A Dozen Things about the z/Architecture

Josef "Jeff" Sipek

Dozen Things about z/Arch - p. 1



IBM System z mainframes (2006)

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Ok, this one was a freebie...

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- This presentation is too short to summarize >1200 pages of documentation

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- Hide the differences from applications

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- Switch between modes at run time



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0	1	2			5	6	7	8				12	13	14	15	16	1	18	2	20				24	2						31
B A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	33																														63
											1	ns	tru	lor	ioi	n A	١d	dre	ess	3											
64																															95
									Ins	stru	uc	tio	n	Ac	ldr	es	s	(Co	on	tinu	Je	d)									ĺ
96																														-	127

8. Instruction Set

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- Many instructions reference storage

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- CIPHER MESSAGE
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 - Hashes a buffer

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- A number of them can be masked out

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- Similar to DMA, but way more advanced

 A device is attached to a Control Unit



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- Physical connections are a lot more complex



 Save Channel Command Words (CCWs) in storage



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- CU generates an IO interrupt when...
 - IO completes
 - Error occurs



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32			63

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Command

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Data Address

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Command

- Write
- Read
- Read Backward
- Control
- Sense
- Sense ID
- Transfer in Control (branch!)

63

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- CCWs chaining
- Skip (do not read)
- Indirect addressing (2 modes: IDA, MIDA)
- Suspend execution



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 - Funny you should ask...



OS/Hypervisor

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HVF - Repository Size



HVF - Status & TODO

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#hvf on OFTC

Questions?



References

- z/Architecture Principles of Operation (SA22-7832-05)
- System z Architecture Course
- System/370 XA Interpretive Execution (SA22-7095-1)
- Hercules Emulator www.hercules-390.org
- Installing Debian under Hercules www.josefsipek.net/docs/s390-linux/

- Diagram of PSW taken from SA22-7832-05
- Image of z9 from infoworld.com's website