

# Make A Right Choice -NAND Flash As Cache And Beyond

Simon Huang  
Technical Product Manager

[simon.huang@supertalent.com](mailto:simon.huang@supertalent.com)  
Super Talent Technology

December, 2012

Release 1.01

# Legal Disclaimer

- **INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH SUPER TALENT™ PRODUCTS. NO LICENSE, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, BY ESTOPPEL OR OTHERWISE, TO ANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IS GRANTED BY THIS DOCUMENT. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUPER TALENT'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE FOR SUCH PRODUCTS, SUPER TALENT ASSUMES NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER, AND SUPER TALENT DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY, RELATING TO SALE AND/OR USE OF SUPER TALENT PRODUCTS INCLUDING LIABILITY OR WARRANTIES RELATING TO FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, MERCHANTABILITY, OR INFRINGEMENT OF ANY PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT.**
- Super Talent may make changes to specifications and product descriptions at any time, without notice. Super Talent may have patents or pending patent applications, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights that relate to the presented subject matter. The furnishing of documents and other materials and information does not provide any license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any such patents, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights. Designers must not rely on the absence or characteristics of any features or instructions marked “reserved” or “undefined.” Super Talent reserves these for future definition and shall have no responsibility whatsoever for conflicts or incompatibilities arising from future changes to them. Contact your local Super Talent sales office or your distributor to obtain the latest specifications and before placing your product order. Copies of documents which have an order number and are referenced in this document, or other Super Talent literature may be obtained by visiting Super Talent's website at <http://www.supertalent.com>. Super Talent™ is a trademark or registered trademark of Super Talent or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.
- Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others

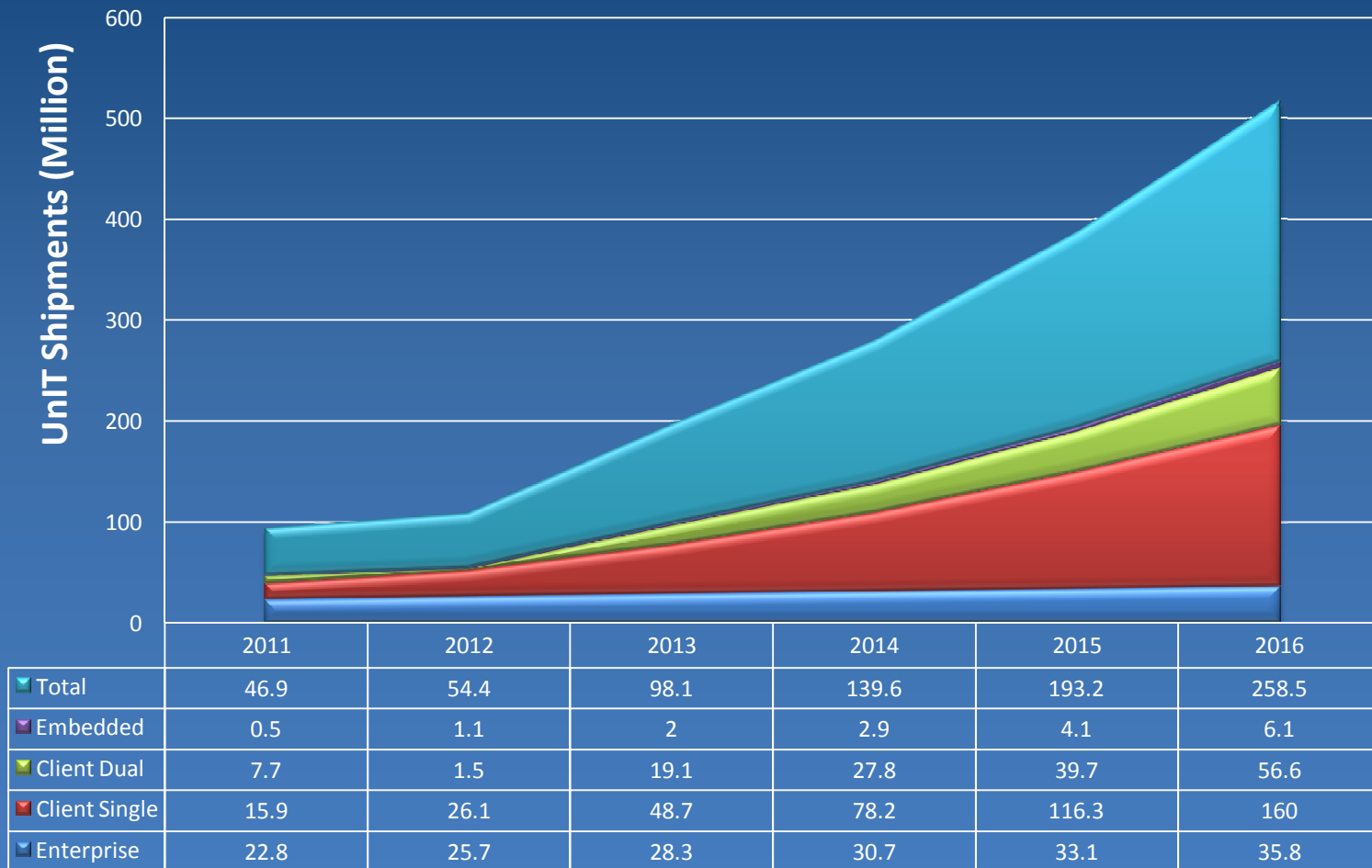
# Where can we use NAND Flash?



