



USC

EE533 Network Processor Design and Programming

Units: 3

Spring

Lecture: Tues/Thurs, 12:30 – 01:50 P.M.

Location: ZHS 352

Instructor: Young H. Cho

Office: EEB 114

Office Hours: Tues 11AM - 12PM

Contact Info: youngcho@isi.edu

Course Description

This graduate level course teaches students to design, implement, and demonstrate a working custom multiple core Network Processor on a SmartNIC installed in a multiple node network security testbed.

The students will have hands-on experience of building a unique custom processor from ground up demonstrating incremental functions of a network specific processor that they will integrate over semester.

The expected result of the final project is a working implementation of a novel networking solution for a real-world problem(s) running on your custom IP router with multiple-core/multiple threaded Network Processors and Hardware Acceleration modules in a realistic network environment within DETER testbed. The final project must be approved by the instructor before you begin the project. Working as a group is permitted, and a team can consist of up to 3 persons. The grade will be based on the demonstration of working system as well as the final project report that the students will submit at the last day of the finals.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how computer network packets are processed by network appliances
- Develop custom RISC ISA and the hardware that executes the instructions
- Develop component for hardware threads
- Develop hardware accelerator for processors
- Develop RISC V assembly code translator for custom processors
- Develop a RISC V compatible processor to process network packets
- Develop and integrate hardware accelerators to network processing
- Develop multiple core version of network processor

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: EE450, EE547, experience in Verilog, C/C++ programming language

Course Notes

Copies of all course notes will be posted on Blackboard.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Recent and seminal research publications and survey articles will be used to cover all preparatory materials during the semester. Other supplementary material includes online FPGA tool and Verilog tutorials and videos.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

There will be 10-12 homework assignments and 10-12 reading assignments for this course. For each reading assignment, the students will need to submit a slide deck

describing the summary of the content of the paper. Students will self-organize into teams of 1-3 students to work on each assigned homework assignments. Homework and final project submissions include required reports, slide presentations, and demonstration videos that will be graded for both content and clarity. All students are expected to participate in the final project class presentation. Throughout the course, there will be up to 5 quizzes that are designed to test students' understanding of the material discussed during the lectures. If needed, some parts of the final presentations may be held outside of normal class times.

Final Project Description

The final project will begin after the last homework assignment, typically at the end of 11th week, and will be in 4 phases. The first phase of the project is the proposal phase where each team will need to propose their final project to the instructor. After one-on-one discussions with the instructor, the proposal will be finalized. The second phase of the project is the practice presentation. For the practice presentation, each team will be required to give practice talk to the instructor to receive additional feedback. The third phase of the project is the final class presentation. The final presentations will be held during the last week of the lecture and all of the students are required to present portions of their project slide presentation. The last phase of the project is the submission of the final project demo video. Each team must produce and record the project demo video that integrates their presentation slides and recorded video demonstration of their work. Refined video must be uploaded to Youtube and the sharable link must be submitted by the last day of the finals week. All phases of the project will be graded for both content and clarity.

Grading Breakdown

Assignment	% of Grade
Reading Assignments	10%
Homeworks	30%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Final Presentation	10%
Final Project Report and Demonstration	40%
TOTAL	100%

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments will be submitted electronically. Late assignments will be accepted with 50% penalty unless otherwise announced.

Grading Timeline

Homework and midterms will be graded and returned within 2 weeks.

