

# 

# **CPU Toolchain** Launch Postmortem

# **Greg Bedwell**





x86-64 AMD "Jaguar" 8-core CPU

1.84 TFLOPS AMD Radeon™ based GPU

8GB GDDR5 RAM





http://llvm.org/devmtg/2013-11/



# postmortem noun

# "an analysis or discussion of an event after it is over"

Now that we have successfully launched PlayStation<sup>®</sup>4 it is a good time to look back on our initial period of development up to that point

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/postmortem



# First, some history...







SN Systems Ltd. was founded in 1988 to provide development tools for the games industry



16-bit home systems





Psy-Q included a version of GCC that was highly customized for the needs of game developers

```
1994 Psy-Q
```

PlayStation®





Continued to provide GCC but started researching a proprietary compiler technology – "SNC"

# **2000** *ProDG*

PlayStation®2



Provided SNC as part of the ProDG suite of tools although GCC was also available

# **2004** *ProDG*

PSP<sup>®</sup> (PlayStation<sup>®</sup>Portable)



Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. acquired SN Systems in 2005





Provided SNC as part of the ProDG suite of tools although GCC was also available

# **2006** *ProDG*

PlayStation®3













# Builds and build systems (and test systems)





Administrator: C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe - python regression\_suite.py --skip-run --platform PS4 --cflags="-O2 -g" --num-threads=100

#### SCE CPU Compiler Regression Suite (press Q to quit)

[7s]	vector4_class	[7s]	Papan Passing types5	[7:1]			
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17s1		17s1					
$12 \pm 1$							

. Q:1116, R:100, P:22, F:0, IgP:0, IgF:0, ABORT:0 Creating test set for platform 'PS4' Found 1230 tests (searched 2902 dirs) We wanted to make use of all of our pre-existing test suites and test systems, which are shared across all targets



Newest ←	Mar 07 04:11	Mar 05 12:13	Mar 04 18:53	Mar 04 16:25	Mar 01 03:40	Feb 28 17:13	Feb 27 17:13	Feb 26 13:22	Feb 24 21:39	Feb 24 18:51	Feb 14 22:39	Feb 14 17:42	Feb 14 15:13	Feb 11 23:37	
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	⇒aaaa¢aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa														







# **Sn**systems

# Clang configuration effect on game build time



(**sn**)systems





The same set of build configurations as we use for SNC

"Debug" for debugging

"Release" for releasing

"Checking" (Release+Asserts) for continuous integration testing

	Optimized	Assertions	Debug Info
Debug	×	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Checking	$\checkmark$		×
Release	$\checkmark$	×	×





	Optimized	Assertions	Debug Info
Debug	×	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Checking			
Release		×	





Suppress Windows crash dialog box for Checking and Release builds



# Improving test coverage







# For a new platform, the amount of code that exists is small





# we Users value know CORRECTNESS over all else



Things





# Why write **tests**

# when I can write a **test generator**?





# Why write **tests**

# when I <del>can write</del> a **test generator**? already have

















# Random input →


















# **Reducing optimization bugs**





# **bugpoint** Windows

### **Clang integration**





### An alternative approach







\*Not representative of actual visuals

# SNC's max\_opts







# SNC's max\_opts





# SNC's max\_opts





# SNC's max\_opts





# SNC's max\_opts





# SNC's max\_opts



# SNC optimizer SSA Form Rule Based

Every transformation is guarded by a specific check

#### PlayStation

**SNC's** 

max opts

SNC keeps an internal counter of the number of transformations it performs



#### if (/\* conditions match \*/ &&

Opt\_Enabled(permute\_converted\_to\_opscalartovector))

··Trace\_Opt(permute\_converted\_to\_opscalartovector);
··/\*·Perform·optimization·\*/

Allows the user to specify a limit on the command line after which no further transformations can be performed







# SNC's max\_opts







# SNC's max\_opts



-02







# SNC's max\_opts





# SNC's max\_opts





We've found the game source file with the bad transformation

#### PlayStation.

**SNC's** 

max\_opts





























# SNC's max\_opts



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Ready	Difference 1 of 5



#### Narrowed down to a single difference in IR

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Scroll to the next difference Difference 4 of 5	



#### A question for the community:

Would this work in LLVM/Clang? (even if just at pass level)

SNC's max\_opts



# The release process





#### End-user documentation is lacking

# **Release notes** aimed at Clang/LLVM developers, not users



Docs





# We plan to **contribute** our documentation improvements to the **community**



### Docs





### e our vements



# Forward compatibility












### Maintaining a stable ABI is a



(including maintaining existing ABI bugs)

PlayStation.

