf)

(Page 26).

• It would be inefficient to hold one word of data for each tag address, so several locations are typically grouped together under the same tag. This logical block is commonly known as a cache *line*, and refers to the smallest loadable unit of a cache, a block of contiguous words from main memory. A cache line is said to be valid when it contains cached data or instructions, and invalid when it does not.

22. **Source:**

[https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A\\_v8\\_architecture\\_PG.pdf?\\_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365](https://static.docs.arm.com/den0024/a/DEN0024A_v8_architecture_PG.pdf?_ga=2.17157625.1756166971.1588761056-4692096.1569325365) (Page 145).

23. ASUS has had knowledge of the '959 Patent at least as of the date when it was notified of the filing of this action.

24. Liberty Patents has been damaged as a result of the infringing conduct by ASUS alleged above. Thus, ASUS is liable to Liberty Patents in an amount that adequately compensates it for such infringements, which, by law, cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

25. Liberty Patents and/or its predecessors-in-interest have satisfied all statutory obligations required to collect pre-filing damages for the full period allowed by law for infringement of the '959 Patent.

**COUNT II**

**DIRECT INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,920,573**

26. On July 19, 2005, the '573 Patent was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for an invention entitled "Energy-Conserving Apparatus and Operating System Having Multiple Operating Functions Stored in Keep-Alive Memory."

27. Liberty Patents is the owner of the '573 Patent, with all substantive rights in and to that patent, including the sole and exclusive right to prosecute this action and enforce the '573 Patent against infringers, and to collect damages for all relevant times.

28. ASUS made, had made, used, imported, provided, supplied, distributed, sold, and/or offered for sale products and/or systems including, for example, its ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW and other products<sup>3</sup> including the “USB Charger+” feature (“accused products”):

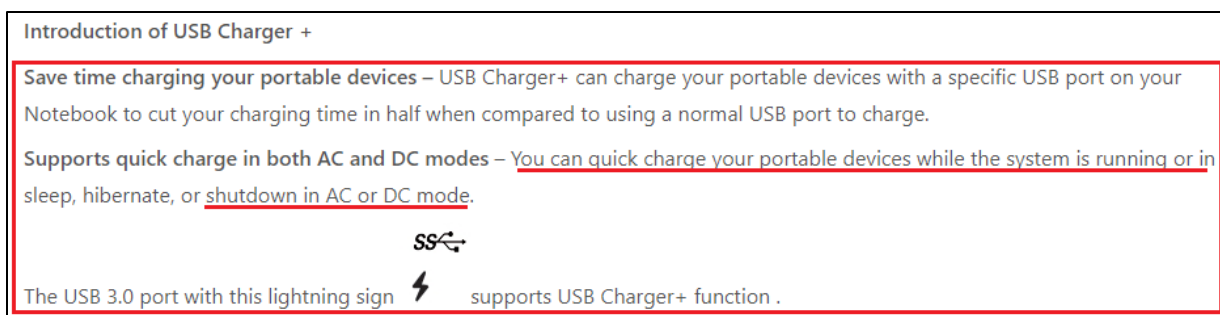


Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/Laptops/ASUS-ZenBook-Pro-UX501VW/Features/>

**2 USB 3.0 port with USB Charger+**  
The USB 3.0 (Universal Serial Bus 3.0) port provides a transfer rate of up to 5 Gbit/s and is backward compatible to USB 2.0. The ⚡ icon indicates this port's USB Charger+ feature which allows you to quick-charge mobile devices.

Source: [ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW User Manual](#) (Page 20)

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., ASUS ROG G750JS, ROG G751JY, ROG Zephyrus GX501GI, VivoBook 15 X510QA, VivoBook 15 X543UA, VivoBook S15 S510UA, ZenBook UX31A, ZenBook UX305CA, ZenBook UX330, ZenBook UX360CA, ZenBook S UX391, etc.



Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/support/FAQ/1034256>

29. By doing so, ASUS has directly infringed (literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) at least Claim 13 of the '573 Patent. ASUS's infringement of the '573 Patent is ongoing.

30. The ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW is an information-processing apparatus with multiple operating functions. It includes a first group of circuitry that is actuatable to provide a first operating function. The first group of circuitry comprises main microprocessor circuitry.

31. For example, the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes a processor for performing various processing functions. The processor includes Arithmetic Logic Units (ALU), Instruction and Data Caches, and other blocks. The processor also has different states like working state, sleeping state, and off state etc., which correspond to the device's Power On mode, Sleep mode and Shut Down mode, respectively. The processor functions differently depending on the current operating mode.

32. During Power On mode, the processor provides processing functions, including application processing, graphics processing, etc. ("first operating function"). The processing blocks like ALU, FPU, memory etc. ("first group of circuitry") consume power and implement these required functions. These blocks are part of the core or Central Processing Unit ("main microprocessor circuitry") of the processor.

## The Art of Power

The stunningly-beautiful ZenBook Pro UX501 doesn't just lead its class - it redefines it. Using the best materials, the finest craftsmanship and the most advanced high-performance components, ZenBook Pro has jaw-dropping style and breathtaking performance. The timelessly-elegant design of the ZenBook family, with the iconic spun-metal finish echoing the spirit of Zen, is subtly enhanced with brilliant diamond-cut highlights and brushed-metal surfaces that add a touch of sophistication. The elegant theme is continued in the stylish ripple-effect pattern laser-engraved on its surface. ZenBook Pro is more than an incredibly-powerful laptop - it's a true work of art.

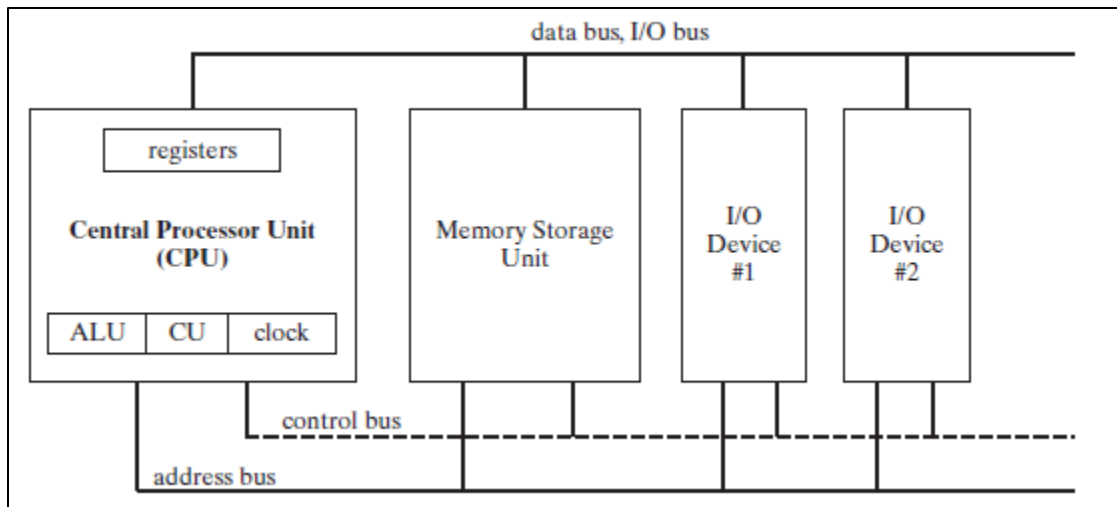
**Source:** <https://www.asus.com/us/Laptops/ASUS-ZenBook-Pro-UX501VW/Features/>

## Seeing is Believing

4K/UHD display brings every detail to life

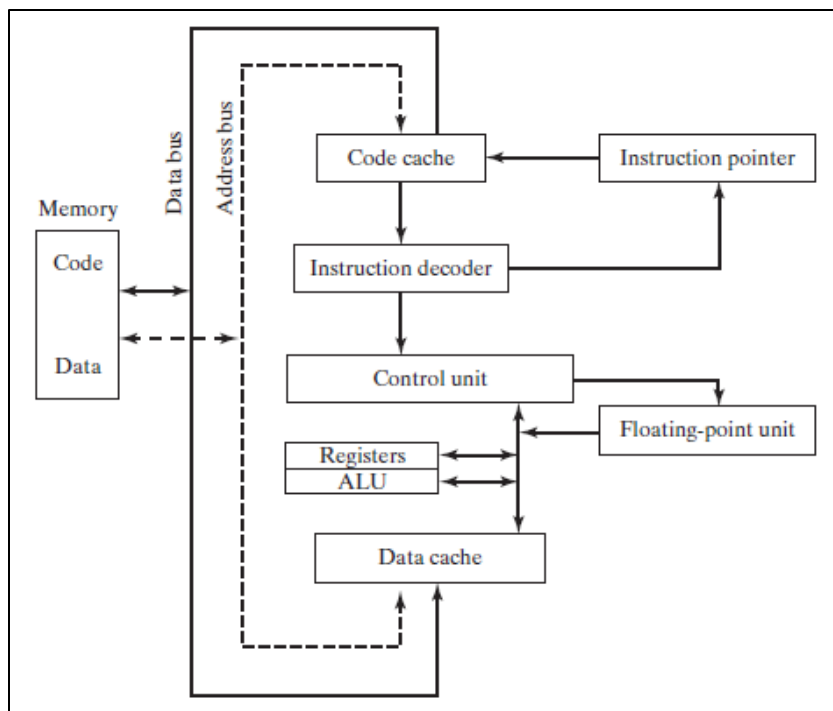
The stunning 4K/UHD display gives your eyes a visual treat, whether you're reading text, viewing photos or watching videos. The amazing resolution makes photo or video editing so much easier, with every tiny detail pin-sharp and crystal-clear. And when you're web browsing, everything —even the smallest text — is easily visible!

**Source:** <https://www.asus.com/us/Laptops/ASUS-ZenBook-Pro-UX501VW/Features/>



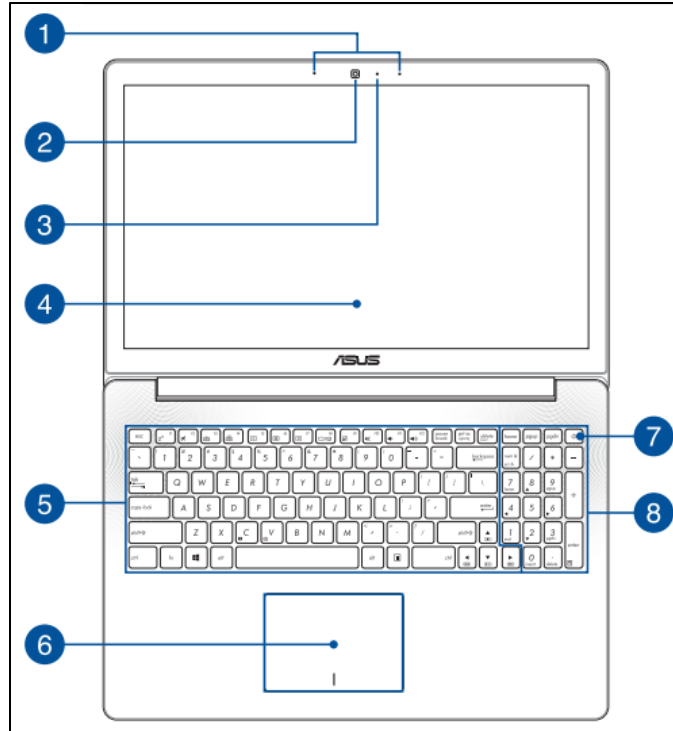
**Source:** <https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/technical-articles/an-introduction-to-x86-processor-architecture/>





**Source:** <https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/technical-articles/an-introduction-to-x86-processor-architecture/>

33. The following citations disclose different operating modes of the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW, including Shut Down mode, Sleep mode, and Power On mode. The computer operates differently according to the current operating mode.



