

Qualcomm

December 10, 2020

@Qualcomm\_tech

# Enabling the rise of the smartphone:

Chronicling the developmental  
history at Qualcomm

Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.



# Mobile smartphones are an amazing technical achievement



## Mind-blowing performance

Processing power greater than the most advanced super computers of the early 1990s



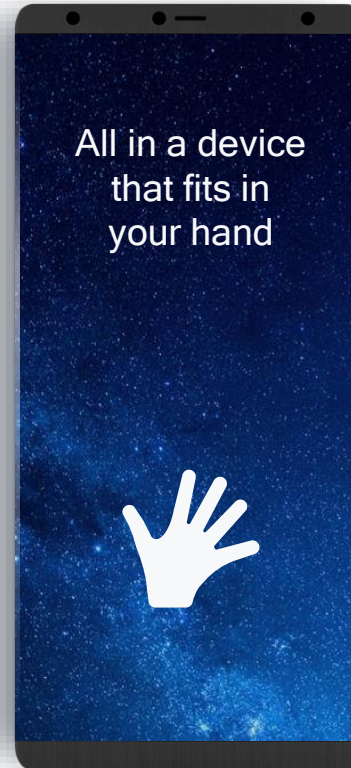
## High-quality multimedia

High-quality music playback  
Immersive surround sound  
8K UltraHD video player/recorder  
HD gaming console  
High resolution, multi-sensor digital camera



## Location-based navigation

Knows your current location and can help guide you to your destination



## Broadband speeds

Blazing fast multi-Gbps data rates



## Internet connectivity anywhere

Access information, shop online, connect with friends, share photos and videos



## Long battery life

The ability to power all these amazing experiences with less energy than it takes to power a light bulb for 15 minutes

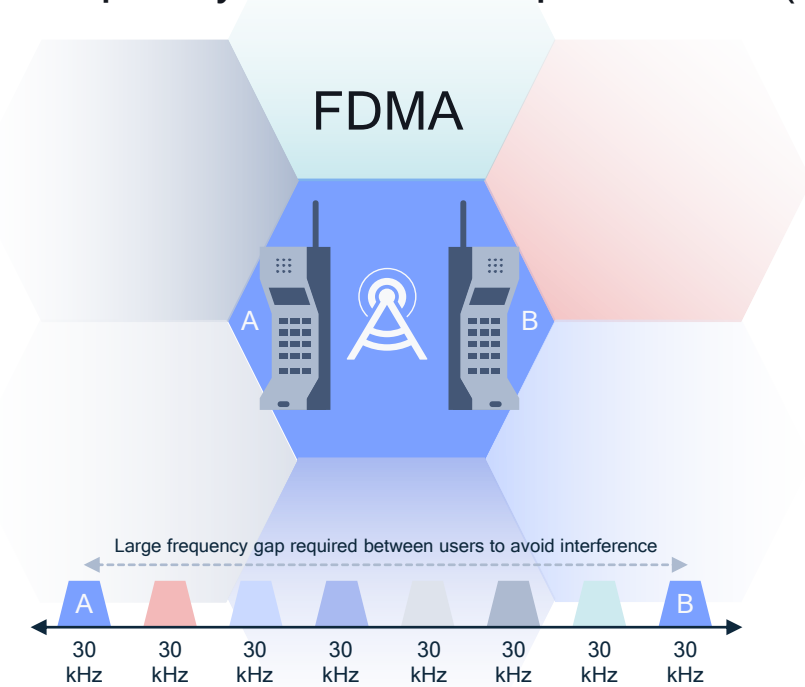


How did this come about?

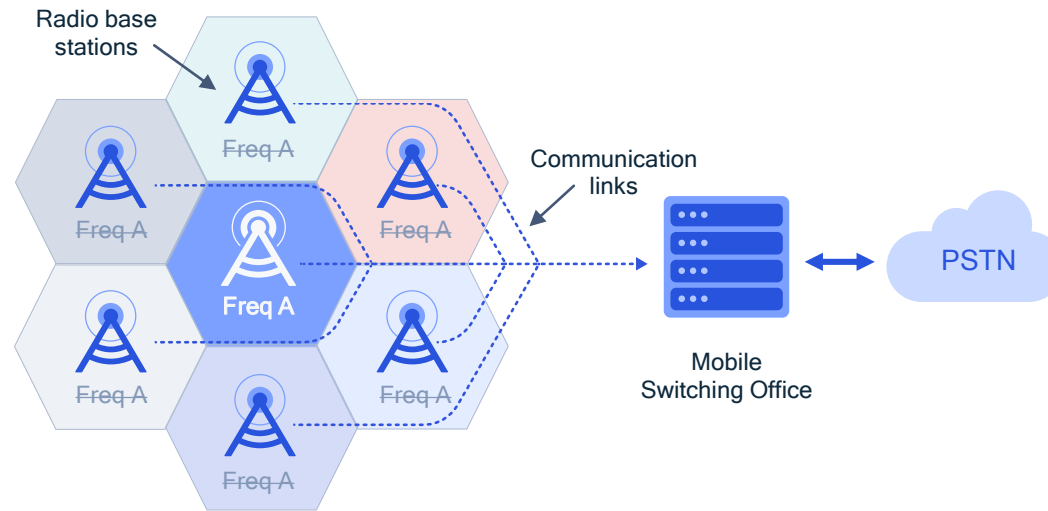
How did the capabilities of these handheld devices evolve so quickly?

# 1983: Introduction of 1G cellular wireless (AMPS)

Frequency Division Multiple Access (FDMA) using 30kHz FM-modulated voice channels



Each user in a call was assigned to a pair of 30 kHz frequency bands



Poor frequency reuse led to inefficient use of spectrum (higher cost)



Big, bulky phones

Limited user capacity due to inefficient use of spectrum (expensive)  
Analog system suffered from noise/interference issues: desire to go digital

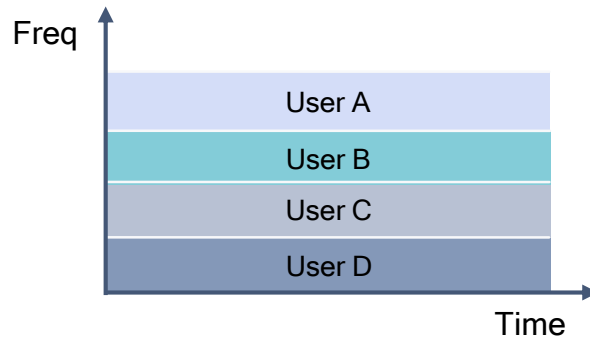
# Late 80's to early 90's: 2G digital cellular wireless

U.S. industry was already moving down the TDMA path (standardized as IS-54 in 1990)

## Analog

### Frequency-Division Multiple Access (FDMA)

Only one user per radio channel

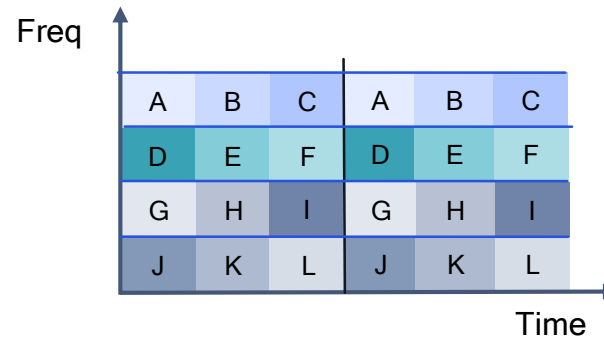


Existing AMPS Analog System  
1x capacity

## Digital

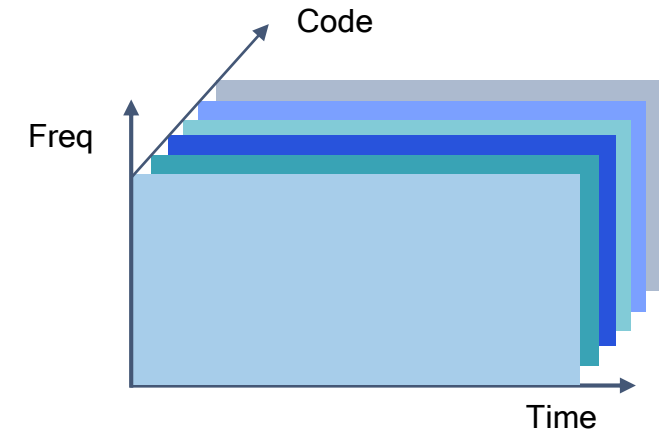
### Time-Division Multiple Access (TDMA)

Three users per radio channel



Divide each channel into 3 timeslots so 3 users can share the same frequency band  
3x capacity

### Code-Division Multiple Access (CDMA)



Spread-spectrum technology: allow all users to share time and frequency by assigning each user a unique code  
10x-20x capacity

Qualcomm proposed CDMA as a better digital alternative to TDMA. Capacity is important because it translates into cost.



# Seminal CDMA memo by Klein Gilhousen

Analyzed the use of CDMA for digital cellular compared with FDMA

## A CDMA SYSTEM FOR CELLULAR RADIO WITH COMPARISON TO FDMA

by

Klein S. Gilhousen  
QUALCOMM, Inc.  
November 11, 1988

Consider a cellular radio system consisting of a large set of mobile terminals and a set of fixed base stations spaced at regular intervals. It is convenient to locate the base stations at the vertices of a set of equally sized hexagons, forming the "cell" structure that gives cellular radio its name. Typically, each base station is equipped with a phased array antenna system that allows the cells to be further subdivided using the antenna gain to increase isolation.

In traditional FDMA frequency reuse plans for cellular radio, the available spectrum is divided into seven sets of frequencies to be used by all terminals. The system relies on the spatial separation provided by the cell structure and the base station antenna gain to provide adequate isolation between two terminals using the same frequency. The analog FM voice modulation used requires at least 20 dB isolation to provide adequate performance. Digital modulation techniques require similar isolation.

In the following, we consider a new approach to cellular radio systems that utilizes CDMA instead of FDMA. In this approach, we utilize the orthogonal code structure

## Summary

“I consider these results to be so staggering that I would like everyone given a copy of this memo to recheck the assumptions and the results. Clearly, there is a business opportunity here.”

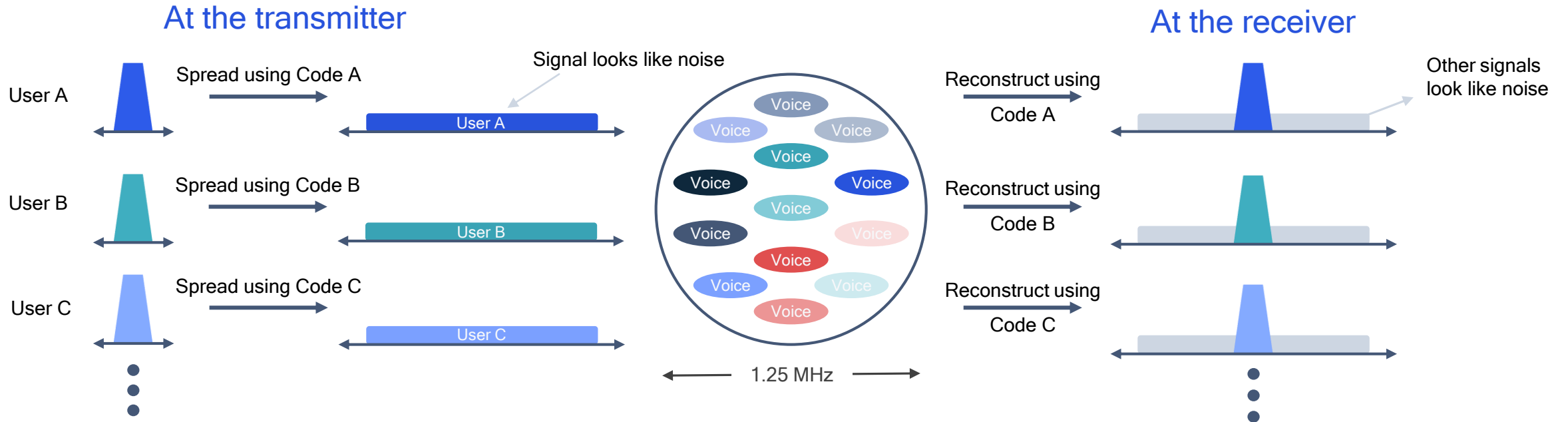


**Klein Gilhousen**  
1942-2016

The theoretical capacity gain of CDMA over FDMA was “staggering”

# How does CDMA work?

Each user creates a small amount of interference for the other users



To take advantage of voice activity (each user only talks around 3/8 of the time), the system uses a variable-rate vocoder to reduce interference and leverage statistical averaging across users

All users share the same bandwidth, leverages statistical averaging for voice activity so that spectrum is used efficiently

# CDMA was met with skepticism by the industry

Significant doubt that CDMA could be deployed successfully for commercial use



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“It’s too late. We’re already down the TDMA path.”



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“It won’t work in the real world the way they claim.”



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“It’s too complex.”



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“CDMA violates the laws of physics!”

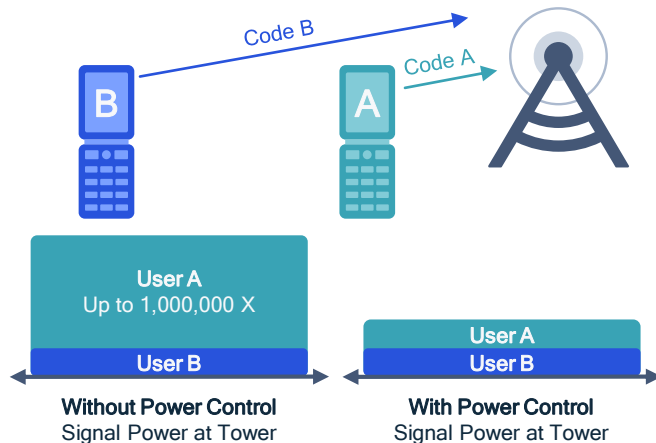
Qualcomm was forced to build the entire system to prove that CDMA worked, including the chips, phones, and base stations.