Additional Policies

None.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakown

Week-Day	Topics	Readings/Preparatio
1-1	Introduction to Network Processor Course	L. White, et al, "An Integrated Experimental Environment for Distributed Systems and Networks", OSDI 2002, Boston, MA, Dec 2002.
1-2	Computer Networks and Internet	
2-1	Measuring Computer Networks	P. Crowley, M. E. Fluczynski, J. L. Baer, and B. N. Bershad, "Characterizing processor architectures for programmable network interfaces," in Proceedings of the 14th international conference on Supercomputing, 2000, p. 54–65.
2-2	Computer Network Emulation and Network Security using DETERlab Testbed	
3-1	Digital Logic Design, Memory, and Parallel Architectures	Christopher Celio, Palmer Dabbelt, David Patterson, Krste Asanovic, "The Renewed Case for the Reduced Instruction Set Computer: Avoiding ISA Bloat with Macro-Op Fusion for RISC-V," UC Berkeley, July 2016.
3-2	Hardware Description Languages	
4-1	Field Programmable Gate Arrays and Their Microarchitecture	Y. H. Cho, "Optimized Automatic Target Recognition Algorithm on Scalable Myrinet/Field Programmable Array Nodes." 34th IEEE Asilomar Conference on Signals, Systems, and Computers, Monterey, CA, October 2000.
4-2	Hardware Accelerated Streaming Processing on FPGAs	
5-1	Reconfigurable Hardware in Emulation Environment	G. Watson, "NetFPGA: A Tool for Network Research and Education", 2nd Workshop on Architecture Research using FPGA Platforms (WARFP) February, 2006.
5-2	Introduction to SmartNICs	
6-1	Hardware Software Co-designing on NetFPGAs	A. Goodney, S. Narayan, V. Bhandwalkar, and Y. H. Cho, "Pattern Based Packet Filtering using NetFPGA in DETER Infrastructure," First Asia NetFPGA Developers' Workshop, Daejeon, Korea, June 2010.
6-2	Reference IP Router Design for NetFPGA	
7-1	Pattern Match based Network Monitoring and NetFPGA-specific Accelerators	Moscola, J. et al., "Reconfigurable Content-based Router Using Hardware-Accelerated Language Parser", ACM Transaction on Design Automation of Electronic Systems on Demonstrable Software Systems and Hardware Platforms, Volume 13, Number 2, April 2008.
7-2	Advanced Network Intrusion Detection System and NetFPGA Mini NIDS System	
8-1	Interface via Hardware and Software Registers	S. Azodolmolky, P. Wieder, and R. Yahyapour, "SDN-based cloud computing networking," in 2013 15th international conference on transparent optical networks (ICTON), 2013, pp. 1–4.
8-2	Essentials of Computer Architecture	

9-1	Introduction to Network Processors and Their Uses in Modern Cloud Infrastructures	M. Labrecque, J. G. Steffan, G. Salmon, M. Ghobadi, and Y. Ganjali, "NetThreads Routing Edition: Programming NetFPGA with Threaded Software." NetFPGA Developers' Workshop, 2009.
9-2	Multi-core Processor Architectures and Design and Method of Implementing on NetFPGAs	
10-1	Architecture for Hardware Multiple Threads and 4-Thread Design for NetFPGA Network Processor Designs	Final Project Specific Literatures
10-2	Advanced Network Processor Technologies	
11-1	SmartNICs for the Next Generation Cloud	Y. Le et al., "UNO: Unifying host and smart NIC offload for flexible packet processing," in Proceedings of the 2017 Symposium on Cloud Computing, 2017, pp. 506–519.
11-2	Integration with Interrupts and Exceptions and their Uses in NetFPGA	
12-1	Commodity Network Processors	Final Project Specific Literatures
12-2	Advanced Uses of Smart Network Interface Cards	
13-1	Custom Network Processor	A. Muhammad, G. Zervas, and R. Forchheimer, "Resource allocation for space-division multiplexing: Optical white box versus optical black box networking," Journal of Lightwave Technology, vol. 33, no. 23, pp. 4928–4941, 2015.
13-2	Introduction to White Boxes	
14-1	Software Defined Network on Smart NICs and White Boxes	McKeown, N. et al, "OpenFlow: enabling innovation in campus networks", ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review, vol. 38, New York, NY, April 2008.
14-2	Network Processing in Mobile Embedded Systems	
15-1	Final Project Presentation	Final Project Specific Literatures
15-2	Final Project Presentation	

Homework (Week #)

Report and Demo Videos for Each of the following Homework Assignment are Due 1 week after it is assigned

- 1 DETER Tutorial (week 1)
- 2 Advanced DETER Tutorial (week 1)
- 3 Network performance measurement and tuning in DETERlab (week 2)
- 4 Xilinx ISE/Verilog Tutorials (week 3)
- 5 Mini Network Intrusion Detection System Design (week 4)

- 6 Integration of Mini-NIDS on to NetFPGA in DETER (week 5)
- 7 Development/Demo of Custom RISC Pipelined processor on NetFPGA (week 6)
- 8 Adaptation/Demo of RISC-V Instructions into Custom RISC processor (week 7)
- 9 Special Network FIFO Design and integration with Custom Processor (week 8)
- 10 Custom Network Processor with Hardware Accelerator on NetFPGA (week 9)
- 11 Custom Multi-core RISC-V based Network Processor on NetFPGA (week 10)

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086
eetix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776
osas.usc.edu

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or otfp@med.usc.edu

chan.usc.edu/otfp

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.