**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 14)

**7 Power button**  
Press the power button to turn your Notebook PC on or off. You can also use the power button to put your Notebook PC to sleep or hibernate mode and wake it up from sleep or hibernate mode.  
  
In the event that your Notebook PC becomes unresponsive, press and hold the power button for at least four (4) seconds until your Notebook PC shuts down.

**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 16)

34. The ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes a second group of circuitry that is actuatable to provide a second operating function. During the second operating function, the system is not required to activate the main microprocessor circuitry.

35. For example, the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW has a “USB Charger+” feature that allows a user to charge (“second operating function”) USB connected devices (such as such as a mobile devices, cameras, activity trackers, smartwatches, etc.) even when the device is in the Shut Down or Off mode. Mobile devices can be charged using the designated USB port having the “USB Charger+” feature without requiring the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW to be in working state (i.e., Power On mode). The corresponding USB charger IC/USB board circuit (“second group of circuitry”) can be actuated to provide the charging function during Shut Down mode.

Introduction of USB Charger +

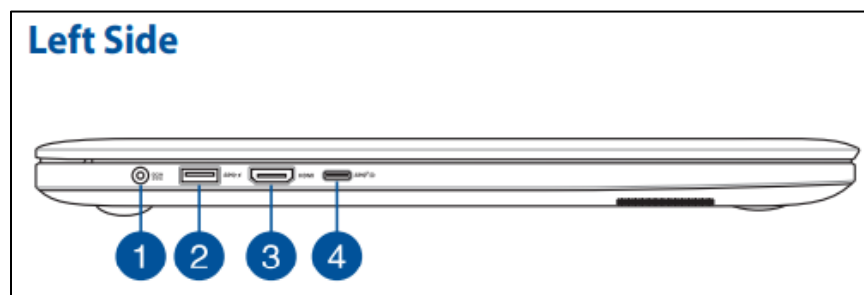
Save time charging your portable devices – USB Charger+ can charge your portable devices with a specific USB port on your Notebook to cut your charging time in half when compared to using a normal USB port to charge.

Supports quick charge in both AC and DC modes – You can quick charge your portable devices while the system is running or in sleep, hibernate, or shutdown in AC or DC mode.

SS ⚡

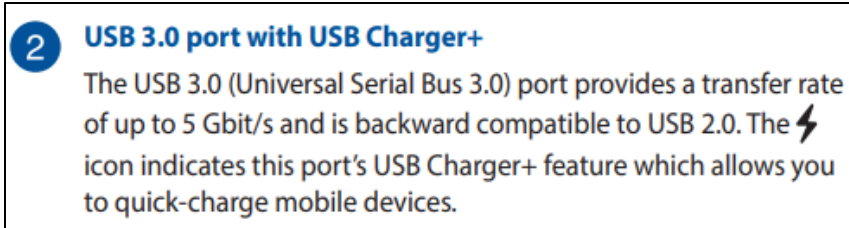
The USB 3.0 port with this lightning sign ⚡ supports USB Charger+ function .

Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/support/FAQ/1034256>



Source:

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 20)



**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 20)

36. The ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes a third group of circuitry that is actuatable to provide a standby function that allows the first group of circuitry (when deactivated) to be reactuatable so that it can provide the first operating function. The third group of circuitry also comprises keep-alive memory circuitry for storing information needed for resuming the first operating function or the second operating function.

37. For example, the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes different operating modes like Sleep mode, Power On mode, and Shut Down mode. The Sleep mode (“standby function”) can be activated and deactivated (i.e., to wake up the system) by pressing the Power button. The ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes corresponding circuitry (“third group of circuitry”) that activates and deactivates the Sleep mode.

38. During Sleep mode, computational tasks are not performed, and the system consumes less power. The system retains enough context in order to return to a working state (“resuming said first operating function”) by storing or saving information in hardware memory, such as RAM or in a disk (“keep-alive memory circuitry”).

**7 Power button**  
Press the power button to turn your Notebook PC on or off. You can also use the power button to put your Notebook PC to sleep or hibernate mode and wake it up from sleep or hibernate mode.  
In the event that your Notebook PC becomes unresponsive, press and hold the power button for at least four (4) seconds until your Notebook PC shuts down.

Source:

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 16)

**5. Why can't my Notebook PC wake up from sleep mode?**

- You need to press the power button to resume your last working state.
- Your system might have completely used up its battery power. Connect the power adapter to your Notebook PC and connect to a power outlet then press the power button.

Source:

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 83)

39. The ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes power providing means for providing power to the first group of circuitry, the second group of circuitry, and the third group of circuitry.

40. For example, the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes a battery (“power providing means”) for providing power to the different circuits present in the system, including the CPU, memory, and I/O Peripherals (which include USB).

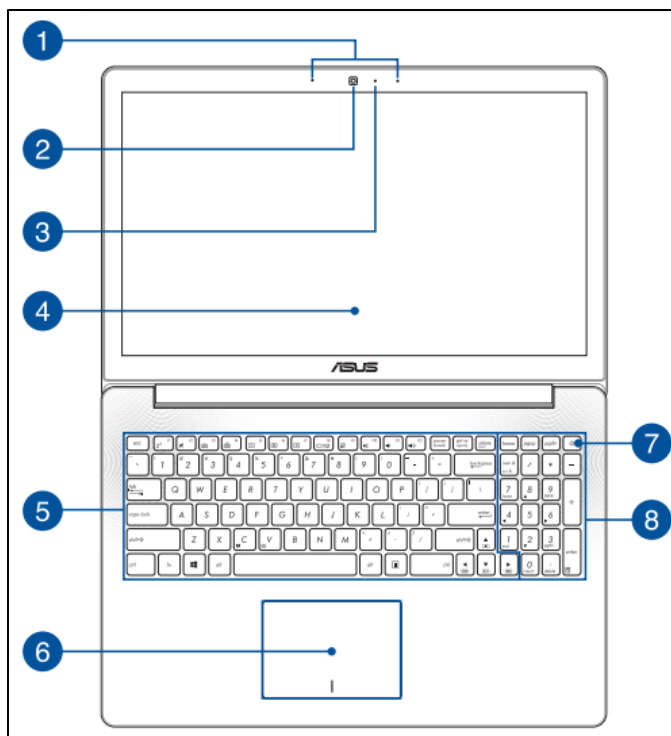
Battery	96 Whrs 60 Whrs
Power Adapter	Output : 19 V DC, 6.32 A, Input : 100 -240 V AC, 50/60 Hz universal

Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/Laptops/ASUS-ZenBook-Pro-UX501VW/specifications/>

41. The ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes control means for controlling said power providing means to selectively activate said first group of circuitry, said second group of circuitry, and said third group of circuitry, so as to respectively provide said first operating function, said second operating function, and said standby function.

42. For example, the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes different operating modes like Power On, Sleep, and Shut Down modes. Sleep mode (“standby function”), Shut Down mode, and Power On mode (which provides “first operating function”) can be activated using the Power button (“control means”). The USB port with the USB Charger+ feature enables charging of a mobile device through the designated USB port during Shut Down mode (“second operating function”).

43. The processor of the ASUS ZenBook Pro UX501VW includes a Power Management Integrated Circuit (PMIC) that manages the power distribution in the processor system. The PMIC provides power to different circuits of the processor system. Further, the PMIC receives control inputs from the processor system, i.e., signals from the power button are used by PMIC as control inputs for enabling and disabling the power distribution for the circuits in the processor system.



**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 14)

**7 Power button**  
Press the power button to turn your Notebook PC on or off. You can also use the power button to put your Notebook PC to sleep or hibernate mode and wake it up from sleep or hibernate mode.  
In the event that your Notebook PC becomes unresponsive, press and hold the power button for at least four (4) seconds until your Notebook PC shuts down.

**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 16)

**5. Why can't my Notebook PC wake up from sleep mode?**

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**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 83)

Introduction of USB Charger +

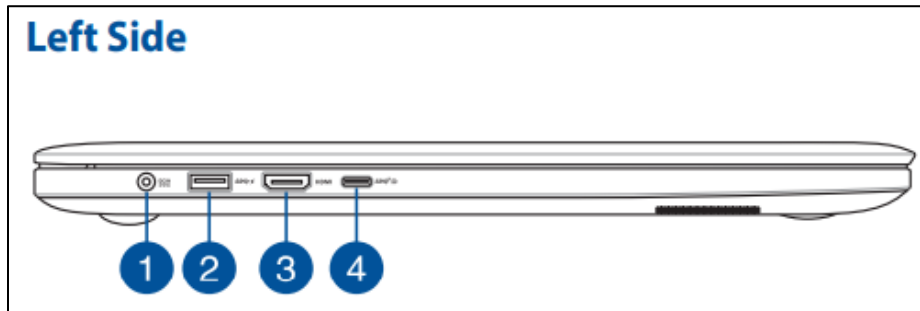
Save time charging your portable devices – USB Charger+ can charge your portable devices with a specific USB port on your Notebook to cut your charging time in half when compared to using a normal USB port to charge.

Supports quick charge in both AC and DC modes – You can quick charge your portable devices while the system is running or in sleep, hibernate, or shutdown in AC or DC mode.

SSC

The USB 3.0 port with this lightning sign ⚡ supports USB Charger+ function .

**Source:** <https://www.asus.com/us/support/FAQ/1034256>



**Source:**

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 20)



**2 USB 3.0 port with USB Charger+**  
The USB 3.0 (Universal Serial Bus 3.0) port provides a transfer rate of up to 5 Gbit/s and is backward compatible to USB 2.0. The ⚡ icon indicates this port's USB Charger+ feature which allows you to quick-charge mobile devices.