# Why the skepticism? What were the big challenges?

## 1. Near-far power challenge

Users close to the tower overpower the uplink signal minimizing capacity on the shared channel

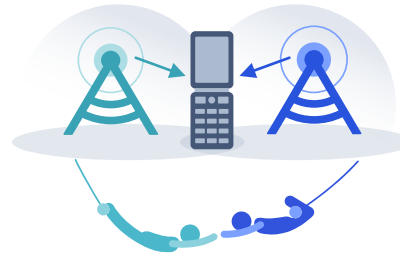
**Solution:** Continuous control of transmit power based on signal strength



## 2. Cell-edge challenge

High interference caused by users at the cell edge due to the large path loss

**Solution:** Soft handoff: users communicate with multiple cells simultaneously to leverage diversity gain and reduce transmit power



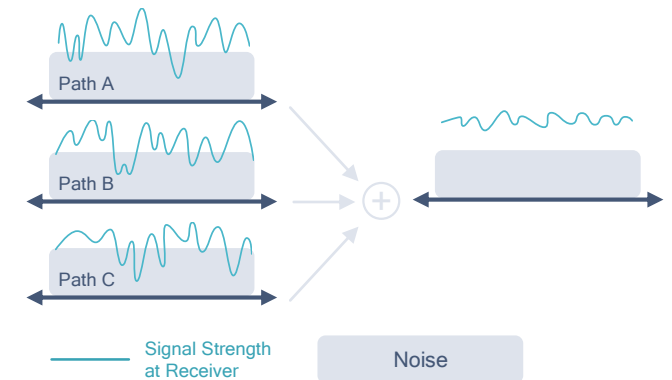
### Soft (vs. hard) handoffs

Communicating with multiple cells simultaneously led to more reliable handoffs and fewer dropped calls

## 3. Multipath fading challenge

Destructive interference caused by reflections from the same signal over multiple paths interfering with each other

**Solution:** Advanced “rake” receivers align and combine energy from multiple signal paths constructively



Qualcomm engineers figured out how to address each of these challenges



# November 7, 1989: The CDMA demo in San Diego

Pacific Telesis in LA (PacTel) was the sole carrier receptive to CDMA technology

Demonstrate soft-handoff  
between 2 cell sites



IEEE Milestone Award

This successful demo started the industry shift towards acceptance of CDMA as a viable approach

# Many more CDMA demonstrations and testing

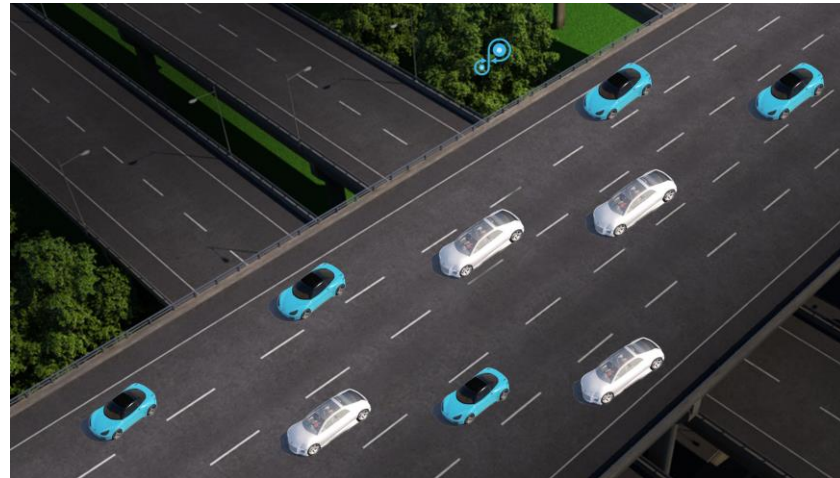
Need to prove the system worked as advertised in the real world

February 1990: NYC (Nynex)



To prove CDMA worked in an urban environment with significant multipath

Nov 1991: CDMA capacity testing



Qualcomm employees loaded mobile devices in their cars and drove continuously along pre-defined routes to allow computation of capacity



CDMA mobile circa 1991

All these demos used Qualcomm-developed CDMA equipment

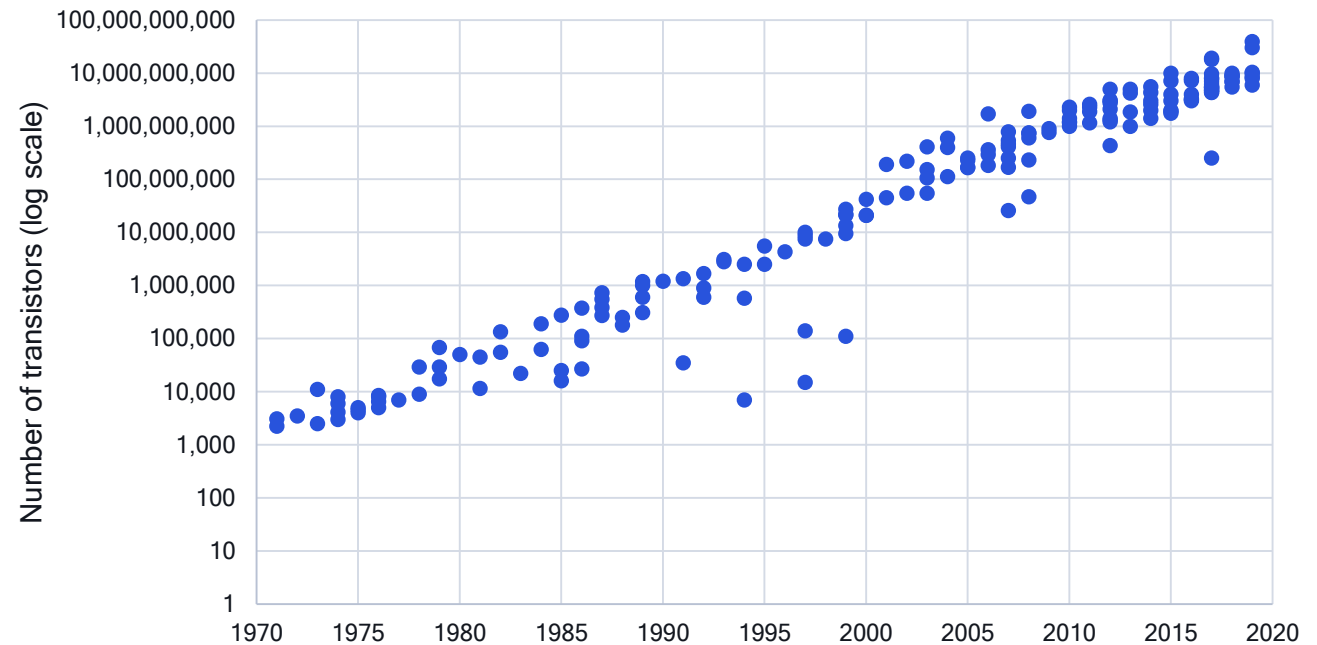
# CDMA complexity challenge mitigated by Moore's Law

The number of transistors per square inch on an integrated circuit will double approximately every 2 years



Source: [wikipedia](#)

Moore's Law: Transistor count by year



Since the processing power of an IC doubles every 2 years, complexity of design is not a big problem—process technology will enable it



# The power of Moore's Law in shrinking our early phone designs



Qualcomm Alpha II phone  
3 chip CDMA chipset in  $1.2\mu$  process



Qualcomm Beta phone  
Single-chip CDMA MSM in  $.8\mu$  process



Qualcomm QCP-800 phone  
MSM2 in  $.5\mu$  process

Every process node change allowed a big reduction in phone form factor

# CDMA standardization and commercialization timeline

CDMA credibility continued to grow, leading to some major deployment announcements

1992	
June	CTIA asks TIA to expedite adoption of CDMA standard in North America
September	First CDMA network equipment ordered (U.S. West New Vector, Seattle market)
1993	
April	South Korea adopts CDMA as its national cellular telephone system
July	U.S. TIA adopts CDMA (IS-95A) as a North American digital cellular standard
December	CDMA Development Group (CDG) is founded
1994	
October	Field tests of CDMA networks in China successfully completed
October	First Korean CDMA system unveiled
1995	
June	PCS PrimeCo selects CDMA for its PCS network
July	Sprint PCS adopts CDMA for its PCS network
November	World's first commercial CDMA handsets shipped
December	World's first commercial launch of CDMA service (Hutchison Telecom, Hong Kong)
December	CDG develops 13 kbps vocoder for high-quality voice communications
December	CDMA (IS-95A) standardized for U.S. PCS band (ANSI J-STD-008)
1996	
March	First North American launch of cellular IS-95A service (Bell Atlantic Mobile)
April	First Korean launch of cellular IS-95A service in Seoul (SK Telecom)
October	First launch of PCS IS-95A service (PrimeCo, now Verizon Wireless)
December	First Latin America launch of IS-95A (Telefonica del Peru)
December	More than 1 million CDMA subscribers worldwide

Source: [cdg.org](http://cdg.org); [RCR Wireless](http://rcrwireless.com) 6/19/95

## Primeco to build PCS network using Qualcomm's technology

RCR Wireless

By RCR Wireless Staff on JUNE 19, 1995

When PCS PrimeCo L.P. announced earlier this month plans to build its personal communications services networks using Code Division Multiple Access technology, CDMA developer Qualcomm Inc. received its first major U.S. customer and coverage in more than three-quarters of the country.

AirTouch Communications Inc., U S West Inc., Bell Atlantic Corp. and Nynex Corp.-the companies comprising PrimeCo-intend to deploy CDMA-based wireless service not only in the partnership's 11 major broadband PCS markets, but in each of its own cellular markets. Plans call for voice, vehicular fax, data and short messaging services to be offered.

CDMA was standardized by TIA/EIA as IS-95A in July 1993



# Qualcomm built everything to jump-start the CDMA industry

Industry skepticism about CDMA caused traditional equipment suppliers to get a late start

## Chips



MSM is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

## Phones

(Partnership with Sony 1994)



Sold to Kyocera in 2002

## Infrastructure equipment

(Partnership with Nortel 1994)

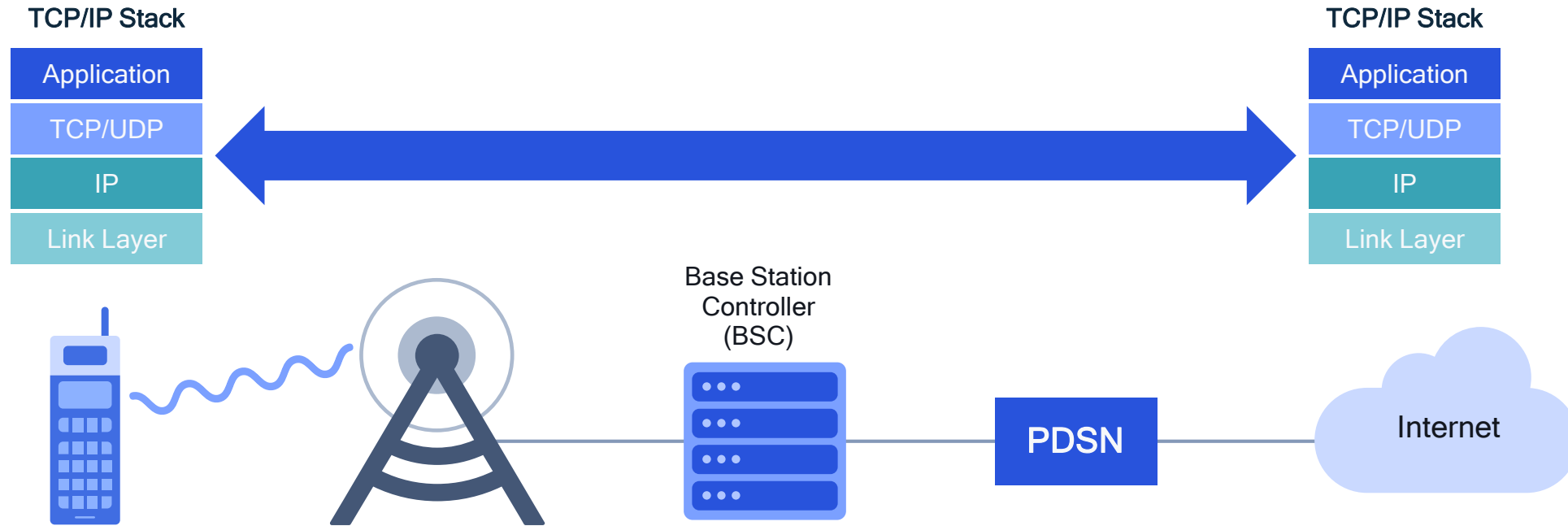


Sold to Ericsson in 1999

Qualcomm grew from 1,262 employees in 1993 to 11,200 in 1999

# Data: The next frontier for 3G

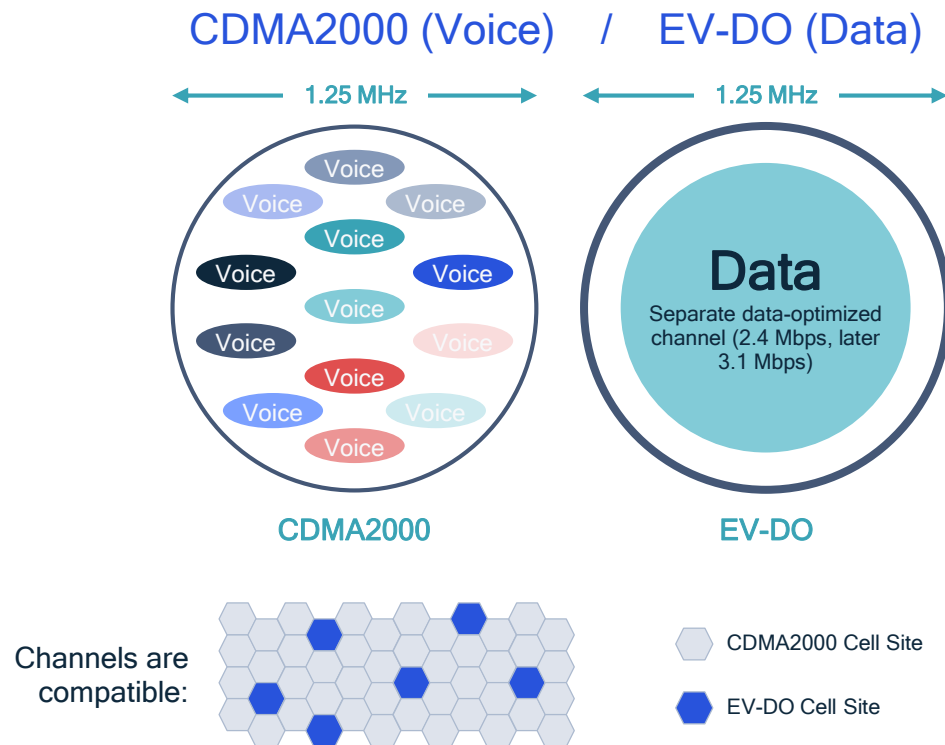
Qualcomm advocated packet-switched data using the TCP/IP stack



