

Intel Takes A Wrong Turn On Dual Core Highway

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Created 22/04/2005 - 3:34pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Friday 22nd of April 2005 03:34:32 PM Filed under [Hardware](#) [1]

On Monday, Intel unveiled its Pentium Extreme Edition 840 in order to be the fabled "first on the market." But even this was a change in plans, a panic-driven move riding on the rumor winds left by AMD's Opteron dual core series impending release on Thursday.

But the Opteron is for servers. Athlon series for desktop computing won't be released until next month.

According to various sources, the demand for multicores rests mainly in the server and workstation markets. Intel doesn't plan to release dual-core Xeon until 2006.

It seems Intel's boasting of "we were first" was a bit premature. In a month, there will be two desktops on the market with dual core processors, but only one dual core server processor. AMD will then have two chunks of the market, while Intel is still pregnant, awaiting the birth of Xeon in the next nine months.

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