Source:

[https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409\\_E10868\\_N501VW\\_A.pdf?\\_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772](https://dlcdnets.asus.com/pub/ASUS/nb/N501VW/0409_E10868_N501VW_A.pdf?_ga=2.35353569.1171641836.1595312971-1599766633.1591782772) (Page 20)

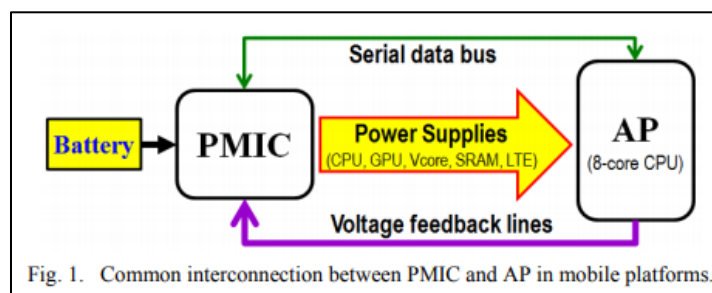


Fig. 1. Common interconnection between PMIC and AP in mobile platforms.

Source: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7237388>

44. ASUS has had knowledge of the '573 Patent at least as of the date when it was notified of the filing of this action.

45. Liberty Patents has been damaged as a result of ASUS's infringing conduct alleged above. Thus, ASUS is liable to Liberty Patents in an amount that adequately compensates it for such infringements, which, by law, cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

46. Liberty Patents and/or its predecessors-in-interest have satisfied all statutory obligations required to collect pre-filing damages for the full period allowed by law for infringement of the '573 Patent.

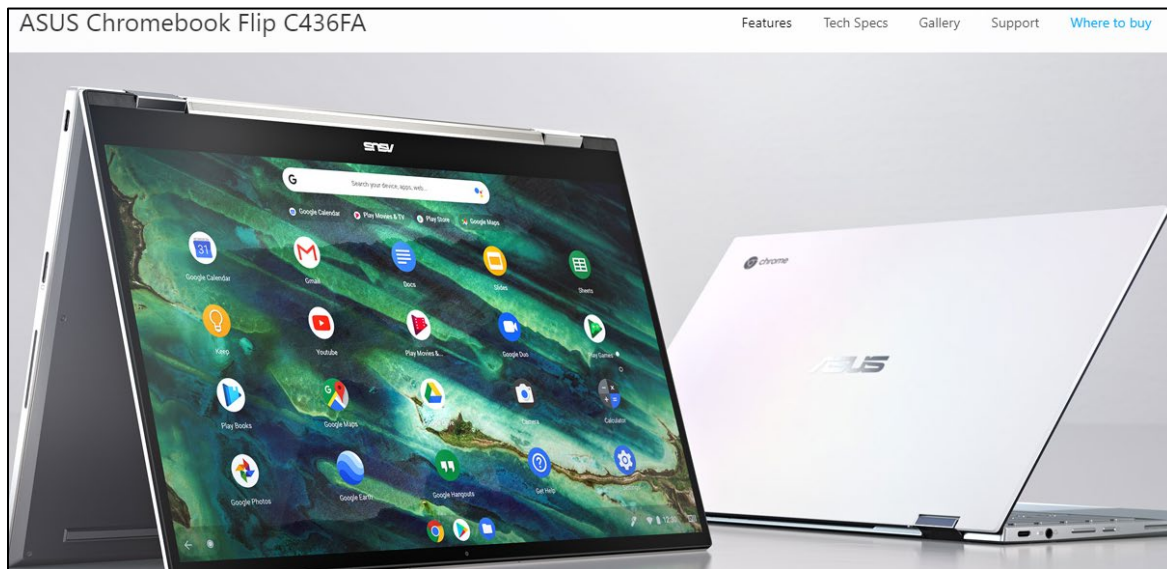
### COUNT III

#### DIRECT INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,493,612

47. On February 17, 2009, the '612 Patent was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for an invention entitled “Embedded System and Related Method Capable of Automatically Updating System Software.”

48. Liberty Patents is the owner of the '612 Patent, with all substantive rights in and to that patent, including the sole and exclusive right to prosecute this action and enforce the '612 Patent against infringers, and to collect damages for all relevant times.

49. ASUS made, had made, used, imported, provided, supplied, distributed, sold, and/or offered for sale products and/or systems including, for example, its family of products running Chrome OS,<sup>4</sup> including the ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA (“accused products”):



<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., ASUS Chromebook Tablet CT100, Chromebook C200, Chromebook C201PA, Chromebook C202SA, Chromebook C202XA, Chromebook C203XA, Chromebook C204, Chromebook C223, Chromebook C300, Chromebook C300SA, Chromebook C301SA, Chromebook C403, Chromebook C423, Chromebook C425, Chromebook C523, Chromebook Flip C100PA, Chromebook Flip C101PA, Chromebook Flip C213, Chromebook Flip C214, Chromebook Flip C302, Chromebook Flip C433, Chromebook Flip C434, Chromebook Flip C436, Chromebox (CN60), Chromebox 2 (CN62), Chromebox 3 (CN65), etc.

Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/Laptops/ASUS-Chromebook-Flip-C436FA/>

ASUS Chromebook Flip C436FA		Features
Operating System	<u>Chrome OS</u>	
Processor	<b>Intel® Core™ i5-10210U processor</b> 1.6GHz quad-core with Turbo Boost (up to 4.2GHz) and 6MB cache	
	<b>Intel® Core™ i3-10110U processor</b> 2.1GHz dual-core with Turbo Boost (up to 4.1GHz) and 6MB cache	

Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/Laptops/ASUS-Chromebook-Flip-C436FA/Tech-Specs/>

## Auto Update policy

### Overview

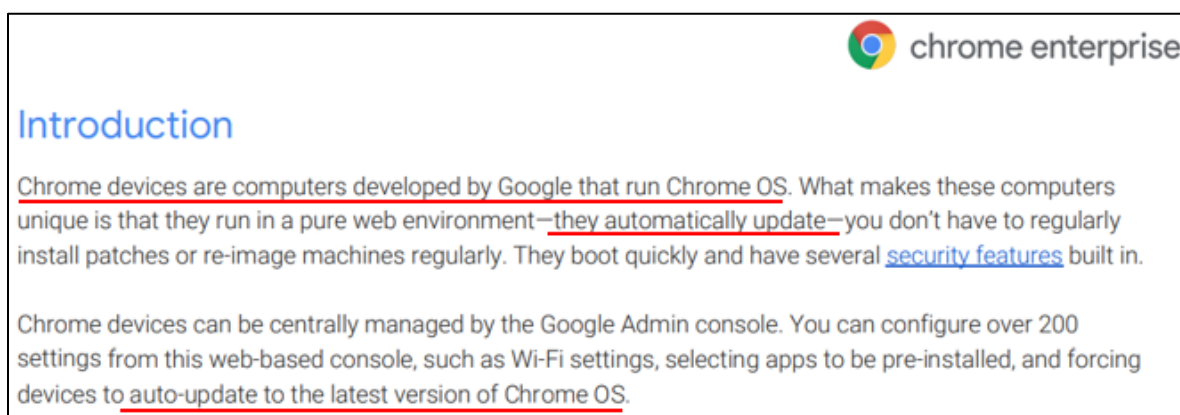
Chrome devices (e.g. Chromebook, Chromebox, Chromebase, Chromebit) receive automatic updates that enhance both the device and its software. Device updates provide the latest features and keep the device secure, and are applied across the operating system, browser and hardware. These updates depend on many device specific non-Google hardware and software providers that work with Google to provide the highest level of security and stability support. For this reason, older Chrome devices cannot receive updates indefinitely to enable new OS and browser features.


Source: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en>

50. By doing so, ASUS has directly infringed (literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) at least Claim 1 of the '612 Patent. ASUS's infringement in this regard is ongoing.

51. The ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA includes an embedded system that is capable of automatically updating system software.

52. For example, the ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA runs Chrome OS, which can automatically update the device’s firmware over the internet. Chromebooks include an Embedded Controller (EC), which is responsible for power sequencing of the main CPU or the Application Processor (AP), keyboard control, thermal control, battery charging control, verified boot, etc. The EC—together with the components it controls—is an embedded system capable of automatically updating the system software. Specifically, the system includes two types of firmware: RO firmware and RW firmware. The RW firmware (“system software”) is stored in the updateable section of the firmware, and can be automatically updated.



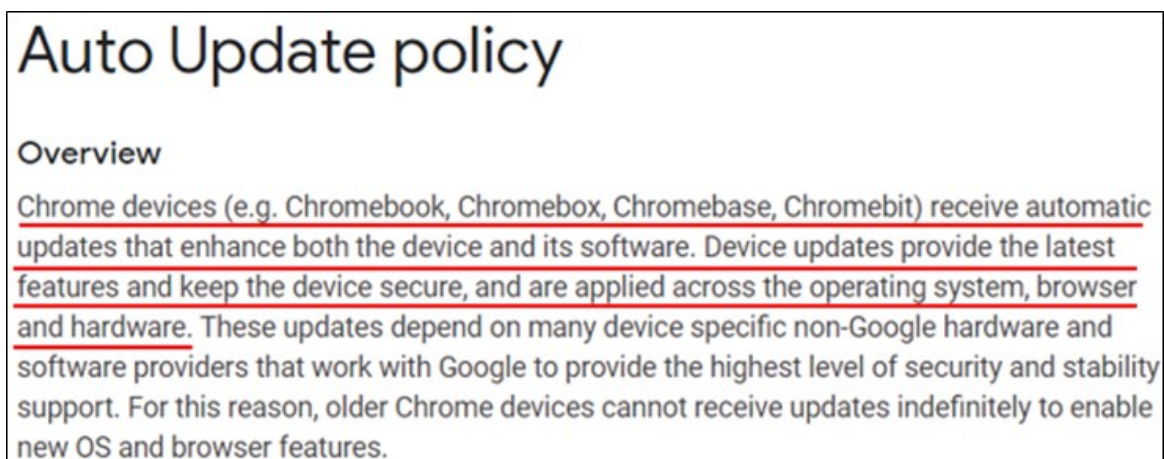


## Introduction

Chrome devices are computers developed by Google that run Chrome OS. What makes these computers unique is that they run in a pure web environment—they automatically update—you don’t have to regularly install patches or re-image machines regularly. They boot quickly and have several [security features](#) built in.

Chrome devices can be centrally managed by the Google Admin console. You can configure over 200 settings from this web-based console, such as Wi-Fi settings, selecting apps to be pre-installed, and forcing devices to [auto-update to the latest version of Chrome OS](#).