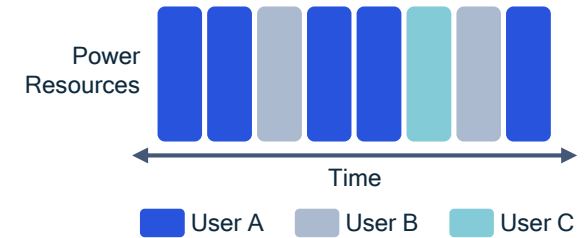
Qualcomm helped drive the industry towards direct internet connectivity, which enabled cellphones to become another internet client using TCP/IP protocols

# Designing a CDMA system optimized for packet data

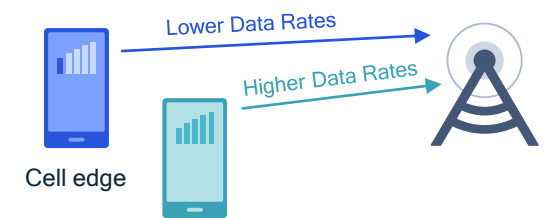
Data has different characteristics than voice; goal is to optimize total data throughput



**1** Optimize data throughput by sending maximum data rate to a single user at any instant; other users are time-multiplexed into different time slots.



**2** Base station scheduler monitors channel conditions for each user and modifies the modulation based on the data rate it thinks the user can sustain.



1: High Data Rate (HDR) renamed as EV-DO (Evolution - Data Optimized) after standardization in Nov 2000 as EIA/TIA-856

Several of the concepts from EV-DO<sup>1</sup> served as a foundation for 4G/5G

# The importance of the EV-DO scheduler is recognized

Slate selected the scheduling code as one of the 36 most impactful pieces of software of all time

## The Lines of Code That Changed Everything

Apollo 11, the JPEG, the first pop-up ad, and 33 other bits of software that have transformed our world.

October 14, 2019

### Proportional Fair Scheduling for Wireless Networks

Date: Circa 2003. ← (Date is incorrect)  
*The solution that makes cellphone networks possible*

```
[~, b_user] = max(drc(i, :)/_avg_thruput(i, :));  
avg_thruput(i+1, :) = (i/(i+1))*avg_thruput(i, :);  
avg_thruput(i+1, b_user) = (i/(i+1))*avg_thruput(i, b_user)+drc(i,  
b_user)/(i+1);
```

Source: [Slate](#), 10/14/19



US006449490B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
Chaponniere et al.

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,449,490 B1**  
(45) Date of Patent: **\*Sep. 10, 2002**

(54) **TRANSMITTER DIRECTED CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS SYSTEM USING PATH DIVERSITY TO EQUITABLY MAXIMIZE THROUGHPUT**

(75) Inventors: Etienne F. Chaponniere, Paris (FR); Peter J. Black; Jack M. Holtzman, both of San Diego, CA (US); David Ngar Ching Tse, Berkeley, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Qualcomm Incorporated**, San Diego, CA (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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Primary Examiner—Daniel Hunter  
Assistant Examiner—Yemane Woldetatis  
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Philip R. Wadsworth; Kent D. Baker; Sean English

(21) Appl. No.: **09/345,700**  
(22) Filed: **Jun. 30, 1999**

“The solution that makes cellphone networks possible”

# 1st Amazon Kindle enabled EV-DO internet connectivity



## [Amazon Kindle Official Details: \\$399, "Whispernet" EV-DO, the "iPod of Reading"](#)

Gizmodo, 11/18/07

There's a lot to digest in Newsweek's seven-page all-out feature. Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos sums it up: "This isn't a device, it's a service." Kindle starts shipping tomorrow for \$399 and is "a perpetually connected Internet device" running off of EV-DO—it calls the service "Whispernet." It's totally computer independent: You browse for books (88,000 at launch) and buy them in a "one-touch process," it comes with a personal Kindle email address and it can browse the regular internet—keyboard sounds useful now, doesn't it?

Source: Gizmodo, 11/18/07 © 2007 Gizmodo, [www.gizmodo.com](http://www.gizmodo.com).

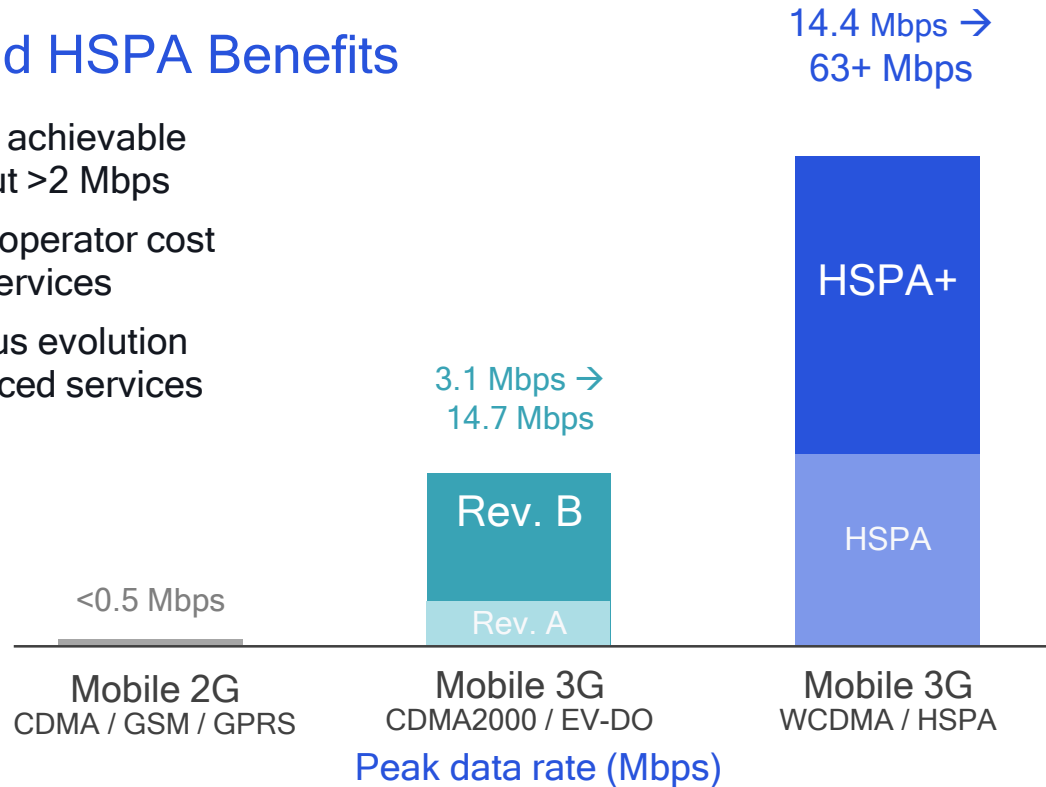
Amazon included the EV-DO service through Sprint to allow users to browse and buy Kindle books online



# Data technologies continued to evolve in 3G

## EV-DO and HSPA Benefits

- Delivered achievable throughput >2 Mbps
- Reduced operator cost for data services
- Continuous evolution for enhanced services



<sup>1</sup> Source: CDG ([www.cdg.org](http://www.cdg.org)) and 3GPP ([www.3gpp.org](http://www.3gpp.org))

## Mobile broadband timeline<sup>1</sup>



From EV-DO to HSPA (High-Speed Packet Access), to HSPA+

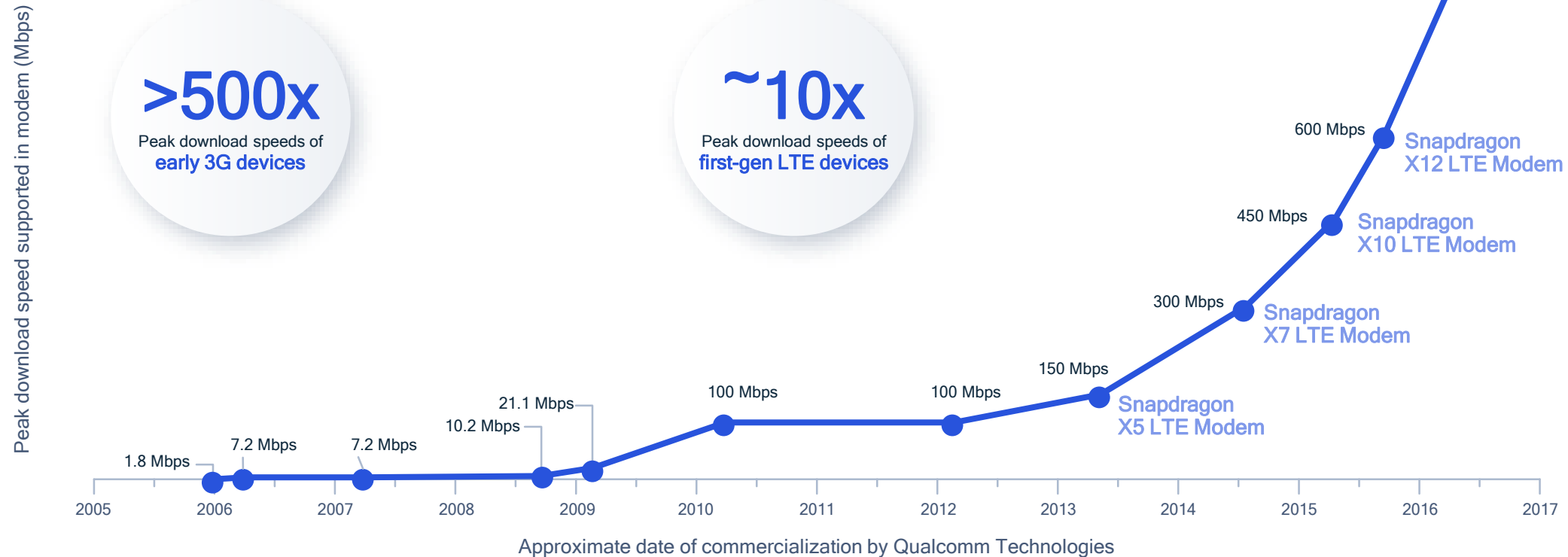
# We led the way to gigabit-class LTE

Faster, better mobile broadband



Qualcomm  
snapdragon  
X16 LTE modem

1Gbps

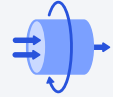


Qualcomm Snapdragon is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

## Multiple generations of improvements in LTE and LTE-Advanced

# We led the evolution and expansion of LTE

Leading in 5G requires  
**4G LTE**  
Leadership



Carrier aggregation



Hybrid ARQ



Fast link adaptation



OFDMA, SC-FDMA waveforms



CoMP



CSFB



LTE-U/LAA/  
eLAA



MulteFire



Lower power consumption technologies, e.g. DTX/DRX



LTE Broadcast (eMBMS)