ABI

#### Administrator: C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpackt\_aq.c (322 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpackt\_an.c (323 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpackt\_ar.c (324 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpzbft\_aa.c (325 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpzbft\_ab.c <326 of 366> PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpackt\_as.c (327 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_1 00000.c (328 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpzbft\_af.c (329 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpzbft\_ac.c (330 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpzbft\_ad.c (331 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_2\_00000.c (332 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/PACKED/T\_Bpzbft\_ae.c <333 of 366> PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_80804.c (334 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00002.c (335 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00000.c (336 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00005.c (337 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_000003.c (338 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00001.c (339 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00006.c (340 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00010.c (341 of 3665 PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00011.c (342 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_80007.c (343 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_000009.c (344 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00008.c (345 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00012.c (346 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00014.c (347 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00015.c (348 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00013.c (349 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00016.c (350 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00017.c (351 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00019.c (352 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_00.c (353 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_3\_00018.c (354 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_09.c (355 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_17.c (356 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_15.c (357 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_31.c (358 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_33.c (359 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_63.c (360 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_32.c (361 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_16.c (362 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_64.c (363 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_01.c (364 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_00.c (365 of 366) PASS: SN C++ IA64 ABI Tests :: struct\_layout\_tests/test\_bitfield\_07.c (366 of 366) Testing Time: 1232.96s Expected Passes : 350 expected Failures : 1 Insupported Tests : 15

We have created a full IA64 ABI test suite

 $\Delta O \times \Box$ 

(**sn**)systems



## TEST SUITE

ABI

# We hope to **contribute** our test suite to the **community**

(some logistics still to be worked out)





# Developer reaction



### **Developer Toolchain for**

## 

Paul T. Robinson Sony Computer Entertainment LLVM Dev Meeting, 7 Nov 2013

### Game Developers Love It!

"Toolchain is really nice, **link time is ~10 seconds**, **versus 2-4 minutes** on PC." --Sammy Fatnassi, Eidos Montreal

"The quality of diagnostics is also incredible! It's as pretentious as Google Search when it comes to correcting typos for us and that's a good thing." --Jean-François Marquis, Ubisoft **sn**systems

Came Developers Love It! Quotes from 3<sup>rd</sup>-party studios (not SCE): "Clang for PS4™ is a huge improvement over GCC for PS3™. The same codebase (more color)

PS3<sup>™</sup>. The **Same codebase** (more or less) on the same hardware **went from ~25** minutes to ~1.5 minutes. Clang's **improved warning and error messages** also pointed us to some very questionable legacy stuff."

#### PlayStation.

P



### But...





# Most requested feature by an order of magnitude

and already supported by all the other major compilers



This is the most common use-case:







#### void CriticalToPerformance() {

. . . .

#pragma optimize off
void MaybeHasABugInIt() {

#pragma optimize on

Solution: use a pragma to selectively disable optimization on a small set of functions to be debugged

void AlsoCriticalToPerformance() {

We proposed this on the mailing lists, but it is a major change and we got a limited response



<pre>void CriticalToPerformance() {</pre>	
<pre>}attribute((optnone)) woid_MaybeHasABugInIt();{</pre>	Short term solution: function level attribute to disable optimization
····	
}	Not user-friendly for more than a very
<i>void</i> AlsoCriticalToPerforman	<pre>small number of functions at a time!</pre>
}	

#if SNC ...#define OPT\_OFF ... #define OPT\_ON ... #elif GCC #define OPT\_OFF ... #define OPT\_ON ... #elif MSVC #define OPT\_OFF ... #define OPT ON ... #elif CLANG ···;,-( #endif

**sn**systems

Many of our users abstract this away behind a compilerindependent interface. Function attribute does not fit this model!

We still need a rangebased solution



## In summary





### Our initial experience with Clang and LLVM has been very positive

## Thanks to all of you who helped make Clang and LLVM great!



### There are still **improvements**

### that can be made...

# We will be working alongside you to make them