Source: [https://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/chrome\\_device\\_deployment\\_guide.pdf](https://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/chrome_device_deployment_guide.pdf) (Page 4)



# Auto Update policy

## Overview

Chrome devices (e.g. Chromebook, Chromebox, Chromebase, Chromebit) receive automatic updates that enhance both the device and its software. Device updates provide the latest features and keep the device secure, and are applied across the operating system, browser and hardware. These updates depend on many device specific non-Google hardware and software providers that work with Google to provide the highest level of security and stability support. For this reason, older Chrome devices cannot receive updates indefinitely to enable new OS and browser features.

Source: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en>

## ChromeOS Firmware Updater

This repository contains the firmware updater ( `chromeos-firmwareupdate` ) that will update firmware images related to verified boot, usually host (also known as AP, BIOS or MAIN) and EC (Embedded Controller).

### Contents

- Introduction
- Using Firmware Updater
  - Update manually
  - Simulating ChromeOS Auto Update
- Building Firmware Updater
- Manipulating Firmware Updater Packages
  - CROS\_FIRMWARE\_MAIN\_IMAGE
  - CROS\_FIRMWARE\_MAIN\_RW\_IMAGE
  - CROS\_FIRMWARE\_EC\_IMAGE
- Technical Details
  - Packaging
  - Updater logic

### Introduction

Auto update is one of the most important feature in Chrome OS. Updating firmware is one of the most complicated process, since all Chromebooks come with firmware that implemented verified boot and must be able to update in background silently.

Source:

<https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/firmware/+master/README.md>

### What's an Embedded Controller anyway?

- A tiny SoC that manages battery charging, fans, keyboard, LEDs, etc.
- Typically runs even when the main system processor is off
  - We call the main system CPU the "AP" (for Application Processor)
- Most laptops have them
- Most Chromebooks do too
- Ours is open source, which is unusual

Source: [https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An\\_Open\\_Source\\_EC.pdf](https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An_Open_Source_EC.pdf) (Page 4).

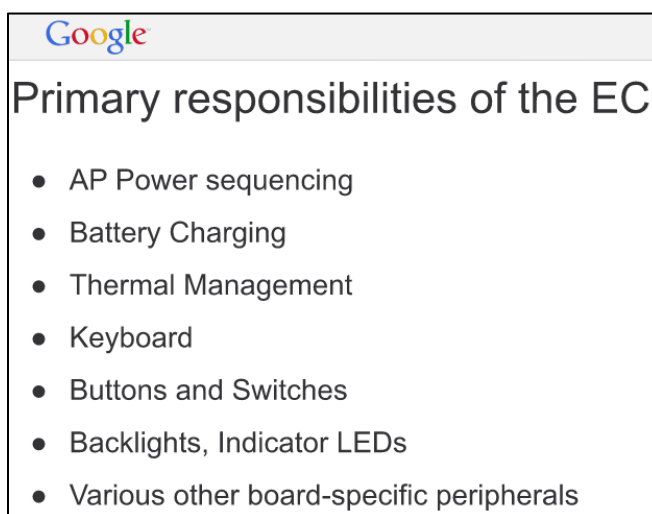
## Introduction

The Chromium OS project includes open source software for embedded controllers (EC) used in recent ARM and x86 based Chromebooks. This software includes a lightweight, multitasking OS with modules for power sequencing, keyboard control, thermal control, battery charging, and verified boot. The EC software is written in C and supports a variety of micro-controllers.

This document is a guide to help make you familiar with the EC code, current features, and the process for submitting code patches.

For more see the Chrome OS Embedded Controller [presentation](#) and [video](#) from the 2014 Firmware Summit.

**Source:** <https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/>



**Source:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa\\_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8\\_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bc16935c\\_0142](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bc16935c_0142) (Slide 20).

## Chrome EC

- Embedded Controllers are vital but closed
- Chrome EC is open source
  - [chromiumos/platform/ec.git](https://chromiumos/platform/ec.git)
- Chrome EC is designed for security
  - RO and RW regions
  - RW update is signed and handled by host firmware
  - EC Software Sync is part of Verified Boot
- Support for different ARM SOCs
  - Texas Instruments Stellaris Cortex-M4
  - ST Micro STM32 Cortex-M3
  - More in progress...

Source: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDG1QmYI21dr95nYgLmyCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf\\_298](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDG1QmYI21dr95nYgLmyCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf_298) (Slide 29).

## Chrome EC Software Sync

It is important that the AP firmware (coreboot) and the EC firmware remain compatible through upgrades. During every Normal Mode boot, the EC firmware is verified by the AP firmware and updated, if required. In Recovery Mode, the EC and AP firmware stay in read-only mode.

Source: <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-1-4842-0070-4.pdf> (Page 119).

### Terminology

#### RO and RW

MCUs running the EC code have read-only (RO) and read-write (RW) firmware. Coming out of reset, the MCU boots into its RO firmware.

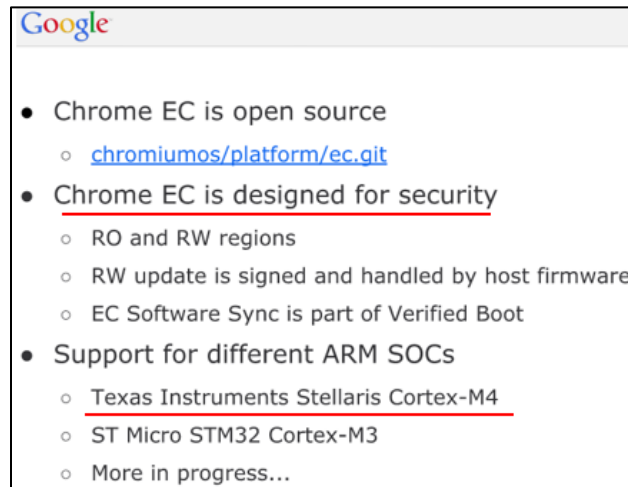
In the case of the EC, the RO firmware boots the host and asks it verify a hash of the RW firmware (software sync). If the RW firmware is invalid, it is updated from a copy in the host's RW firmware.

[https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/+master/docs/write\\_protection.md](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/+master/docs/write_protection.md)

A feature called "Software Sync" keeps a copy of the read-write (RW) EC firmware in the RW part of the system firmware image. At boot, if the RW EC firmware doesn't match the copy in the system firmware, the EC's RW section is re-flashed.

Source: <https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/>

53. The ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA includes a first storage device for storing a first system software and a boot image. For example, the device includes flash memory (“first storage device”) that stores the RO firmware (“boot image”) and RW firmware (“first system software”).



**Source:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa\\_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8\\_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bbed09ac\\_111](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bbed09ac_111) (Slide 2).



## Changing Software Write Protection with ectool

### ectool flashprotect

Print out current flash protection state.

```
Flash protect flags: 0x0000000f wp_gpio_asserted ro_at_boot ro_now all_now
Valid flags:        0x0000003f wp_gpio_asserted ro_at_boot ro_now all_now STUCK INCONSISTENT
Writable flags:     0x00000000
```

**Flash protect flags** - Current flags that are set.

**Valid flags** - All the options for flash protection.

**Writable flags** - The flags that currently can be changed. (In this case, no flags can be changed).

Flags:

- **wp\_gpio\_asserted** - Whether the hardware write protect GPIO is currently asserted (read only).
- **ro\_at\_boot** - Whether the EC will write protect the RO firmware on the next boot of the EC.
- **ro\_now** - Protect the read-only portion of flash immediately. Requires hardware WP be enabled.
- **all\_now** - Protect the entire flash (including RW) immediately. Requires hardware WP be enabled.
- **STUCK** - Flash protection settings have been fused and can't be cleared (should not happen during normal operation. Read only.)
- **INCONSISTENT** - One or more banks of flash is not protected when it should be (should not happen during normal operation. Read only.).

**Source:**

[https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/+/master/docs/write\\_protection.md](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/+/master/docs/write_protection.md)

## Firmware Image

The Chrome OS firmware image has two main sections: Read-Only (RO) and Read-Write (RW). The RO firmware is set at the factory and cannot be updated after manufacturing. The RW firmware can be updated during Chrome OS auto-update (AU).

If a problem is found in RO firmware, Google creates an update and places it in the RW firmware. During the boot process, the RO firmware checks whether there is an update in the RW section and, if so, jumps to the RW update to execute the new boot code.

The RO firmware contains the following code:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system
- On x86 systems: coreboot
- Google Binary Block (GBB), which contains the following:
  - Recovery screen images
  - Public keys needed to verify the RW firmware
- Firmware ID (a string with the version number and device type)

The RW firmware contains two sections: A and B. Each section contains the following:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system (identical to the U-Boot images in RO firmware)
- VBlock, which contains the signatures used to verify the kernel before loading and running it
- Firmware ID
- Embedded Controller image
- Fmap, a data structure that describes the layout and contents of the SPI Flash. This structure is required by the Flashrom tool.

**Source:** <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/firmware-porting-guide/2->

[concepts?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1](https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/firmware-porting-guide/2-concepts?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1)

54. The RO firmware and RW firmware are stored in system memory.

BASE	SIZE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
0x000000	0x200000	SI_ALL	Descriptor + ME
0x200000	0x0f0000	RW_SECTION_A	Read-Write Firmware A
0x2f0000	0x0f0000	RW_SECTION_B	Read-Write Firmware B
0x3e0000	0x010000	RW_MRC_CACHE	Memory Training Cache
0x3f0000	0x004000	RW_ELOG	Event Log
0x3f4000	0x004000	RW_SHARED	Shared Data
0x3f8000	0x002000	RW_VPD	Read-Write VPD
0x400000	0x200000	RW_LEGACY	Legacy Firmware
0x600000	0x004000	RO_VPD	Read-Only VPD
0x610000	0x000800	FMAP	Flash Map
0x610800	0x000040	RO_FRID	RO Firmware ID
0x611000	0x0ef000	GBB	Google Binary Block
0x700000	0x100000	BOOT_STUB	Read-Only Firmware

**Source:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDGIQmYI21dr95nYgLMYCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf\\_1128](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDGIQmYI21dr95nYgLMYCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf_1128) (Slide 33).

55. The ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA includes a micro-controller that is coupled to the first storage device for respectively transforming the first system software and the boot image into system code and boot code. The micro-controller orderly executes the boot code and the system code to control booting of the embedded system.

56. For example, the EC (“micro-controller”) of the ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA is connected to flash memory (“first storage device”) that stores both the RO firmware (“boot image”) and RW firmware (“first system software”). The firmware can have different configurations, which relates to how it uses flash and RAM memory for system code and boot code execution. For example, firmware images in Chrome OS support configurations like Internal Mapped Storage, Code Copied to RAM for Use, etc.