Small cells interference management



LWA



Handover procedure



Small cell self-configuration techniques



Advanced MIMO technologies, e.g. UL MIMO



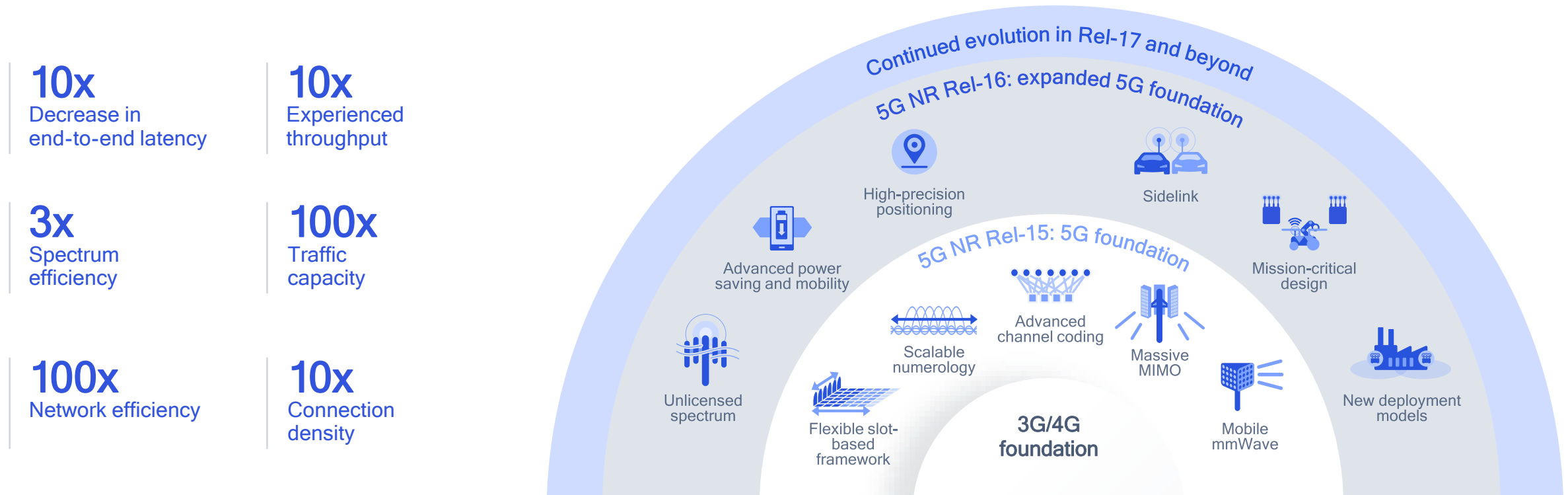
LTE Direct and C-V2X

Our systems-level inventions are foundational to 5G

# 5G brings an enhanced air interface for unified connectivity

## 5G improvement over 4G

## Our wireless inventions are leading the 5G evolution



Higher capacity will allow carriers to offer more cost-efficient unlimited data plans  
Lower latency & higher reliability can enable new uses for wireless networks

# Patent value is about quality rather than quantity

## Why 5G Patent ‘Value’ Is More Important Than The ‘Number’ Of Patents

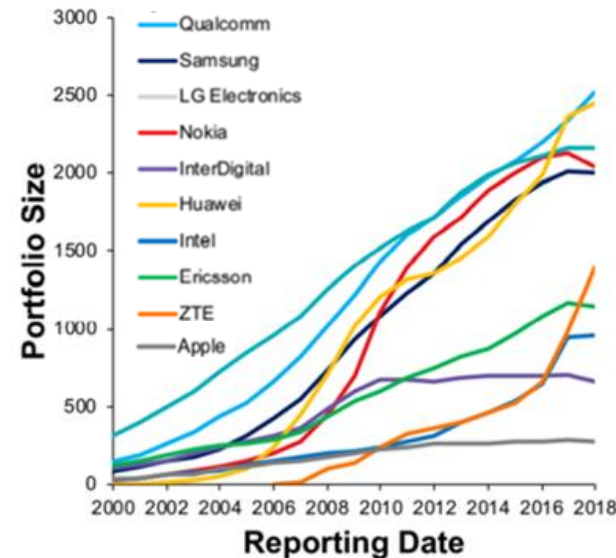
Patrick Moorhead  
Moor Insights & Strategy, February 27, 2020

According to IPWatchdog, in a recent [webcast](#) (slides [here](#)), while many companies cluster in their patent portfolio size or number of patents, Qualcomm leads the pack in value and impact. Note how close the *number* of patents are between Qualcomm, Huawei, Intel (now Apple), and Samsung are, but when it comes to *value*, Qualcomm is considerably higher than the next competitor.

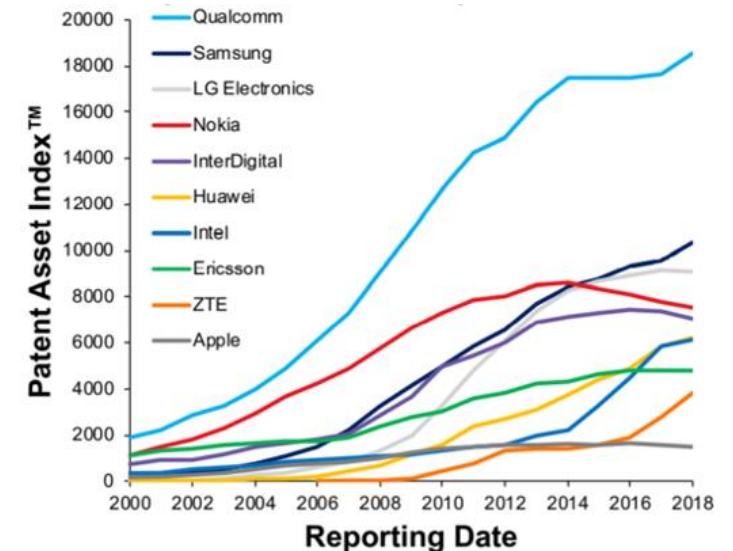
“Qualcomm leads the pack in value and impact”

Source: [Moor Insights & Strategy](#), 2/27/20; LexisNexis | PatentSight

Patent Count



Patent Value and Impact

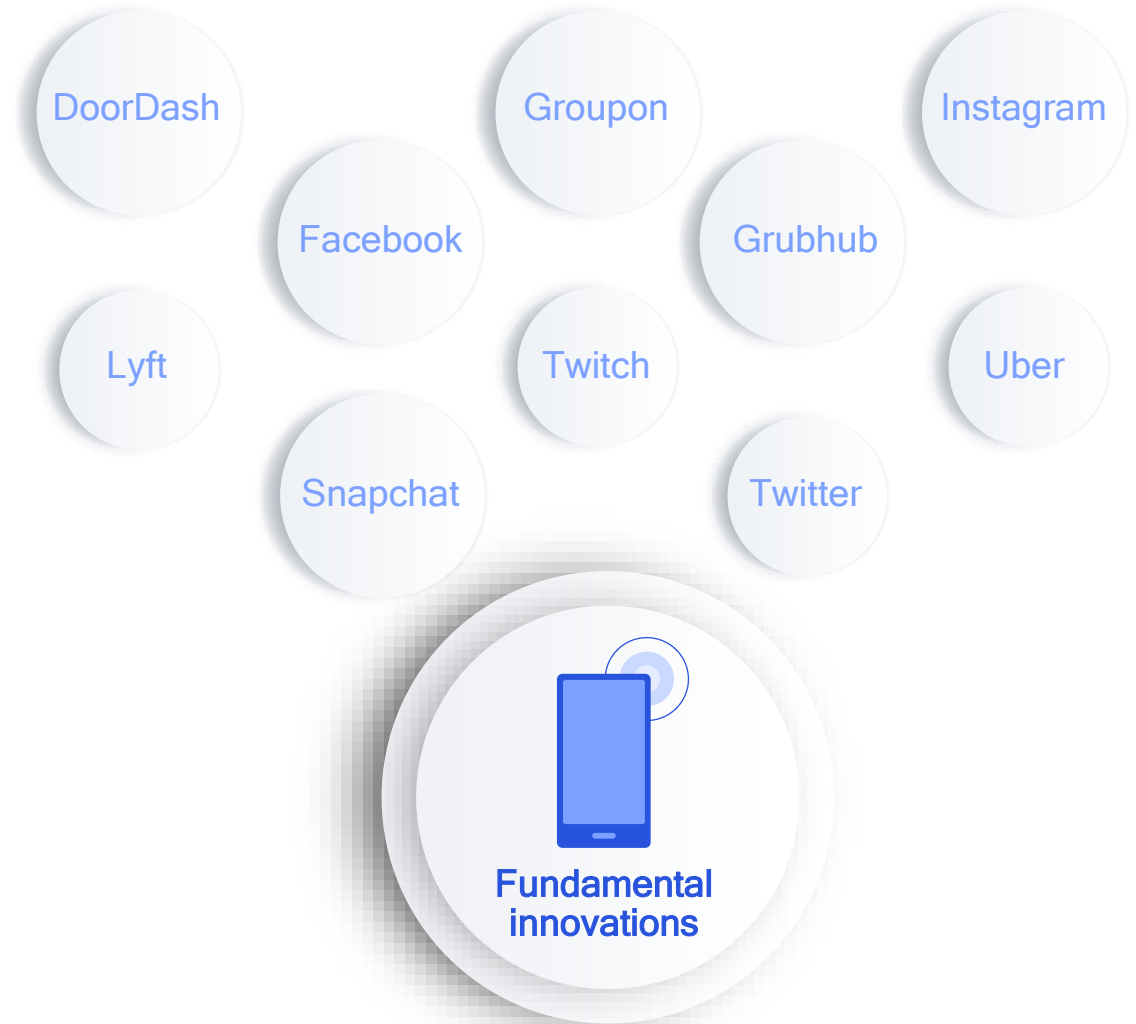


Whereas many companies try to accumulate patents for “counting value”, Qualcomm tries to patent valuable fundamental ideas



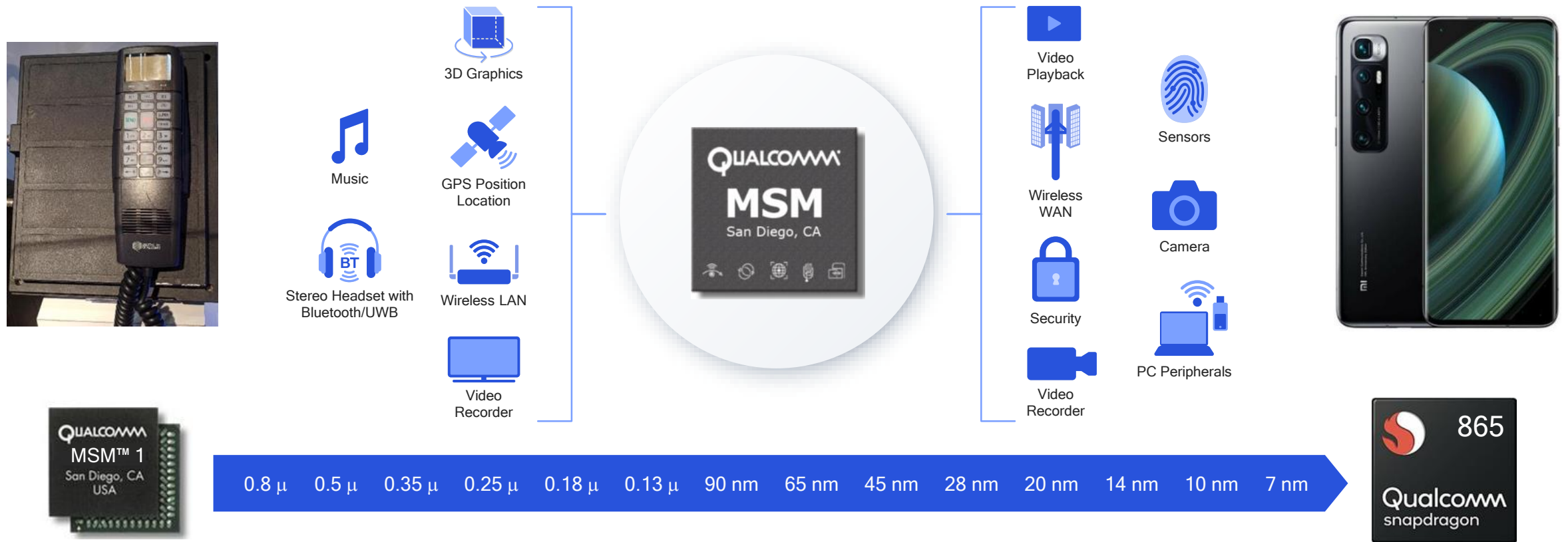
# Where would many companies be without Qualcomm's inventions?

Foundational data technologies spurred new innovative services, experiences, and business models



Our fundamental research helped spawn entirely new industries

# Integration of capabilities enabled by Moore's law



MSM is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

13 process node transitions between MSM1 and Snapdragon 865 (and counting)

# 2000: Integration of audio capability

Audio applications are run on our internally developed DSP

## Audio MP3 Decoder



Allows people to listen to their digitized music

## Compact Multimedia Extension (CMX)

Enables time-synchronized combining of Midi-based music, PNG graphics, animation, text, and speech



Allows custom ringtones, animation, greeting cards, karaoke, screen savers, etc.

Enable music listening and creation of simple mixed-media applications (predates the first iPod)



# 2000: Integration of Bluetooth and GPS

Expanding the utility of the cellphone beyond voice calls

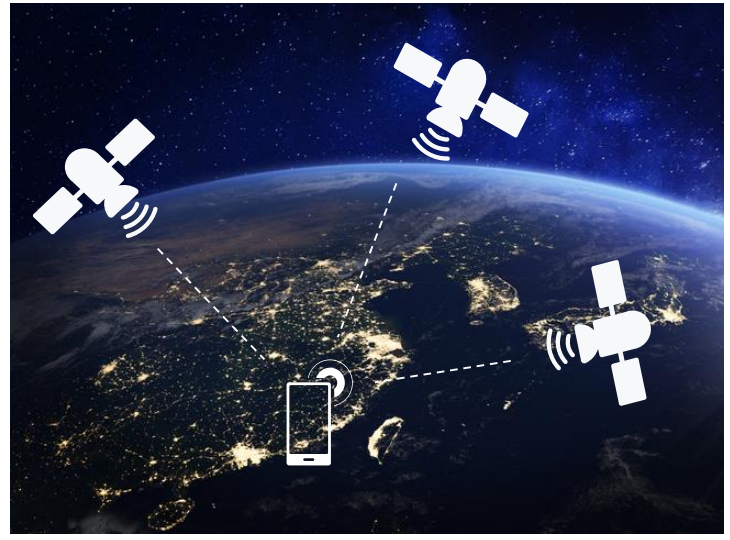
## Bluetooth



Low-power wireless connection to peripherals

1; Source: Bluetooth SIG Market Update 2020

## GPS



Enable E911 and location-based services

Wireless Communications Public Service Act (911 act) was passed in 1999



# 2002: Integration of video capability

Video applications were initially run on an internally developed DSP

## Qtv

MPEG4 / H.263 decoder



## Qcamcorder

MPEG4 / H.263 encoder



## Qvideophone

MPEG4 / H.263 encoder/decoder



Enable playing and recording of video clips, and video telephony

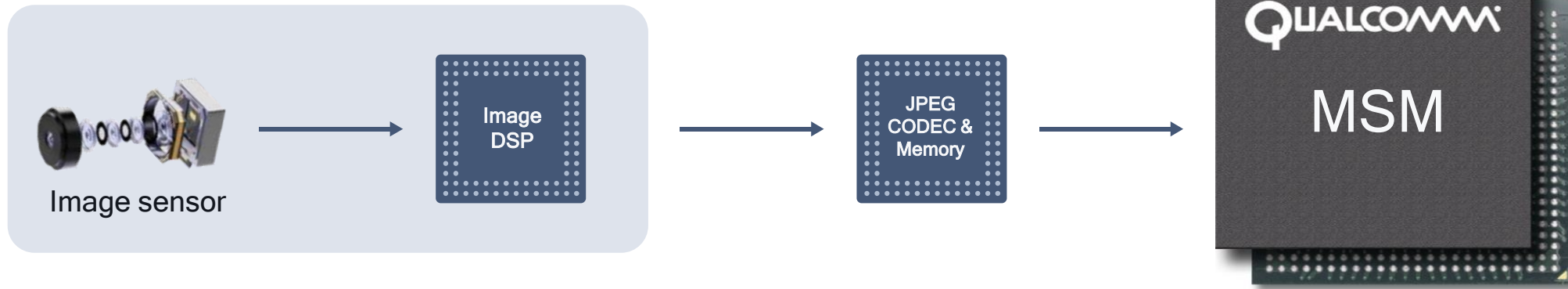


# 2002: Integration of camera?

At this time, camera image processing was embedded inside the camera module, while JPEG image compression was performed in an external chip

Packaged camera module

JPEG codec chip



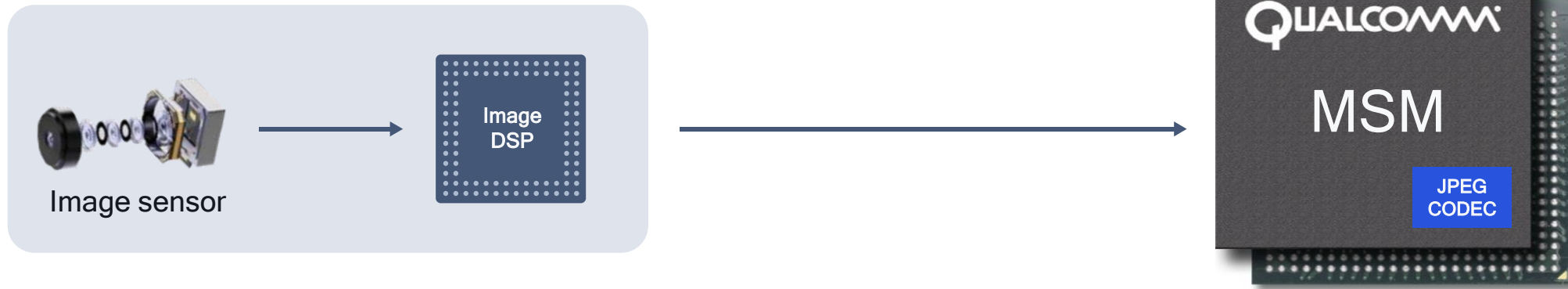
Camera modules were built by companies that built digital still cameras



# 2002: Integration of camera

Integration of the JPEG image compression was a natural first step

Packaged camera module



JPEG image processing standard could easily be handled by the MSM, and the integration saves both cost and board area

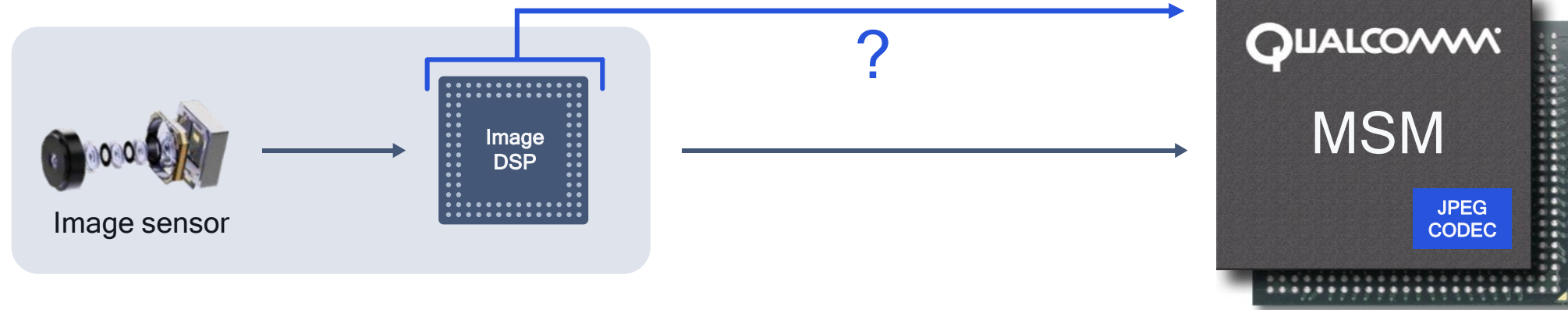
# 2002: Integration of camera?

Should we integrate the image processing as well?

## Rationale for integration:

1. Could be a popular feature because your phone (and therefore your camera) is always with you
2. Photo sharing is a good application to drive demand for wireless data services
3. Integrating the image processing will save cost, because the cost of the silicon in the MSM will be smaller

## Packaged camera module



Customer and vendor feedback was unfavorable

# 2002-2004: Integration of camera

Qualcomm culture motivated us to integrate the camera anyway



DSP-based



HW-based

## Rationale for integration:

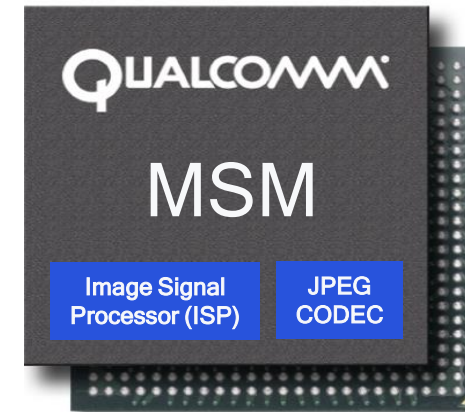
1. Could be a popular feature because your phone (and therefore your camera) is always with you
2. Photo sharing is a good application to drive demand for wireless data services
3. Integrating the image processing will save cost, because the cost of the silicon in the MSM will be smaller



Image sensor



1<sup>st</sup> integration of the camera  
ISP into a mobile chip



We started work on two designs:

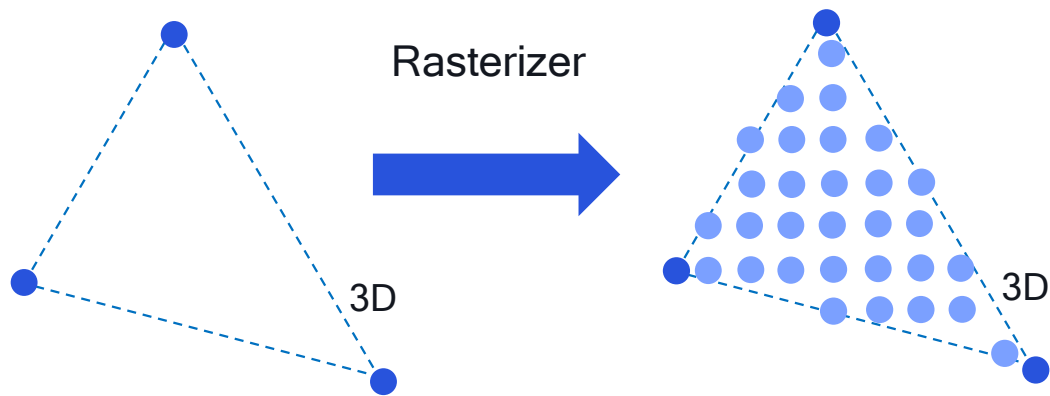
DSP-based (software) camera that supported 1.3MP images (MSM6500)

Hardware-based camera that supported 4MP images (MSM6550)

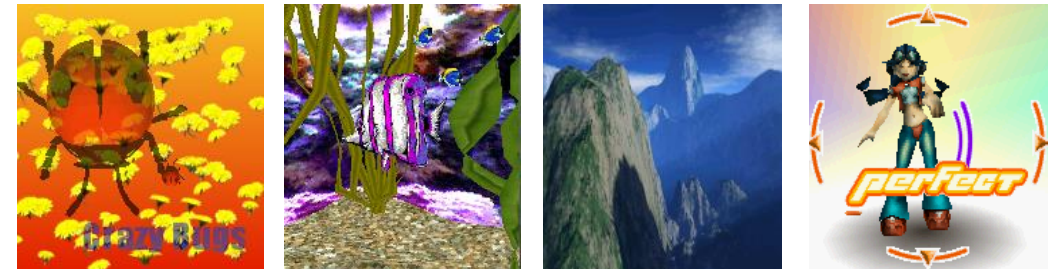
# 2002: Started work on 3D graphics

We thought people might want to play games on their phone during idle time

Learning 3D graphics from ground-up



Early demonstration content



We started building our knowledge of 3D graphics from scratch: transformation, lighting, shading, triangle rasterization, texturing, z-test, and more



# 2004: Integration of 1st graphics core

Our design coincided with the OpenGL ES API development in the Khronos Group



**QUALCOMM**  
CDMA Technologies  
Enhanced Platform

Targeted geometry performance to slightly exceed PlayStation 1



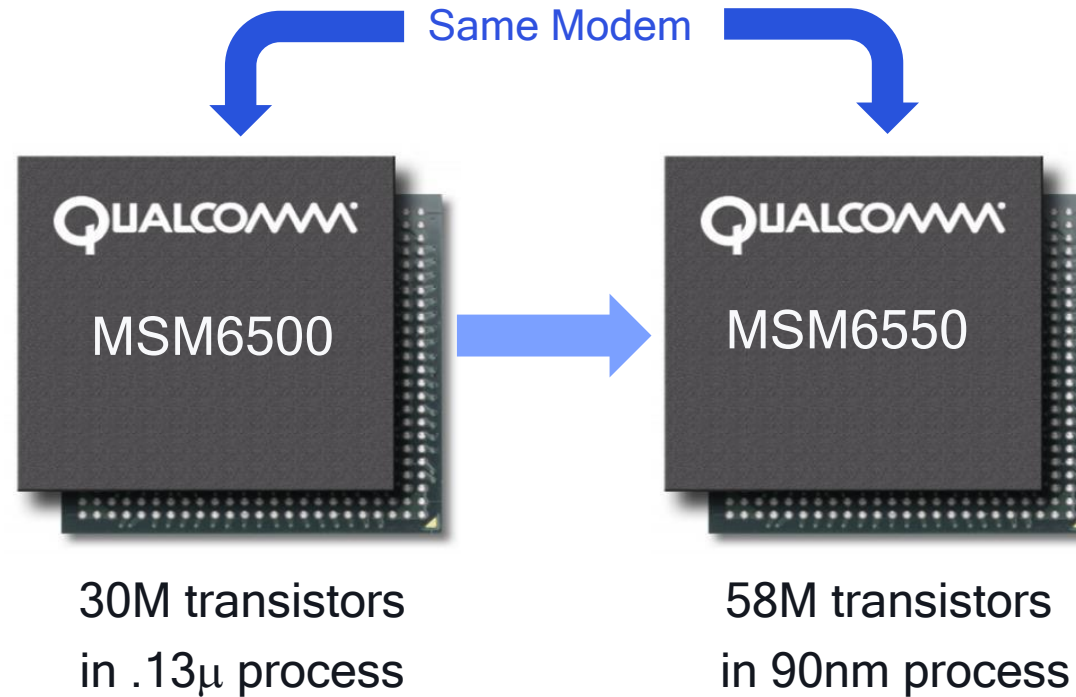
Some initial games we attracted to the platform

Game developers were interested because of the volumes of phones

# 2004: Integration of camera, video, and graphics hardware

MSM6550 was our first chip stressing multimedia capability (no change to the modem)

- cdma2000 1x, EV-DO, GSM/GPRS
- Combined 1x/EV-DO/GPS searcher
- DSP-based demodulation
- Direct-conversion RF front end
- DSP-based applications