57. During system boot, linker scripts provide information as to how different sections of the RO firmware (“boot image”) and RW firmware (“first system software”) map to different sections of memory. The system provides linker scripts for both the RO firmware and the RW firmware in all the supported memory configurations. Before booting, a small program called Boot Loader (i.e., start-up code) uses linker scripts to load sections of the RO firmware and RW firmware into different parts of memory. The EC executes the mapped RO firmware (“boot code”) and the mapped RW firmware (“system code”) only after they are loaded into specified sections of memory determined by linker scripts. Accordingly, the RO firmware (“boot image”) and RW firmware (“first system software”) are transformed into memory-mapped executable code (i.e., “boot code” and “first system code”) after being mapped and loaded into their respective sections of memory.

## **EC Image Geometry Spec**

### **Introduction**

The EC codebase currently supports the following chips:

lm4, stm32: Internal memory-mapped flash storage

cr50: Internal memory-mapped flash storage, with image signature preceding RO image

npcx: External memory-mapped flash storage dedicated for EC, code copied to SRAM before execution

mec1322: External unmapped flash storage dedicated for EC, code is copied to SRAM before execution

For memory-mapped flash storage, contents are read from a chip-defined region in memory. Contents are written through SPI commands.

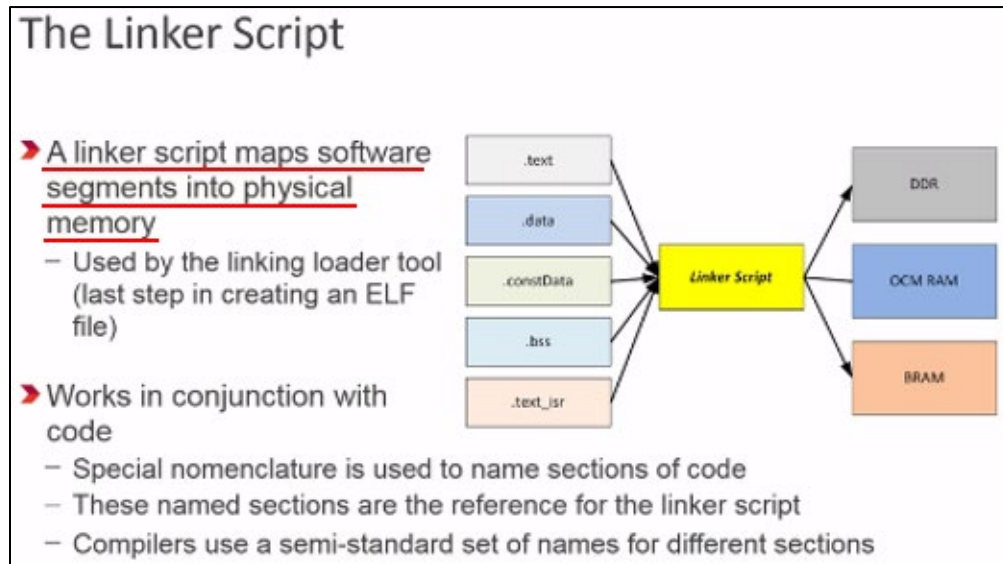
**Source:** <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/ec-development/ec-image-geometry-spec>

## Supported Configurations

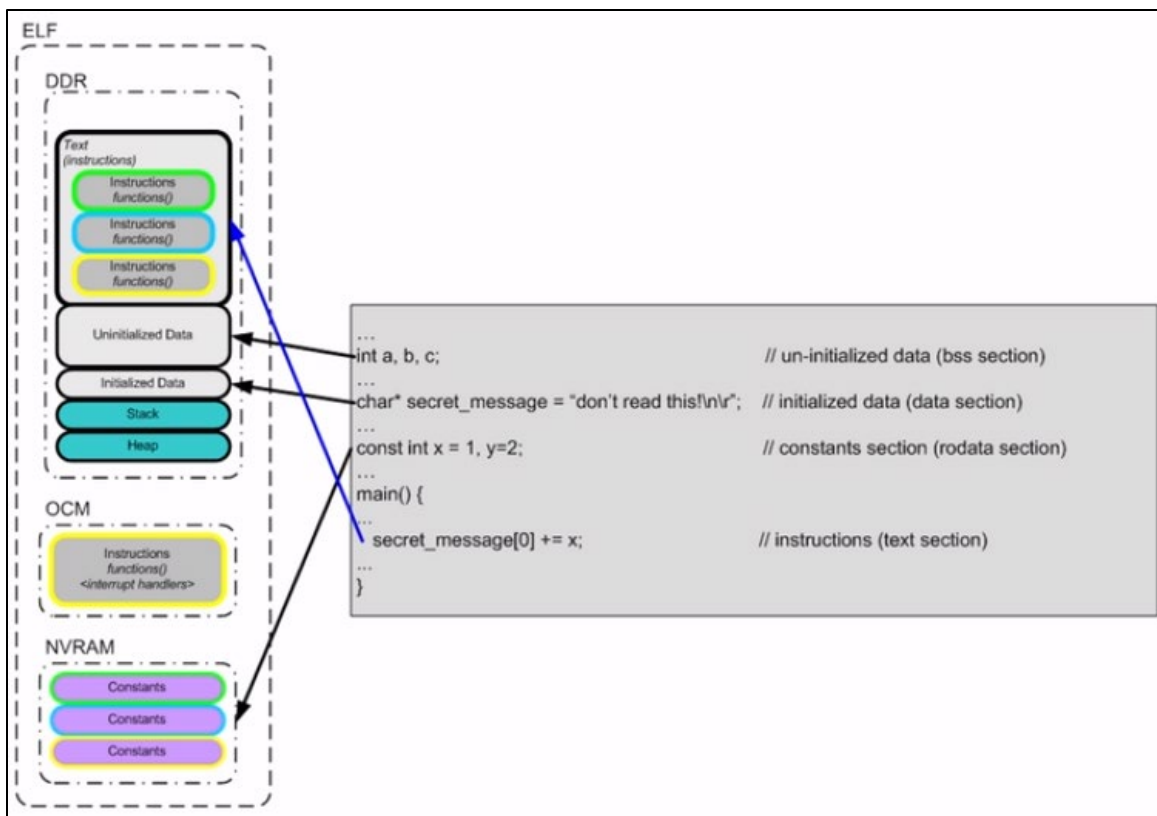
With the changes proposed here, we aim to support ECs with the following configurations:

- Internal mapped storage
  - External mapped storage (shared or dedicated)
  - External unmapped storage (shared or dedicated)
  - Code executed directly from mapped storage
  - Code copied to SRAM before use
- 
- One RO image
  - One contiguous region of storage belonging to the EC, containing the RO image, that can be write protected
  - Up to one RW image
  - Up to one contiguous region of storage belonging to the EC, containing the RW image, that will not be write protected
  - Support for any number of chip-specific non-image data pieces (*NIDs*) as part of the storage regions (loaders, headers, etc - any piece of data on EC storage that isn't part of the RO or RW image)
  - Write protected and writable EC storage regions need not be mutually contiguous

Source: <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/ec-development/ec-image-geometry-spec>



Source: <https://www.xilinx.com/training/customer-training/using-linker-scripts.html> (2:20)



Source: <https://www.xilinx.com/training/customer-training/using-linker-scripts.html> (9:52)

## Linking

Our linker scripts were originally written to support internal memory-mapped storage with only RO and RW images (no NIDs). The scripts will be extended to support the new configs defined above. For example, the linker will produce a unified image with the RW image at the appropriate offset, as defined by CONFIG\_RW\_STORAGE\_OFF / CONFIG\_RW\_STORAGE\_SIZE.

Source: <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/ec-development/ec-image-geometry-spec>

The microcontroller boot process starts by simply applying power to the system. Once the voltage rails stabilize, the microcontroller looks to the reset vector for the location in flash where the start-up instruction can be found. The reset vector is a special location within the flash memory

Source: <https://www.benigo.com/understanding-the-microcontroller-boot-process/>

The address that is stored at the reset vector is loaded by the microcontroller and the instructions that are contained there are then loaded and executed by the CPU. Now these first instructions aren't the start of main that the developer created. Instead, these are instructions on how to start-up the microcontroller.

The first thing that usually occurs is that the vector tables that are stored in flash are copied to RAM. They are copied from and to the location that is specified in the linker file at the time the executable program is created. One reason for copying the vector tables to RAM is that it is faster to execute from RAM than flash. This helps to decrease the latency of any interrupt calls within the system. Depending on the particular architecture of the microcontroller there may then be an instruction to update a vector table register so that the microcontroller knows where the start of the RAM table is.

Next the initialized data sections are copied into RAM. This is usually variables that are stored in the .data section of the linker. Examples of initialized data would be static, global and static local variables that have been provided with an initialization value during compile time. These are explicit definitions such as `int Var = 0x32;`.

Following the copy of the data section, the .bss section is also copied. The .bss section contains variables that are not initialized explicitly or that have been initialized to a value of zero. A simple example is that the variable `static int Var;` would be contained within this section.

Finally, the microcontroller will copy any RAM functions from flash to RAM. Once again it is sometimes worthwhile to execute certain functions out of RAM rather than flash due to the execution speed being slightly faster. These are functions usually decided upon by the developer and purposely placed there in the linker file prior to compiling the program.

**Source:** <https://www.beningo.com/understanding-the-microcontroller-boot-process/>

58. During initialization and booting of the EC (“micro-controller”), the executable version of the RO firmware (“boot code”) is executed first. The RO firmware then runs the executable version of the RW firmware (“first system code”). Accordingly, the boot code and system code are orderly executed to control booting of the embedded system.

## EC Software Sync

It is important that the AP firmware (BIOS) and the EC firmware remain compatible through upgrades. At every\* cold boot/reset of the EC

1. The EC boots its RO firmware, and powers on the AP.
2. The AP boots its RO firmware.
3. The AP verifies its RW firmware and jumps to it.
4. The EC computes a hash of its RW firmware.
5. The AP RW firmware contains a copy of the EC's RW firmware. The AP compares its hash with the EC's hash.
6. If they differ, the AP gives the EC the correct RW firmware, which the EC writes to its flash.
7. The EC jumps to its RW firmware.

There also are a few other tricks to ensure the EC isn't lying about its hash

\*Normal mode, anyway. In recovery mode both AP and EC stay in their RO firmware

Source: [https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An\\_Open\\_Source\\_EC.pdf](https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An_Open_Source_EC.pdf) (Page 22).

### Firmware Image

The Chrome OS firmware image has two main sections: Read-Only (RO) and Read-Write (RW). The RO firmware is set at the factory and cannot be updated after manufacturing. The RW firmware can be updated during Chrome OS auto-update (AU).

If a problem is found in RO firmware, Google creates an update and places it in the RW firmware. During the boot process, the RO firmware checks whether there is an update in the RW section and, if so, jumps to the RW update to execute the new boot code.