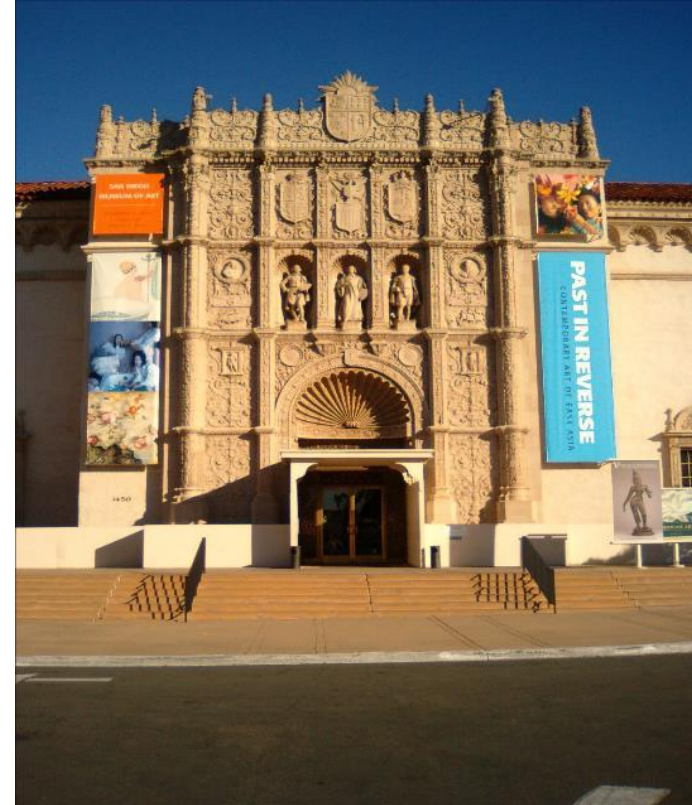


- Audio: MP3, AAC, AAC+ playback
- Camera: 4 MP snapshot
- Video: 30fps H.264 CIF playback
- Video: 15fps H.264 CIF recording
- Graphics: 100k triangles/s, 7MP/sec

New modem in MSM6500, added 1<sup>st</sup> multimedia hardware cores in MSM6550



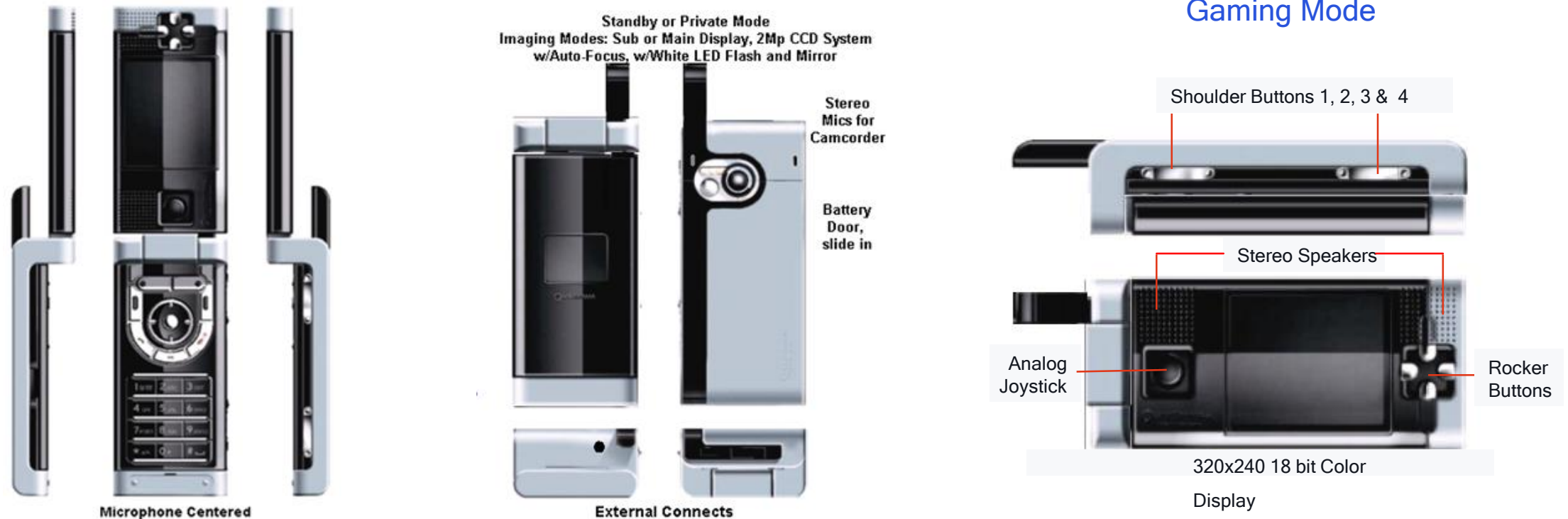
# 2005: Images from our 1<sup>st</sup> hardware-based camera



High-quality images built confidence in our camera solution and shifted the whole industry towards bare sensor modules plus baseband-integrated ISP

# 2004: Phone reference design for MSM6550

Dual display, 2MP camera with LED flash, stereo speakers, gaming controls, and more



A custom reference design to demonstrate our multimedia capabilities

# Examples of phones using MSM6x50 (around 2005)

Clamshell phones with 2-inch displays and 1.3-2.0 megapixel cameras



**Casio A5512CA (MSM6550)**  
2.2" QVGA Display (320x240)  
1.3 MP camera



**Toshiba W55T (MSM6550)**  
2.4" WQVGA Display (400x240)  
2 MP camera



**LGE U880 (MSM6250)**  
2" Mobile XGA Display (220x176)  
1.3 MP camera



**Samsung Z510 (MSM6250)**  
2" QVGA Display (320x240)  
1.3 MP camera

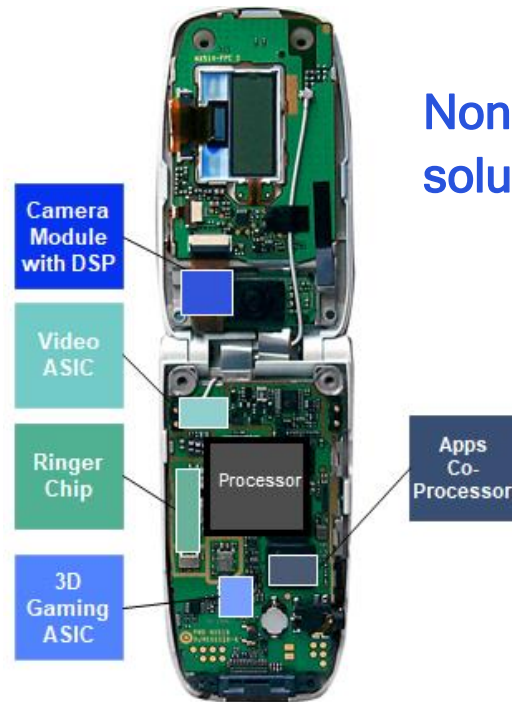
Many of these clamshell thin phones were trying to emulate the look and feel of the Motorola Razr v3



Motorola  
Razr v3

# Advantages of integration

Integration strategy was winning over customers



Non-integrated solution



Our highly integrated solution

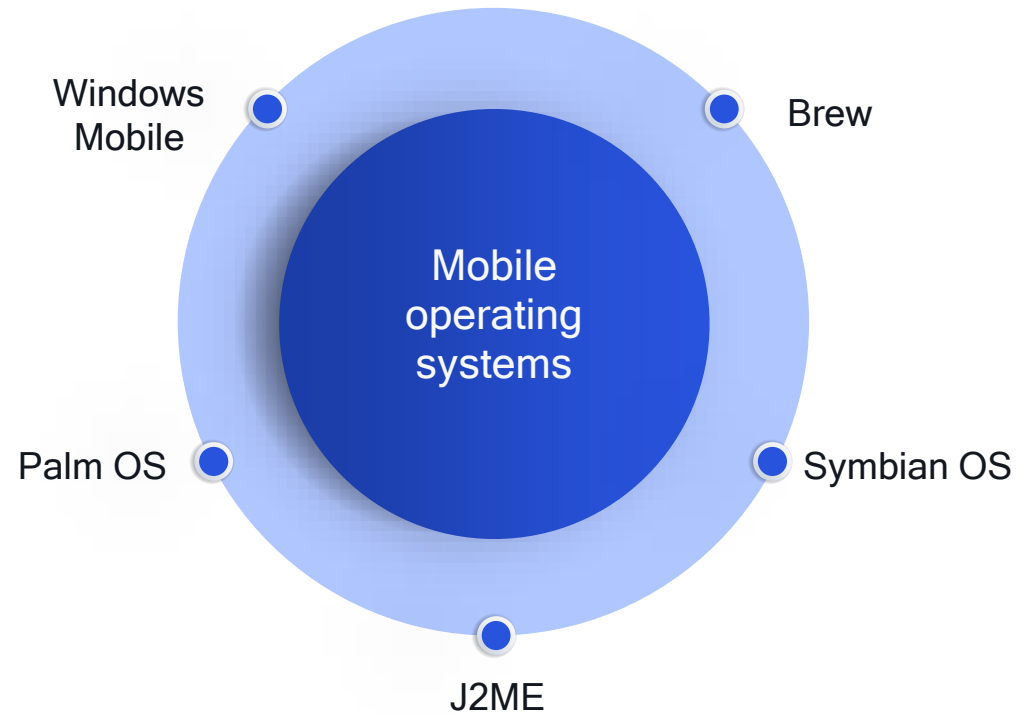
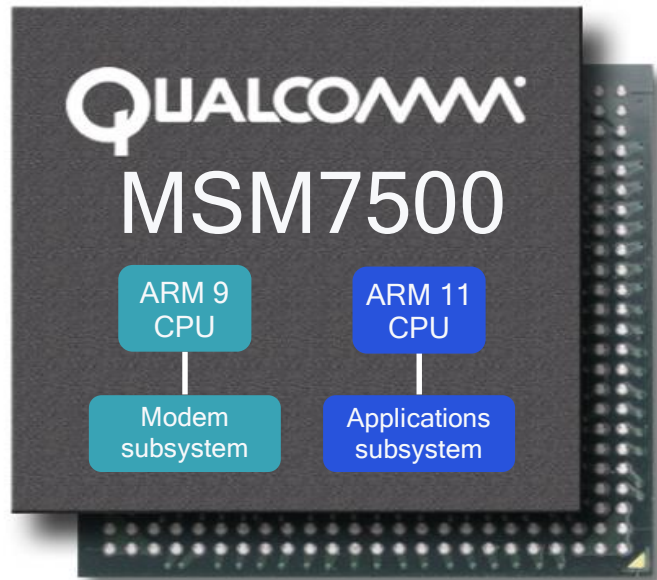
- Complete / integrated solution
- Lower device costs
- Faster time to market
- Proven interoperability

Lower silicon cost, fewer components, smaller board space allows sleeker form-factors and faster time-to-market



# 2005: Integration of 2nd CPU to support 3rd-party OS

MSM7500 was the first Qualcomm chip to separate the modem and applications subsystems



Need for an OS to manage all the applications and concurrencies

Multimedia: 6MP ISP, VGA-resolution video, and 1<sup>st</sup> Display Processor (MDP)

# Examples of phones using MSM7xxx (around 2008-2009)

3rd-party OS, 2.8" - 3" displays, 3MP cameras, often with pullout QWERTY keyboards

1<sup>st</sup> commercial Android device

1<sup>st</sup> Samsung Galaxy device



**Sony Ericsson Xperia X1 (MSM7200)**

Microsoft Windows Mobile 6.1 Pro  
3" WVGA Display (800x480)  
3 MP camera



**T-Mobile G1 / HTC Dream (MSM7201A)**

Google Android 1.6 (Donut)  
3.2" HVGA Display (320x480)  
3 MP camera



**Samsung I7500 Galaxy (MSM7200A)**

Google Android 1.5 (Cupcake)  
3.2" HVGA Display (320x480)  
5 MP Camera

Many 3rd-party operating systems in play, including Windows Mobile, Symbian, Apple iOS, Palm WebOS, Blackberry OS, and Android



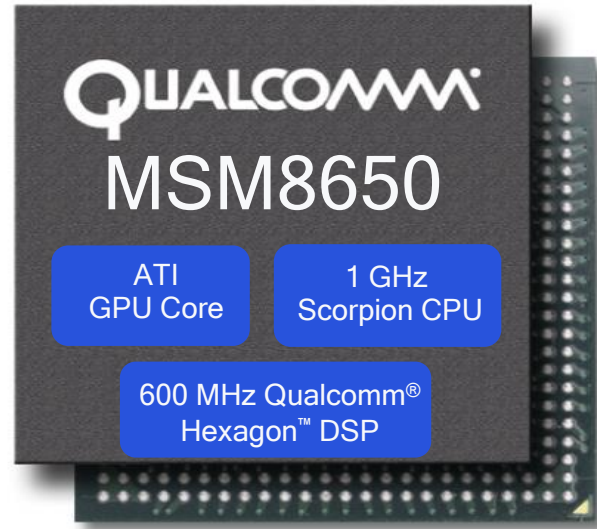
# 2007: Integration of 1 GHz CPU, 600MHz DSP, and ATI GPU

Qualcomm did a custom CPU implementation of the ARM v7 architecture

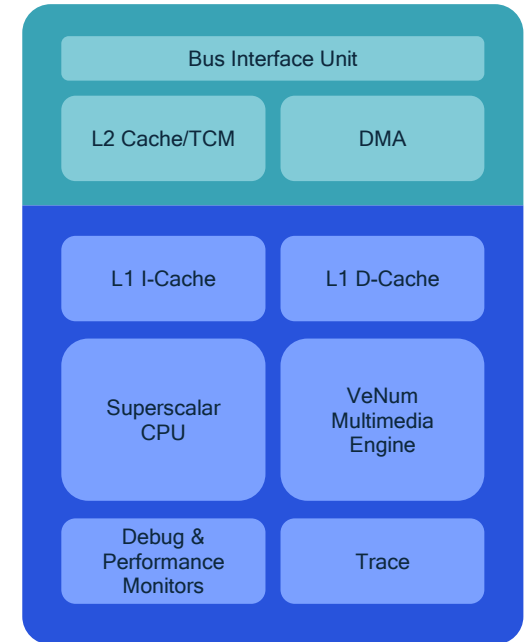
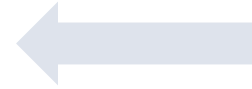


Xbox 360

Console GPU  
scaled down for mobile



Custom, internally-designed DSP



Scorpion CPU  
1<sup>st</sup> GHz ARM CPU

Qualcomm Hexagon is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

Phones became capable computing devices

# Examples of phones using MSM8x50 (around 2010)

Larger WVGA displays, higher megapixel cameras, touchscreen keyboards



**Toshiba TG01 (MSM8250)**  
Microsoft Windows Mobile 6.5  
4.1" WVGA Display (800x480)  
3 MP Camera



**HTC Google Nexus One (MSM8250)**  
Android 2.1 (Éclair)  
3.7" WVGA Display (800x480)  
5 MP camera



**HTC Droid Incredible (MSM8650)**  
Android 2.1 (Éclair)  
3.7" WVGA Display (800x480)  
8 MP camera

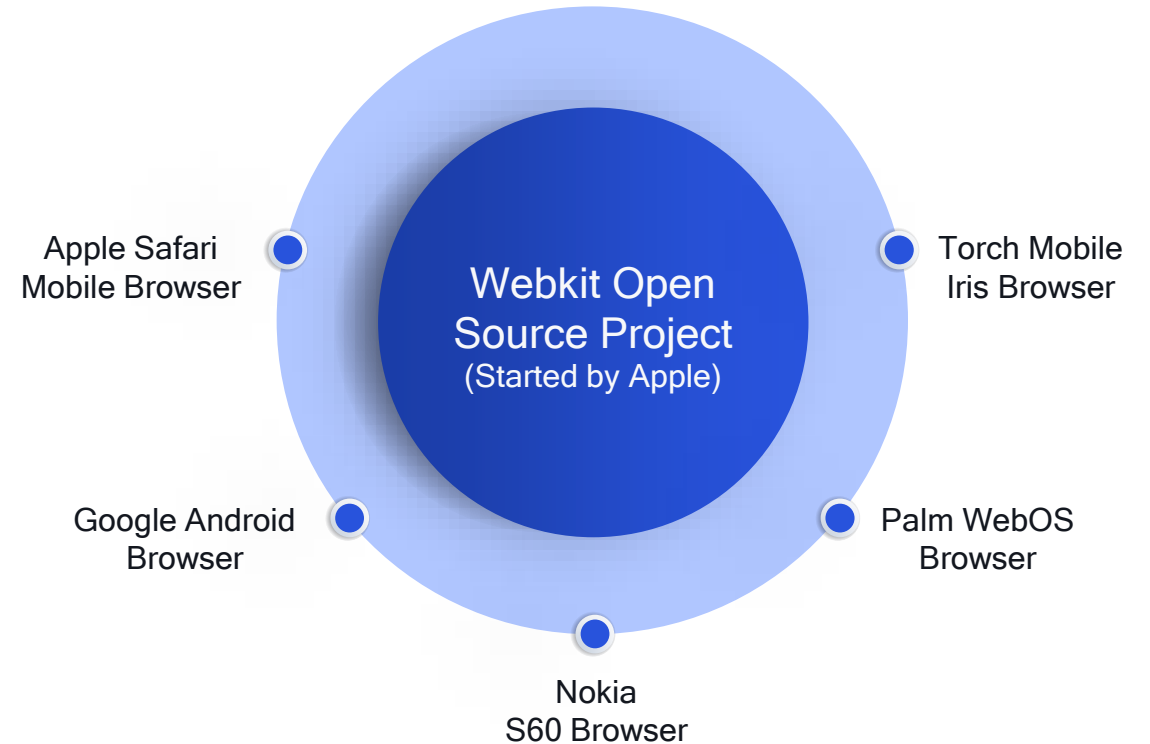
More GPU capability led to improved graphical user interfaces

# Fast CPUs and larger displays drove mobile browser usage

Users could access web information anytime: weather, stock quotes, travel schedules, ...



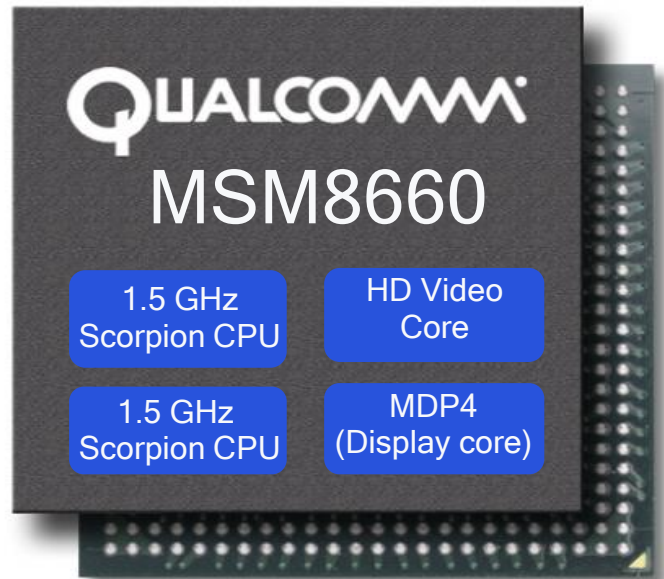
Webkit (open source browser engine) was used as a basis for many of the mobile browsers



We built a team to optimize Webkit performance on our chips

# 2009: Integration of high-definition video (1080p) capability

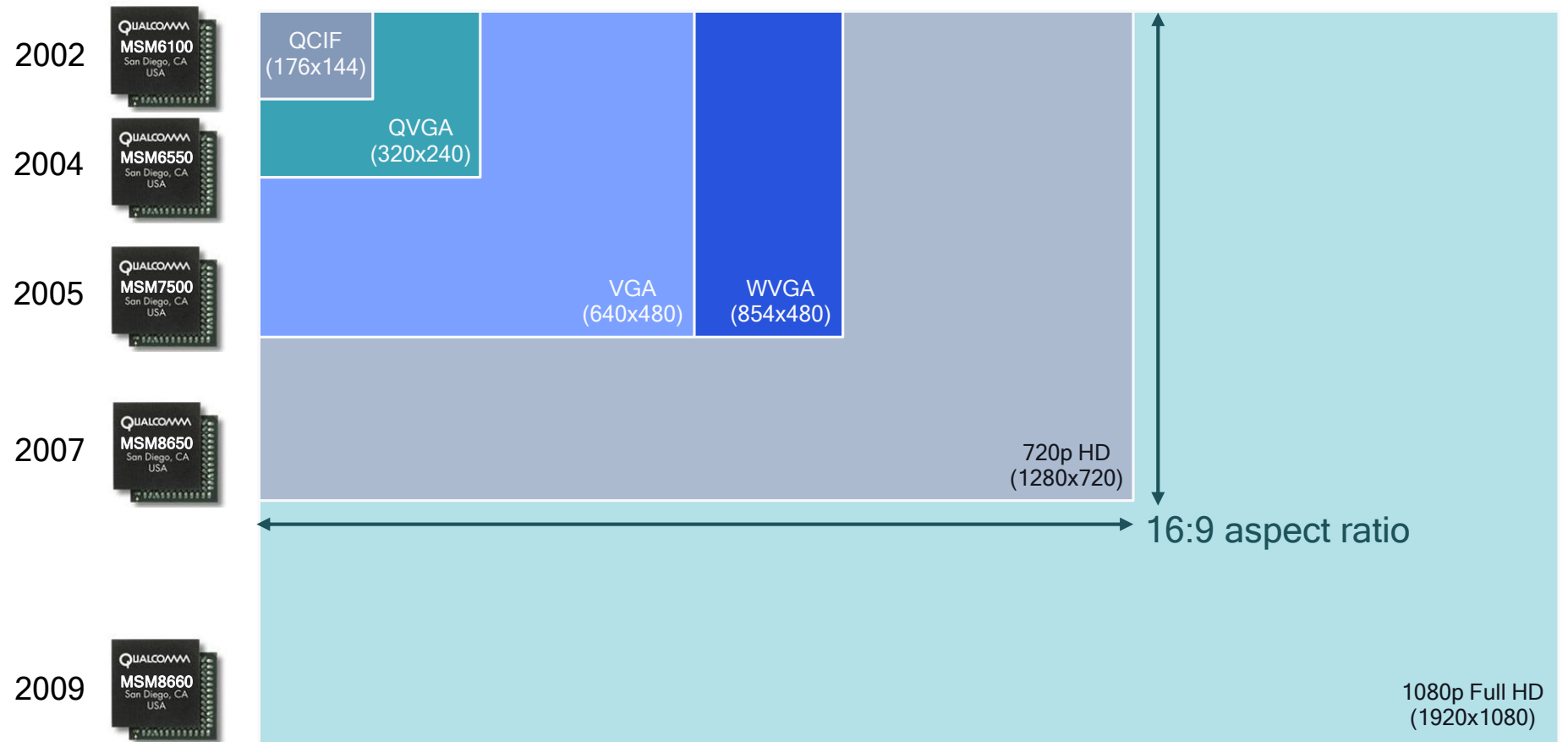
Also upgraded the display core (scaling, contrast enhancement) and interfaces (HDMI)



Encoding and decoding of video in full HD (1080p) resolution.  
New interfaces allow the phone to drive TV displays and monitors.

# Video playback resolution chart

> 80X increase in pixel resolution in less than 10 years



Another example of the expanding capabilities due to Moore's Law



# Examples of phones using MSM8660 (around 2011)

4-inch plus displays, 8-megapixel cameras, high-definition (HD) displays, 1080p video



## HTC Sensation (MSM8660)

Android 2.3 (Gingerbread)  
4.3" QHD Display (960x540)  
8 MP Camera, 1080p video



## Samsung Galaxy S II HD (MSM8660)

Android 2.3 (Gingerbread)  
4.65" HD Display (1280x720)  
8 MP camera, 1080p video



## LGE Optimus LTE (MSM8660)

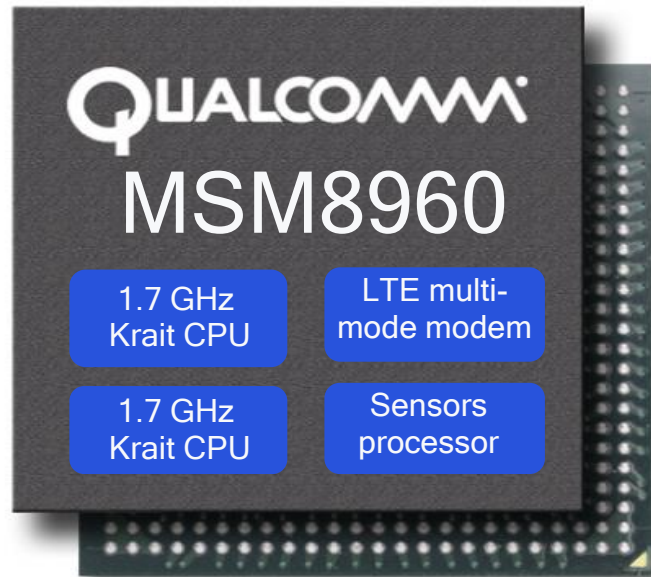
Android 2.3 (Gingerbread)  
4.5" HD Display (1280x720)  
8 MP camera, 1080p video

Capable multimedia: feasible to watch video on you phone



# 2011: Integration of LTE modem (4G)

Also integrated a Wi-Fi modem and a sensors processor



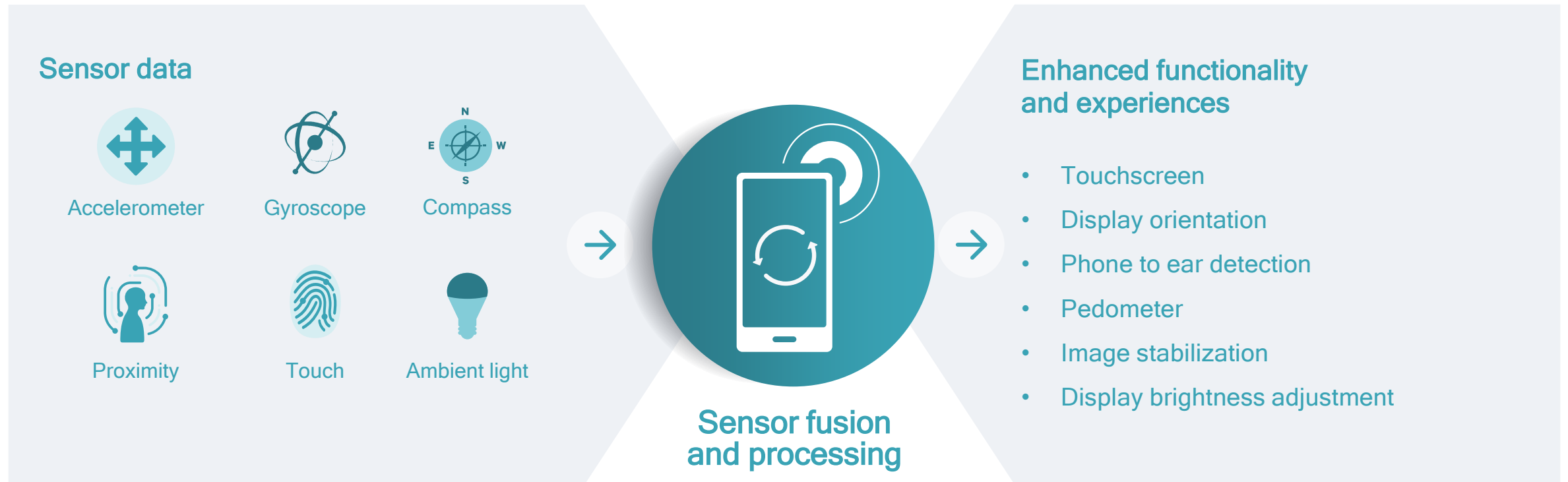
## MSM8960 Cellular Support

LTE FDD	100 Mbps DL / 50 Mbps UL (Cat. 3, 3GPP Rel. 9)
LTE TDD	68 Mbps DL / 17 Mbps UL (Cat. 3, 3GPP Rel. 9)
UMTS	DC-HSPA+ 42 Mbps DL (Cat. 24) / 11 Mbps UL (Cat. 8)
CDMA2000	1xAdvanced, EVDO Rev.B (14.7 Mbps DL / 5.4 Mbps UL)
GSM	GSM/GPRS/EDGE
TD-SCDMA	TD-SCDMA 4.2 Mbps DL / 2.2 Mbps UL