The RO firmware contains the following code:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system
- On x86 systems: coreboot
- Google Binary Block (GBB), which contains the following:
  - Recovery screen images
  - Public keys needed to verify the RW firmware
- Firmware ID (a string with the version number and device type)

The RW firmware contains two sections: A and B. Each section contains the following:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system (identical to the U-Boot images in RO firmware)
- VBlock, which contains the signatures used to verify the kernel before loading and running it
- Firmware ID
- Embedded Controller image
- Fmap, a data structure that describes the layout and contents of the SPI Flash. This structure is required by the Flashrom tool.

Source: <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/firmware-porting-guide/2-concepts?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1>

BASE	SIZE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
0x000000	0x200000	SI_ALL	Descriptor + ME
0x200000	0x0f0000	RW_SECTION_A	Read-Write Firmware A
0x2f0000	0x0f0000	RW_SECTION_B	Read-Write Firmware B
0x3e0000	0x010000	RW_MRC_CACHE	Memory Training Cache
0x3f0000	0x004000	RW_ELOG	Event Log
0x3f4000	0x004000	RW_SHARED	Shared Data
0x3f8000	0x002000	RW_VPD	Read-Write VPD
0x400000	0x200000	RW_LEGACY	Legacy Firmware
0x600000	0x004000	RO_VPD	Read-Only VPD
0x610000	0x000800	FMAP	Flash Map
0x610800	0x000040	RO_FRID	RO Firmware ID
0x611000	0x0ef000	GBB	Google Binary Block
0x700000	0x100000	BOOT_STUB	Read-Only Firmware

**Source:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDGIQmYI21dr95nYgLmyCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf\\_1128](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDGIQmYI21dr95nYgLmyCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf_1128) (Slide 33).

59. The ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA includes a connecting interface that is coupled to the micro-controller and further coupled to an external data storage device through a data transmission media. The external data storage device stores a second system software.

60. For example, the EC (“micro-controller”), which controls peripheral connections of the ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA like USB, Wi-Fi, etc., receives an updated version of the RW firmware (“second system software”) from the device’s Application Processor (AP). Specifically, the updated RW firmware (“second system software”) is read from the network server when the device is connected to the internet through a Wi-Fi network interface. Accordingly, the EC (“micro-controller”) is configured to be coupled to the network server (“external data storage device”) through the Wi-Fi network interface (“connecting interface”).



The network server stores the RW firmware update (“second system software”), which can be read by the accused device via the internet (“data transmission media”).

## EC Software Sync

It is important that the AP firmware (BIOS) and the EC firmware remain compatible through upgrades. At every\* cold boot/reset of the EC

1. The EC boots its RO firmware, and powers on the AP.
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Source: [https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An\\_Open\\_Source\\_EC.pdf](https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An_Open_Source_EC.pdf) (Page 22).

Google

## Power Sequencing

- Each AP family has its own
  - Power states
  - Voltage regulators
  - Control GPIOs (both input and output)
  - Transition rules
  - Timing requirements
  - Trigger events
- The EC must manage and respond to all those requirements as the AP boots, sleeps, idles, or transitions between various subtle states.
- It must also ensure that certain peripherals are brought up and down accordingly (USB, WiFi, etc.)

Source: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa\\_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8\\_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bbed09ac\\_142](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bbed09ac_142) (Slide 21).

### 3. Verified Boot

Chromebook's startup is very different from Windows or Mac machines. When Chrome OS boots, it compares every component of the operating system with the current version verified by Google through the Internet. If there is a discrepancy, it will replace with the up-to-date version. Every time the Chromebook starts up, it does the self-check called "Verified Boot."

The self-check ensures Chrome OS in the right shape; it plays a fundamental role in Chromebook security mechanism.

- Drive automatic update: download new updates of Chrome OS when Verified Boot;
- Repair corrupted OS: take Chrome OS back if malware manages to escape the Sandbox;

Source: <https://www.keepds.com/tool/list?os=c>

Lightweight designs and HD touchscreens are paired with built in security and automatic backup on Google Drive.

- Auto updates<sup>1</sup>
- Reimagined hardware
- Sleek and lightweight devices

## Discover your Chromebook

Find yours

Shop by brand:

acer ASUS DELL Google hp

<sup>1</sup>Requires internet connection. \*\*This Google One membership offer (Offer) provides you with subscription benefits at no charge for a period of twelve months from the day you redee

Source: [https://www.walmart.ca/en/electronics/laptops-computers/laptops-notebooks/chromebooks/google/N-1990+1000268?mtr=mdv\\_00439&icid=electronics\\_wmg\\_display\\_walmart\\_l4hb\\_wk16\\_google\\_chromebook\\_en](https://www.walmart.ca/en/electronics/laptops-computers/laptops-notebooks/chromebooks/google/N-1990+1000268?mtr=mdv_00439&icid=electronics_wmg_display_walmart_l4hb_wk16_google_chromebook_en)

Google rolls out security updates as soon as they're ready and applies them when a Chromebook boots up. In other words, during the boot sequence, Chrome OS checks to see if a new update is available. If yes, installs it without interrupting the user. At this point, your Internet has to be available.

Source: <https://www.keepds.com/tool/list?os=c>

If peer-to-peer (P2P) networking is available, devices can automatically update Chrome from nearby devices of the same model. This option reduces external network traffic. If P2P automatic updating fails or isn't possible on your network, devices update as usual. They either download the update from Google's servers or an intermediate web-caching proxy server.

Source: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/3168106?hl=en>

#### Firmware Image

The Chrome OS firmware image has two main sections: Read-Only (RO) and Read-Write (RW). The RO firmware is set at the factory and cannot be updated after manufacturing. The RW firmware can be updated during Chrome OS auto-update (AU).

If a problem is found in RO firmware, Google creates an update and places it in the RW firmware. During the boot process, the RO firmware checks whether there is an update in the RW section and, if so, jumps to the RW update to execute the new boot code.

The RO firmware contains the following code:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system
- On x86 systems: coreboot
- Google Binary Block (GBB), which contains the following:
  - Recovery screen images
  - Public keys needed to verify the RW firmware
- Firmware ID (a string with the version number and device type)

The RW firmware contains two sections: A and B. Each section contains the following:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system (identical to the U-Boot images in RO firmware)
- VBlock, which contains the signatures used to verify the kernel before loading and running it
- Firmware ID
- Embedded Controller image
- Fmap, a data structure that describes the layout and contents of the SPI Flash. This structure is required by the Flashrom tool.

Source: <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/firmware-porting-guide/2-concepts?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1>

61. The ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA includes boot code, which includes update agent interface programming (UAIP). The micro-controller is capable of executing the update agent interface programming to read the second system software from the external data storage device through the connecting interface before executing the system code.

62. During the boot process of the system, the executable version of the RO firmware (“boot code”) is executed before the RW firmware. And before the RW firmware (“first system code”) is executed, the EC initiates a Software Sync process by powering on and booting the device’s AP. The system verifies and if needed, updates the RW firmware by comparing the version of the RW firmware. If there is an available update to the RW firmware (“second system software”), the update is sent to flash memory. Accordingly, the RO firmware (“boot code”) includes code or programming (“update agent interface programming”) to initiate the software sync process that updates the RW firmware.

### EC Software Sync

It is important that the AP firmware (BIOS) and the EC firmware remain compatible through upgrades. At every\* cold boot/reset of the EC

1. The EC boots its RO firmware, and powers on the AP.
2. The AP boots its RO firmware.
3. The AP verifies its RW firmware and jumps to it.
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5. The AP RW firmware contains a copy of the EC’s RW firmware. The AP compares its hash with the EC’s hash.
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There also are a few other tricks to ensure the EC isn’t lying about its hash

\*Normal mode, anyway. In recovery mode both AP and EC stay in their RO firmware

Source: [https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An\\_Open\\_Source\\_EC.pdf](https://www.coreboot.org/images/5/50/An_Open_Source_EC.pdf) (Page 22).

### U-Boot and Embedded Controller

U-Boot performs the device initialization for the system, as follows:

1. U-Boot calls the VbInit() function to start verified boot.
2. In the simplest case, the boot consists of one step: running the code located in the Read-Only (RO) section of the firmware. During this process, U-Boot checks whether there are any updates in the Read/Write (RW) section of the firmware. If updates are present, U-Boot loads and runs RW firmware.
3. The main firmware performs a software sync that checks whether the EC code needs to be updated. If so, the update is sent over I2C, SPI, or LPC to the EC.
4. Once the EC code has been sync’ed, execution jumps to the EC code in the RW firmware.
5. The kernel is loaded and verified.
6. The correct device tree file is selected for the system (ARM only).
7. In addition, the kernel contains command line information that U-Boot picks up and passes to the kernel for use during boot. The command line tells the kernel which device to boot from (eMMC, SD, USB) and also contains the Verity parameters that are passed in to the kernel at boot time.
8. The system boots the kernel, which uses the root hash (contained in the Verity parameters) to open the root filesystem.
9. The system initializes user space and runs X and Chrome.

**Source:** <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/firmware-porting-guide/2-concepts?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1>

### 3. Verified Boot

Chromebook's startup is very different from Windows or Mac machines. When Chrome OS boots, it compares every component of the operating system with the current version verified by Google through the Internet. If there is a discrepancy, it will replace with the up-to-date version. Every time the Chromebook starts up, it does the self-check called "Verified Boot."

The self-check ensures Chrome OS in the right shape; it plays a fundamental role in Chromebook security mechanism.

- Drive automatic update: download new updates of Chrome OS when Verified Boot;
- Repair corrupted OS: take Chrome OS back if malware manages to escape the Sandbox;

**Source:** <https://www.keepds.com/tool/list?os=c>

#### Terminology

#### RO and RW

MCUs running the EC code have read-only (RO) and read-write (RW) firmware. Coming out of reset, the MCU boots into its RO firmware.

In the case of the EC, the RO firmware boots the host and asks it verify a hash of the RW firmware (software sync). If the RW firmware is invalid, it is updated from a copy in the host's RW firmware.

**Source:**

[https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/+master/docs/write\\_protection.md](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/+master/docs/write_protection.md)

A feature called "Software Sync" keeps a copy of the read-write (RW) EC firmware in the RW part of the system firmware image. At boot, if the RW EC firmware doesn't match the copy in the system firmware, the EC's RW section is re-flashed.

**Source:** <https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/ec/>

63. During the Verified Boot process, the system checks for updates to the RW firmware. The RO firmware includes programming that verifies and compares the version of the RW firmware on the ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA with the version of the RW firmware on the network server. The RO firmware further includes programming that updates the RW

firmware based on that comparison. The Software Sync process is a part of the Verified Boot process. It includes programming that verifies and compares version of the RW firmware.

## Chrome EC

- Embedded Controllers are vital but closed
- Chrome EC is open source
  - [chromiumos/platform/ec.git](https://chromiumos/platform/ec.git)
- Chrome EC is designed for security
  - RO and RW regions
  - RW update is signed and handled by host firmware
  - EC Software Sync is part of Verified Boot
- Support for different ARM SOCs
  - Texas Instruments Stellaris Cortex-M4
  - ST Micro STM32 Cortex-M3
  - More in progress...

Source: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDGIQmYI21dr95nYgLmyCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf\\_298](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h-nsDGIQmYI21dr95nYgLmyCYDgBIpJWSt9b7AqTZaw/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2b77a1dcf_298) (Slide 29).

```
VbError_t VbEcSoftwareSync(VbCommonParams *cparams)
{
    VbSharedDataHeader *shared =
        (VbSharedDataHeader *)cparams->shared_data_blob;
    int in_rw = 0;
    int rv;
    const uint8_t *ec_hash = NULL;
    int ec_hash_size;
    const uint8_t *rw_hash = NULL;
    int rw_hash_size;
    const uint8_t *expected = NULL;
    int expected_size;
    uint8_t expected_hash[SHA256_DIGEST_SIZE];
    int need_update = 0;
    int i;

    /* Determine whether the EC is in RO or RW */
    rv = VbExEcRunningRW(&in_rw);
```

**Source:** [https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot\\_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot\\_api\\_kernel.c](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot_api_kernel.c)

```
/* Get hash of EC-RW */
rv = VbExEcHashRW(&ec_hash, &ec_hash_size);
if (rv) {
    VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - "
            "VbExEcHashRW() returned %d\n", rv));
    VbSetRecoveryRequest(VBNV_RECOVERY_EC_HASH_FAILED);
    return VBERROR_EC_REBOOT_TO_RO_REQUIRED;
}
if (ec_hash_size != SHA256_DIGEST_SIZE) {
    VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - "
            "VbExEcHashRW() says size %d, not %d\n",
            ec_hash_size, SHA256_DIGEST_SIZE));
    VbSetRecoveryRequest(VBNV_RECOVERY_EC_HASH_SIZE);
    return VBERROR_EC_REBOOT_TO_RO_REQUIRED;
}

VBDEBUG(("EC hash:"));
for (i = 0; i < SHA256_DIGEST_SIZE; i++)
    VBDEBUG(("%"02x", ec_hash[i]));
VBDEBUG(("\\n"));
```

**Source:** [https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot\\_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot\\_api\\_kernel.c](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot_api_kernel.c)

```

/*
 * Get expected EC-RW image if we're sure we need to update (because the
 * expected hash didn't match the EC) or we still don't know (because
 * there was no expected hash and we need the image to compute one
 * ourselves).
 */
if (need_update || !rw_hash) {
    /* Get expected EC-RW image */
    rv = VbExEcGetExpectedRW(shared->firmware_index ?
                            VB_SELECT_FIRMWARE_B :
                            VB_SELECT_FIRMWARE_A,
                            &expected, &expected_size);

    if (rv) {
        VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - "
                "VbExEcGetExpectedRW() returned %d\n", rv));
        VbSetRecoveryRequest(VBNV_RECOVERY_EC_EXPECTED_IMAGE);
        return VBERROR_EC_REBOOT_TO_RO_REQUIRED;
    }
    VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - expected len = %d\n",
            expected_size));

    /* Hash expected image */
    internal_SHA256(expected, expected_size, expected_hash);
    VBDEBUG(("Computed hash of expected image:"));
    for (i = 0; i < SHA256_DIGEST_SIZE; i++)
        VBDEBUG(("0x", expected_hash[i]));
    VBDEBUG((" \n"));
}

```

Source: [https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot\\_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot\\_api\\_kernel.c](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot_api_kernel.c)

```

/*
 * We need to update, but the expected EC image doesn't match
 * the expected EC hash we were given.
 */
VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - "
        "VbExEcGetExpectedRW() returned %d\n", rv));
VbSetRecoveryRequest(VBNV_RECOVERY_EC_HASH_MISMATCH);
return VBERROR_EC_REBOOT_TO_RO_REQUIRED;

```

Source: [https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot\\_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot\\_api\\_kernel.c](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot_api_kernel.c)



```

/* Update EC if necessary */
if (need_update) {
    VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() updating EC-RW...\n"));

    if (shared->flags & VBSD_EC_SLOW_UPDATE) {
        VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - "
            "EC is slow. Show WAIT screen.\n"));

        /*
         * FIXME(crosbug.com/p/12257): Ensure the VGA Option
         * ROM is loaded!
         */
        VbDisplayScreen(cparams, VB_SCREEN_WAIT, 0, &vnc);
    }

    rv = VbExecUpdateRW(expected, expected_size);
    if (rv == VBERROR_EC_REBOOT_TO_RO_REQUIRED) {
        /*
         * Reboot required. May need to unprotect RW before
         * updating, or may need to reboot after RW updated.
         * Either way, it's not an error requiring recovery
         * mode.
         */
        VBDEBUG(("VbEcSoftwareSync() - "
            "VbExecUpdateRW() needs reboot\n"));
    }
    return rv;
}

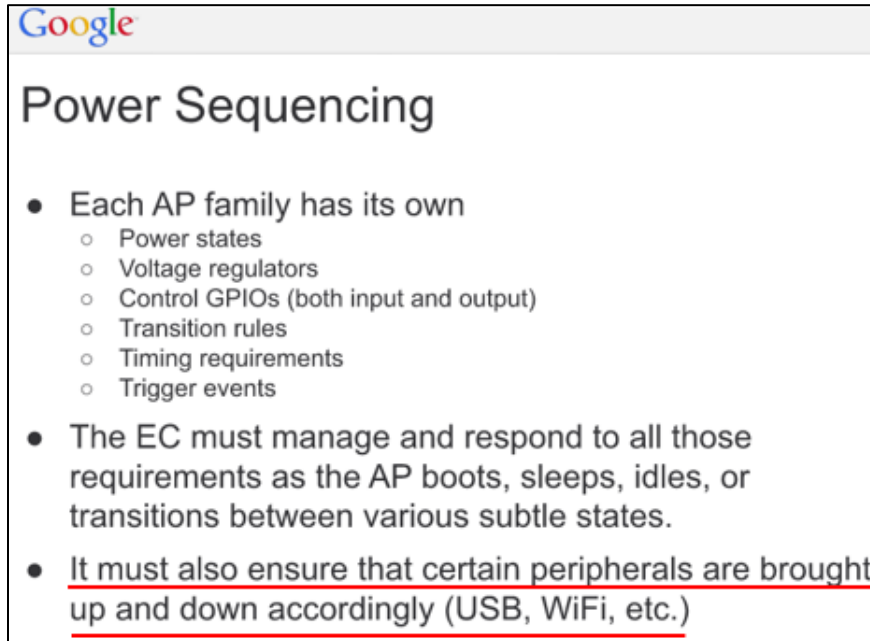
```

**Source:** [https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot\\_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot\\_api\\_kernel.c](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/platform/vboot_reference/+/factory-spring-4262.B/firmware/lib/vboot_api_kernel.c)

64. The EC controls peripheral connections like USB, Wi-Fi, etc. During the Verified Boot process, the ASUS Chromebook Flip C346FA receives updates of the RW firmware from the network server (“external data storage device”) when connected to the internet through Wi-Fi, for example. The RW firmware is updated during the Verified Boot process.

65. The EC initiates the process of updating the RW firmware by activating the Wi-Fi network interface, connecting to the internet, and starting the Software Sync process. Accordingly, the system includes code or programming (“update agent interface programming”) to read the RW firmware update (“second system software”) from the network server (“external

data storage device”) before executing the current version of the RW firmware (“first system code”).

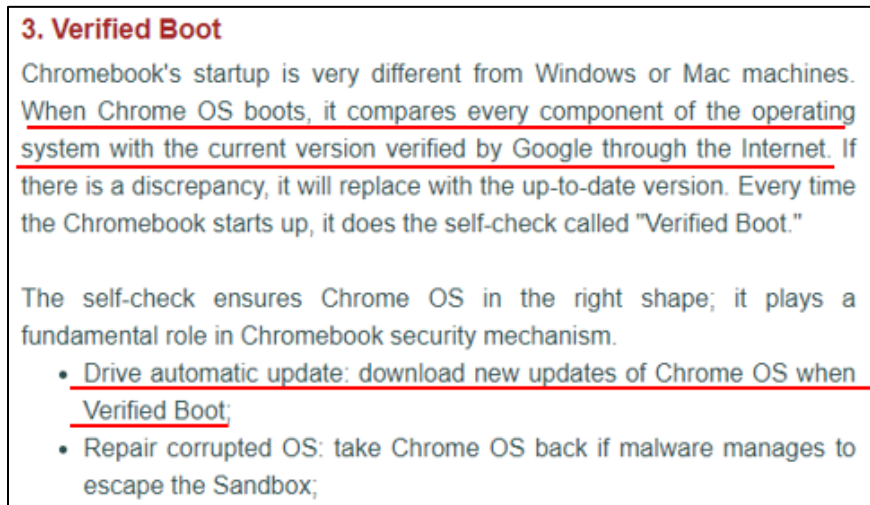


Google

## Power Sequencing

- Each AP family has its own
  - Power states
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  - Transition rules
  - Timing requirements
  - Trigger events
- The EC must manage and respond to all those requirements as the AP boots, sleeps, idles, or transitions between various subtle states.
- It must also ensure that certain peripherals are brought up and down accordingly (USB, WiFi, etc.)

**Source:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa\\_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8\\_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bbed09ac\\_142](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xa_Z5SjW-soPvkugAR8_TEJFrJpzoZUa9HNR14Sjs8/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g2bbed09ac_142) (Slide 21).



### 3. Verified Boot

Chromebook's startup is very different from Windows or Mac machines. When Chrome OS boots, it compares every component of the operating system with the current version verified by Google through the Internet. If there is a discrepancy, it will replace with the up-to-date version. Every time the Chromebook starts up, it does the self-check called "Verified Boot."


The self-check ensures Chrome OS in the right shape; it plays a fundamental role in Chromebook security mechanism.

- Drive automatic update: download new updates of Chrome OS when Verified Boot;
- Repair corrupted OS: take Chrome OS back if malware manages to escape the Sandbox;

**Source:** <https://www.keepds.com/tool/list?os=c>

Lightweight designs and HD touchscreens are paired with built in security and automatic backup on Google Drive.

- Auto updates<sup>1</sup>
- Reimagined hardware
- Sleek and lightweight devices



## Discover your Chromebook

Find yours

Shop by brand:

acer ASUS DELL Google hp

<sup>1</sup>Requires Internet connection. <sup>2</sup>This Google One membership offer (Offer) provides you with subscription benefits at no charge for a period of twelve months from the day you redeem.