Supported all leading broadband standards in the world (world phone)  
Higher bandwidth, higher capacity allows more cost-efficient data plans

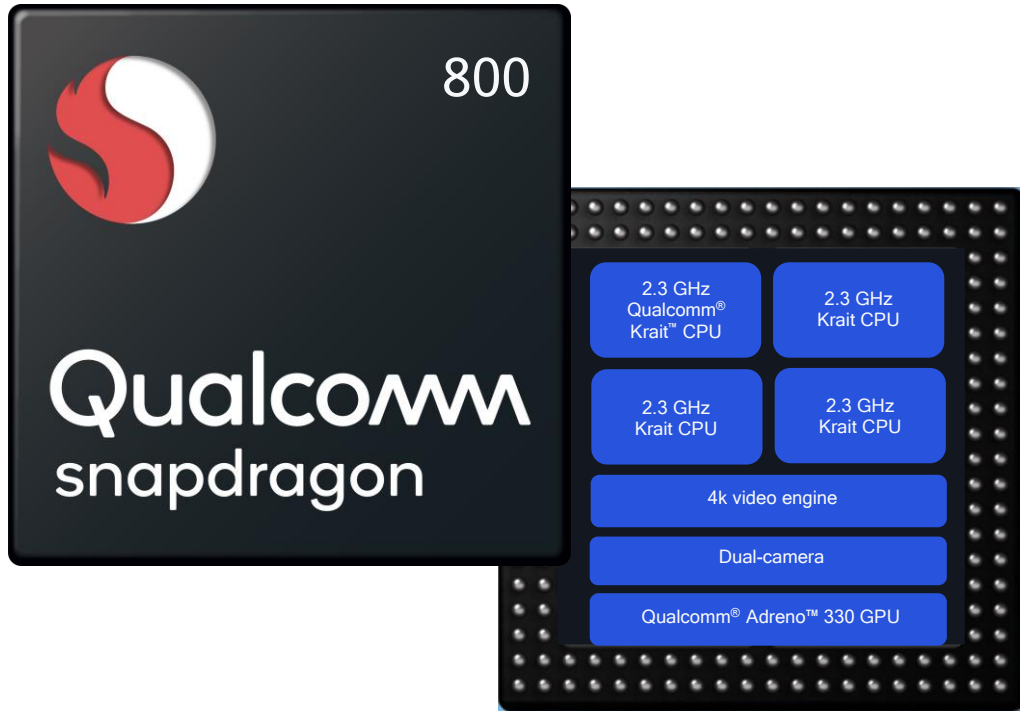
# 2011: Integration of sensors processor

Process sensor data at lower power (than the big CPU)

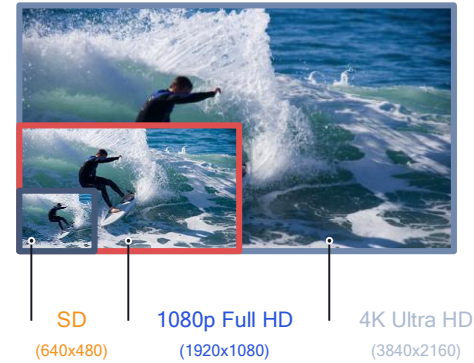


Use of sensors in the phone is growing rapidly

# 2012: Integration of quad-CPU, GPU shader core, 4k video



4k video capability



Dual-camera capability



GPU with fixed function pipeline



GPU with programmable shaders



Qualcomm Krait and Qualcomm Adreno are products of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Snapdragon chip provided a significant upgrade in multimedia capability and was hugely successful in the market

# Examples of phones using Snapdragon 800 (around 2014)

Full HD (1080p) or larger displays; larger resolution front and rear cameras



**LG G3 (Snapdragon 800)**

Android 4.4.2 (Kit-Kat)  
5.5" QHD Display (2560x1440) 538ppi  
13 MP rear and 2.1 MP front cameras

1<sup>st</sup> cellphone  
with dual  
camera



**HTC One M8 (Snapdragon 800)**

Android 4.4.2 (KitKat)  
5" FHD Display (1920x1080)  
4+4 MP rear and 5 MP front cameras



**Sony Xperia Z2 (Snapdragon 800)**

Android 4.4.2 (Kit-Kat)  
5.2" FHD Display (1920x1080)  
20.7 MP rear and 2.2 MP front cameras

Large displays with high pixel density and high-resolution cameras are key selling points

# Dual-camera experiences

## Depth

Instant autofocus range measurement



Segmentation with background modification



Re-focus



Bokeh



## Fusion

Low light enhancement



High dynamic range



## Zoom capability

Wide lens



Tele lens



Qualcomm Technologies was the 1<sup>st</sup> company to enable dual-camera capability



# Fast forward: Evolution of our premium tier to the present

Our premium-tier chip is updated every year



20nm process

14nm process

10nm process

10nm process

7nm process

7nm process

- Octa-core 64-bit CPUs
- Native 4k + external 4k display

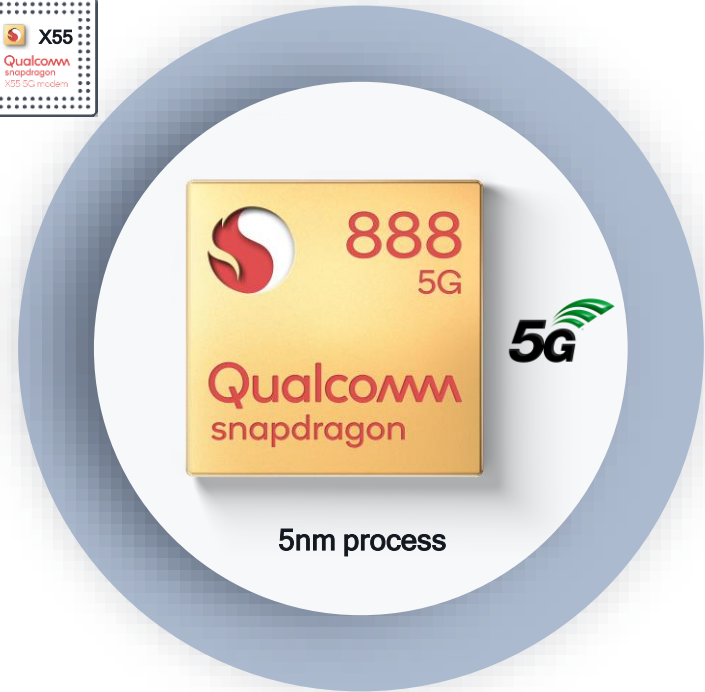
- 40% higher GPU perf
- Qualcomm® Quick Charge™ 3.0 Technology
- Added Galileo support
- Sensors power island

- 1 Gbps LTE modem
- 2.45 GHz Octa CPUs
- Up to 32 MP camera
- Integrated Wi-Fi

- 1.2 Gbps LTE modem
- 2.8 GHz Octa CPUs
- Camera noise reduction
- 802.11ad support

- 2.0 Gbps LTE modem
- HDR10+ support
- 1<sup>st</sup> computer vision engine
- AI tensor hardware engine
- Security processor

- 7.5 Gbps 5G modem
- Up to 200MP camera
- 8k video enc/dec
- Improved AI engine
- XR enhancements



- Integrated 5G modem
- Triple ISP
- Fused AI accelerator
- Variable rate shading
- Audio AI acceleration

Qualcomm Quick Charge is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

Each technology team is continually innovating and rolling their latest technology into the next chip

# Snapdragon 865-based phones: sleek and bezel-less with voice UI

All of these phones use our Qualcomm® Voice Activation for keyword detection



iQOO Neo3 5G  
Snapdragon 865



Xiaomi Mi10 Pro 5G  
Snapdragon 865



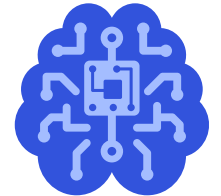
OnePlus 8 Pro  
Snapdragon 865



LG V60 ThinQ 5G  
Snapdragon 865



Bringing AI  
to the masses



Qualcomm Voice Activation is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

Audio power island in the chip enables always-on listening at low power.  
Audio algorithms have migrated to use machine learning.

# Premium-tier phones all have multiple cameras



## 20 Megapixel Front camera

108 Megapixel camera

20 Megapixel  
ultra wide-angle camera

12 Megapixel  
short telephoto camera

8 Megapixel  
Long telephoto camera

## Xiaomi Mi 10 Pro

- Snapdragon 865 with Android 10.0
- 6.47" FHD+ (2340x1080) display with 90Hz refresh
- Quad (108 + 20 + 12 + 8) rear cameras + 20 MP front camera



## 32 Megapixel Front camera

48 Megapixel  
camera

48 Megapixel  
ultra wide-angle camera

13 Megapixel  
telephoto camera

## OPPO Find X2 Pro

- Snapdragon 865 with Android 10.0
- 6.7" QHD+ (3168 x1440) display with 120Hz refresh
- Triple (48 + 48 + 13) rear cameras + 32 MP front camera

The dual-camera capability we pioneered has expanded to 3, 4, or even 5 cameras, which automatically switch between themselves as you zoom

# 8K video recording on smartphones for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in history

Snapdragon Mobile Platform-enabled smartphones can now:

- Produce 8K videos
- Produce 4K HDR videos with 1 billion colors
- Take up to 200 MP photos
- Share virtually anytime and anywhere with 5G



Chinese National Geography Magazine used Snapdragon 865 to capture wildlife and nature videos in China to promote sustainability

# Tremendous improvement in GPU performance



The GPU in Snapdragon 865 has roughly equivalent performance to the Xbox One, enabling console-quality games to be ported to mobile devices



# Mobile gaming is expanding rapidly



**Asus ROG Phone 3**

Snapdragon 865+ with Android 10.0  
6.59" FHD+ (2340x1080) Display  
(144Hz refresh)

External Fan



Game Pad



TwinView Dock



**Xiaomi Black Shark 3 Pro**

Snapdragon 865 with Android 10.0  
7.1" QHD (3120x1440) Display  
(90Hz refresh, 484 PPI)

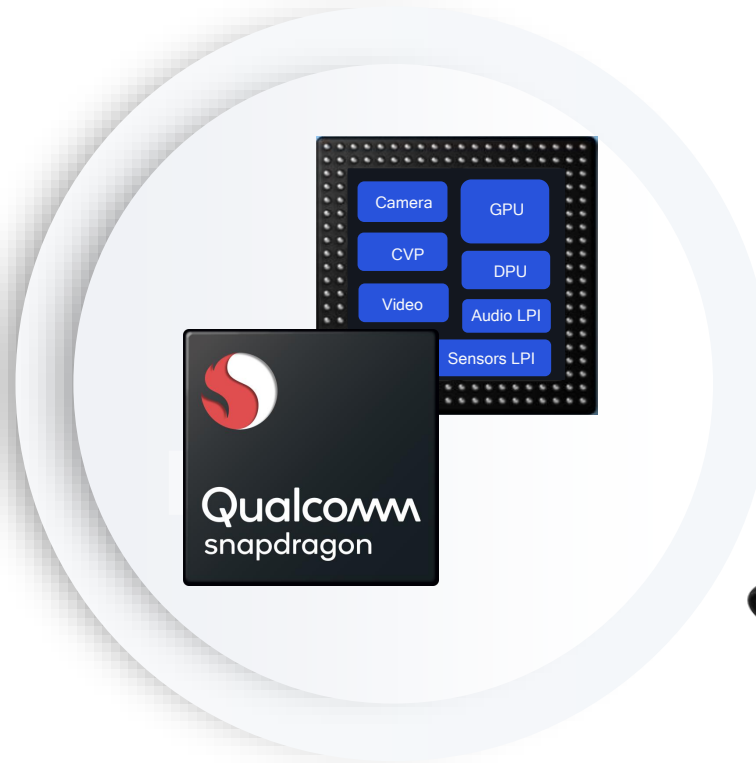
Several phones are being custom-designed for online gaming (controls, stereo speakers, haptics, high display refresh rates, thermal mitigation)

# Snapdragon is the world's leading Extended Reality (XR) platform

Oculus Quest



Oculus Quest 2



Glass Enterprise Edition 2



XRSPACE MANOVA



Nreal Light



HTC VIVE Focus Plus

Leading technologies and optimized system design make Snapdragon the leading AR/VR solution

AI capability  
on Snapdragon  
865



Real-time language transcription / translation on the device

# The cellphone has transformed from 1995 to 2020

The power of integration driven by Moore's Law

## Then (1995)

- 500nm process
- 1.4M transistors
- CDMA voice-only
- < 20 MHz Intel '186 CPU



Qualcomm  
QCP-800

## Now (2020)

- 7nm process
- ~ 10B transistors
- 7.5 Gbps 5G modem
- 2.84 GHz Octa-core CPU
- GNSS location services
- 4 rear, 1 front camera
- 8k video encode/decode
- Xbox One class GPU
- 4k display capability
- Always-on voice UI
- Sensors hub
- CV & AI acceleration engines
- XR optimizations







Xiaomi Mi 10 Ultra

... and a lot of ingenuity and vision from our engineers



# Thank you

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