**Source:** [https://www.walmart.ca/en/electronics/laptops-computers/laptops-notebooks/chromebooks/google/N-1990+1000268?mtr=mdv\\_00439&icid=electronics\\_wmg\\_display\\_walmart\\_l4hb\\_wk16\\_google\\_chromebook\\_en](https://www.walmart.ca/en/electronics/laptops-computers/laptops-notebooks/chromebooks/google/N-1990+1000268?mtr=mdv_00439&icid=electronics_wmg_display_walmart_l4hb_wk16_google_chromebook_en)

Google rolls out security updates as soon as they're ready and applies them when a Chromebook boots up. In other words, during the boot sequence, Chrome OS checks to see if a new update is available. If yes, installs it without interrupting the user. At this point, your Internet has to be available.

**Source:** <https://www.keepds.com/tool/list?os=c>

If peer-to-peer (P2P) networking is available, devices can automatically update Chrome from nearby devices of the same model. This option reduces external network traffic. If P2P automatic updating fails or isn't possible on your network, devices update as usual. They either download the update from Google's servers or an intermediate web-caching proxy server.

**Source:** <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/3168106?hl=en>

### Firmware Image

The Chrome OS firmware image has two main sections: Read-Only (RO) and Read-Write (RW). The RO firmware is set at the factory and cannot be updated after manufacturing. The RW firmware can be updated during Chrome OS auto-update (AU).

If a problem is found in RO firmware, Google creates an update and places it in the RW firmware. During the boot process, the RO firmware checks whether there is an update in the RW section and, if so, jumps to the RW update to execute the new boot code.

The RO firmware contains the following code:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system
- On x86 systems: coreboot
- Google Binary Block (GBB), which contains the following:
  - Recovery screen images
  - Public keys needed to verify the RW firmware
- Firmware ID (a string with the version number and device type)

The RW firmware contains two sections: A and B. Each section contains the following:

- U-Boot, including the device tree for this system (identical to the U-Boot images in RO firmware)
- VBlock, which contains the signatures used to verify the kernel before loading and running it
- Firmware ID
- Embedded Controller image
- Fmap, a data structure that describes the layout and contents of the SPI Flash. This structure is required by the Flashrom tool.

Source: <https://www.chromium.org/chromium-os/firmware-porting-guide/2-concepts?tmpl=%2Fsystem%2Fapp%2Ftemplates%2Fprint%2F&showPrintDialog=1>

66. ASUS has had knowledge of the '612 Patent at least as of the date when it was notified of the filing of this action.

67. Liberty Patents has been damaged as a result of the infringing conduct by ASUS alleged above. Thus, ASUS is liable to Liberty Patents in an amount that adequately compensates it for such infringements, which, by law, cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

68. Liberty Patents and/or its predecessors-in-interest have satisfied all statutory obligations required to collect pre-filing damages for the full period allowed by law for infringement of the '612 Patent.

### **ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS REGARDING INFRINGEMENT**

69. ASUS has also indirectly infringed the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent by inducing others to directly infringe the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent. ASUS has induced the end-users, ASUS's customers, to directly infringe (literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent by using the accused products.

70. ASUS took active steps, directly and/or through contractual relationships with others, with the specific intent to cause them to use the accused products in a manner that infringes one or more claims of the patents-in-suit, including, for example, claim 1 of the '959 Patent, claim 13 of the '573 Patent, and claim 1 of the '612 Patent.

71. Such steps by ASUS included, among other things, advising or directing customers and end-users to use the accused products in an infringing manner; advertising and promoting the use of the accused products in an infringing manner; and/or distributing instructions that guide users to use the accused products in an infringing manner.

72. ASUS performed these steps, which constitute induced infringement, with the knowledge of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent and with the knowledge that the induced acts constitute infringement.

73. ASUS was and is aware that the normal and customary use of the accused products by ASUS's customers would infringe the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent. ASUS's inducement is ongoing.

74. ASUS has also induced its affiliates, or third-party manufacturers, shippers, distributors, retailers, or other persons acting on its or its affiliates' behalf, to directly infringe (literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent by importing, selling or offering to sell the accused products, including, for example, Amazon, Best Buy, CDW, Fry's Electronics, Micro Center, Office Depot, Staples, Walmart, and others.

75. ASUS has a significant role in placing the accused products in the stream of commerce with the expectation and knowledge that they will be purchased by consumers in Texas and elsewhere in the United States.

76. ASUS purposefully directs or controls the making of accused products and their shipment to the United States, using established distribution channels, for sale in Texas and elsewhere within the United States.

77. ASUS purposefully directs or controls the sale of the accused products into established United States distribution channels, including sales to nationwide retailers. ASUS's established United States distribution channels include one or more United States based affiliates (e.g., ASUS Computer International).

78. ASUS purposefully directs or controls the sale of the accused products online and in nationwide retailers, including for sale in Texas and elsewhere in the United States, and expects and intends that the accused products will be so sold.

79. ASUS purposefully places the accused products—whether by itself or through subsidiaries—into an international supply chain, knowing that the accused products will be sold in the United States, including Texas. Therefore, ASUS also facilitates the sale of the accused products in Texas. For example, ASUS's website includes an easy-to-use "Where to buy" feature, allowing potential buyers to select their particular state:

## Where to buy

Search for "texas" in the ProductLine Category dropdown.

Store Name	Distance (km)
Archimedes Computer Systems LLC	206.64
Maverick Computer Services	207.88
DP IT Group, LLC	213.60
360it	215.29
The Computer Center	216.86
4ip Technology & Media LLC	222.57
WDS PUBLISHING	227.16
PC Depot Plus LL	228.39

Source: <https://www.asus.com/us/WhereToBuyList/>

80. ASUS took active steps, directly and/or through contractual relationships with others, with the specific intent to cause such persons to import, sell, or offer to sell the accused products in a manner that infringes one or more claims of the patents-in-suit, including, for example, claim 1 of the '959 Patent, claim 13 of the '573 Patent, and claim 1 of the '612 Patent.

81. Such steps by ASUS included, among other things, making or selling the accused products outside of the United States for importation into or sale in the United States, or knowing that such importation or sale would occur; and directing, facilitating, or influencing its affiliates, or third-party manufacturers, shippers, distributors, retailers, or other persons acting on its or their behalf, to import, sell, or offer to sell the accused products in an infringing manner.

82. ASUS performed these steps, which constitute induced infringement, with the knowledge of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent and with the knowledge that the induced acts would constitute infringement.

83. ASUS performed such steps in order to profit from the eventual sale of the accused products in the United States.

84. ASUS's inducement is ongoing.

85. ASUS has also indirectly infringed by contributing to the infringement of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent. ASUS has contributed to the direct infringement of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent by the end-user of the accused products.

86. The accused products have special features that are specially designed to be used in an infringing way and that have no substantial uses other than ones that infringe the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent, for example, claim 1 of the '959 Patent, claim 13 of the '573 Patent, and claim 1 of the '612 Patent.

87. The special features include, for example, executing computer instructions in an instruction cache used in a manner that infringes the '959 Patent; power distribution and power management techniques used in a manner that infringes the '573 Patent; and retrieving automatic software updates in an embedded system used in a manner that infringes the '612 Patent.

88. These special features constitute a material part of the invention of one or more of the claims of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent and are not staple articles of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use.

89. ASUS's contributory infringement is ongoing.

90. ASUS has had actual knowledge of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent at least as of the date when it was notified of the filing of this action. Since at least that



time, ASUS has known the scope of the claims of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent; the products that practice the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent; and that Liberty Patents is the owner of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent.

91. By the time of trial, ASUS will have known and intended (since receiving such notice) that its continued actions would infringe and actively induce and contribute to the infringement of one or more claims of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent.

92. Furthermore, ASUS has a policy or practice of not reviewing the patents of others (including instructing its employees to not review the patents of others), and thus have been willfully blind of Liberty Patents' patent rights. *See, e.g.*, M. Lemley, "Ignoring Patents," 2008 Mich. St. L. Rev. 19 (2008).

93. ASUS's actions are at least objectively reckless as to the risk of infringing valid patents, and this objective risk was either known or should have been known by ASUS. ASUS has knowledge of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent.

94. ASUS's customers have infringed the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent, and ASUS has encouraged its customers' infringement.

95. ASUS's direct and indirect infringement of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent has been, and/or continues to be willful, intentional, deliberate, and/or in conscious disregard of Liberty Patents' rights under the patents.

96. Liberty Patents has been damaged as a result of ASUS's infringing conduct alleged above. Thus, ASUS is liable to Liberty Patents in an amount that adequately compensates it for such infringements, which, by law, cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

**JURY DEMAND**

Liberty Patents hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable by right.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Liberty Patents requests that the Court find in its favor and against ASUS, and that the Court grant Liberty Patents the following relief:

- a. Judgment that one or more claims of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent have been infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, by ASUS and/or all others acting in concert therewith;
- b. A permanent injunction enjoining ASUS and its officers, directors, agents, servants, affiliates, employees, divisions, branches, subsidiaries, parents, and all others acting in concert therewith from infringement of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent; or, in the alternative, an award of a reasonable ongoing royalty for future infringement of the '959 Patent, the '573 Patent, and the '612 Patent by such entities;
- c. Judgment that ASUS account for and pay to Liberty Patents all damages to and costs incurred by Liberty Patents because of ASUS's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein, including an award of all increased damages to which Liberty Patents is entitled under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- d. That Liberty Patents be granted pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages caused by ASUS's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- e. That this Court declare this an exceptional case and award Liberty Patents its reasonable attorney's fees and costs in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
- f. That Liberty Patents be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: September 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Zachariah S. Harrington

Matthew J. Antonelli  
Texas Bar No. 24068432

matt@ahtlawfirm.com

Zachariah S. Harrington  
Texas Bar No. 24057886

zac@ahtlawfirm.com

Larry D. Thompson, Jr.  
Texas Bar No. 24051428

larry@ahtlawfirm.com

Christopher Ryan Pinckney  
Texas Bar No. 24067819

ryan@ahtlawfirm.com

Rehan M. Safiullah  
Texas Bar No. 24066017

rehan@ahtlawfirm.com

ANTONELLI, HARRINGTON  
& THOMPSON LLP  
4306 Yoakum Blvd., Ste. 450  
Houston, TX 77006  
(713) 581-3000

Stafford Davis  
State Bar No. 24054605  
sdavis@stafforddavisfirm.com  
Catherine Bartles  
Texas Bar No. 24104849  
cbartles@stafforddavisfirm.com  
THE STAFFORD DAVIS FIRM  
815 South Broadway Avenue  
Tyler, Texas 75701  
(903) 593-7000  
(903) 705-7369 fax

*Attorneys for Liberty Patents, LLC*