**Everywhere in Computing**

# SSD Unit Shipment Forecast

## Worldwide SSD Unit Sales



Source: Objective Analysis Data, 2012

# What is Cache ?

- A **cache** is simply a copy of a small data segment residing in the main memory
- Fast but small extra memory
- Hold identical copies of main memory
- Lower latency
- Higher bandwidth
- Usually several levels (1, 2 and 3)

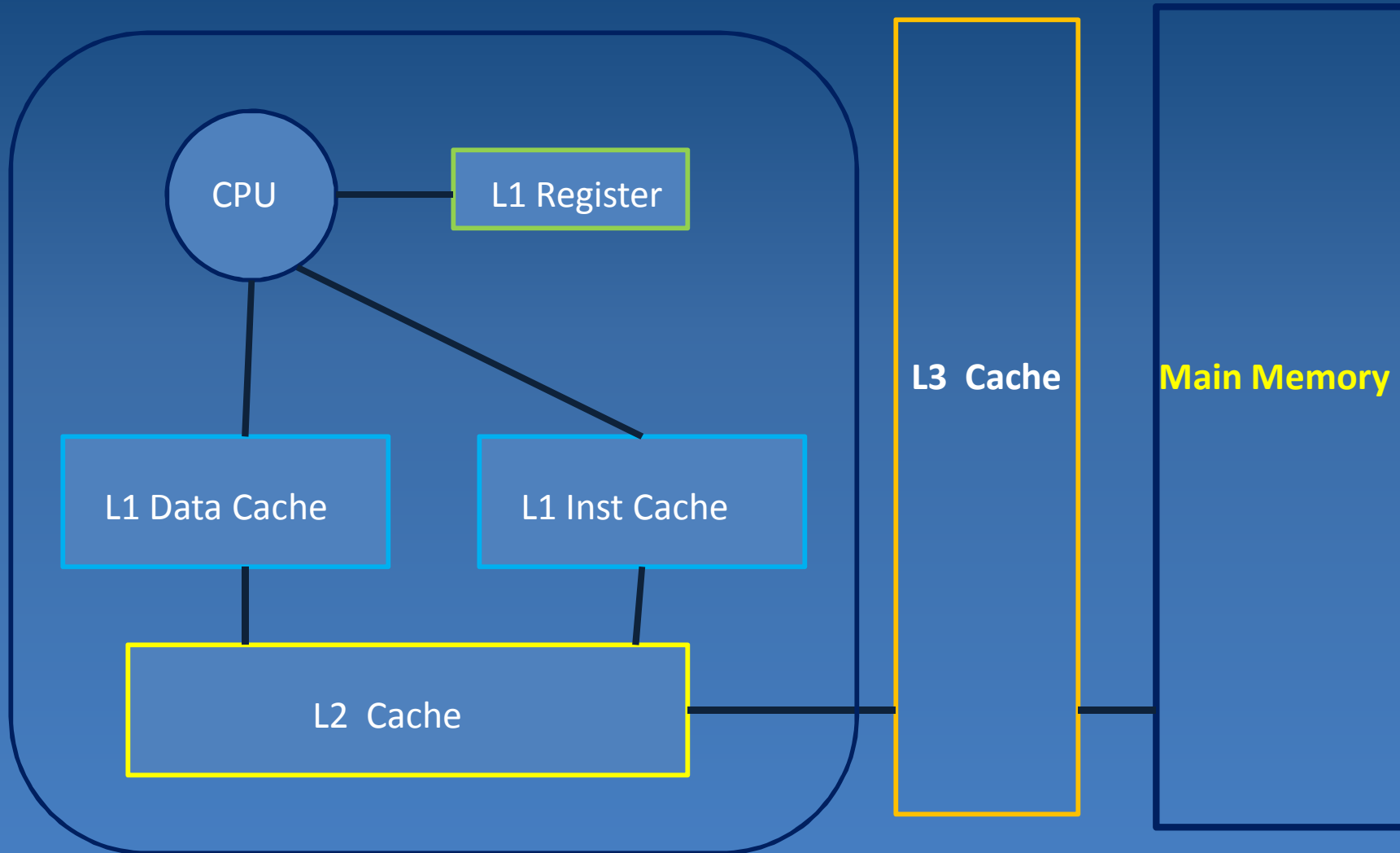
# Why cache is so important?

- Old days: CPUs clock frequency was the primary performance indicator.
- Microprocessor execution speeds are improving at a rate of 50%-80% per year while DRAM access times are improving at only 5%-10% per year.
- If the same microprocessor operating at the same frequency, system performance will then be a function of memory and I/O to satisfy the data requirements of the CPU.

# Types of Cache and Its Architecture:

- There are **three types** of cache that are now being used:
  - One on-chip with the processor, referred to as the "Level-1" cache (**L1**) or primary cache
  - Another is on-die cache in the SRAM is the "Level 2" cache (**L2**) or secondary cache.
  - **L3** Cache
- PCs and Servers, Workstations each use different cache architectures:
  - PCs use an **asynchronous cache**
  - Servers and workstations rely on **synchronous cache**
  - Super workstations rely on pipelined **caching architectures.**

# Typical Cache Configuration





# How Cache is Used?

- Cache contains copies of some of Main Memory
  - those storage locations recently used
    - when Main Memory address A is referenced in CPU
    - cache checked for a copy of contents of A
  - if found, cache hit
    - copy used
    - no need to access Main Memory
  - if not found, cache miss
    - Main Memory accessed to get contents of A
    - copy of contents also loaded into cache

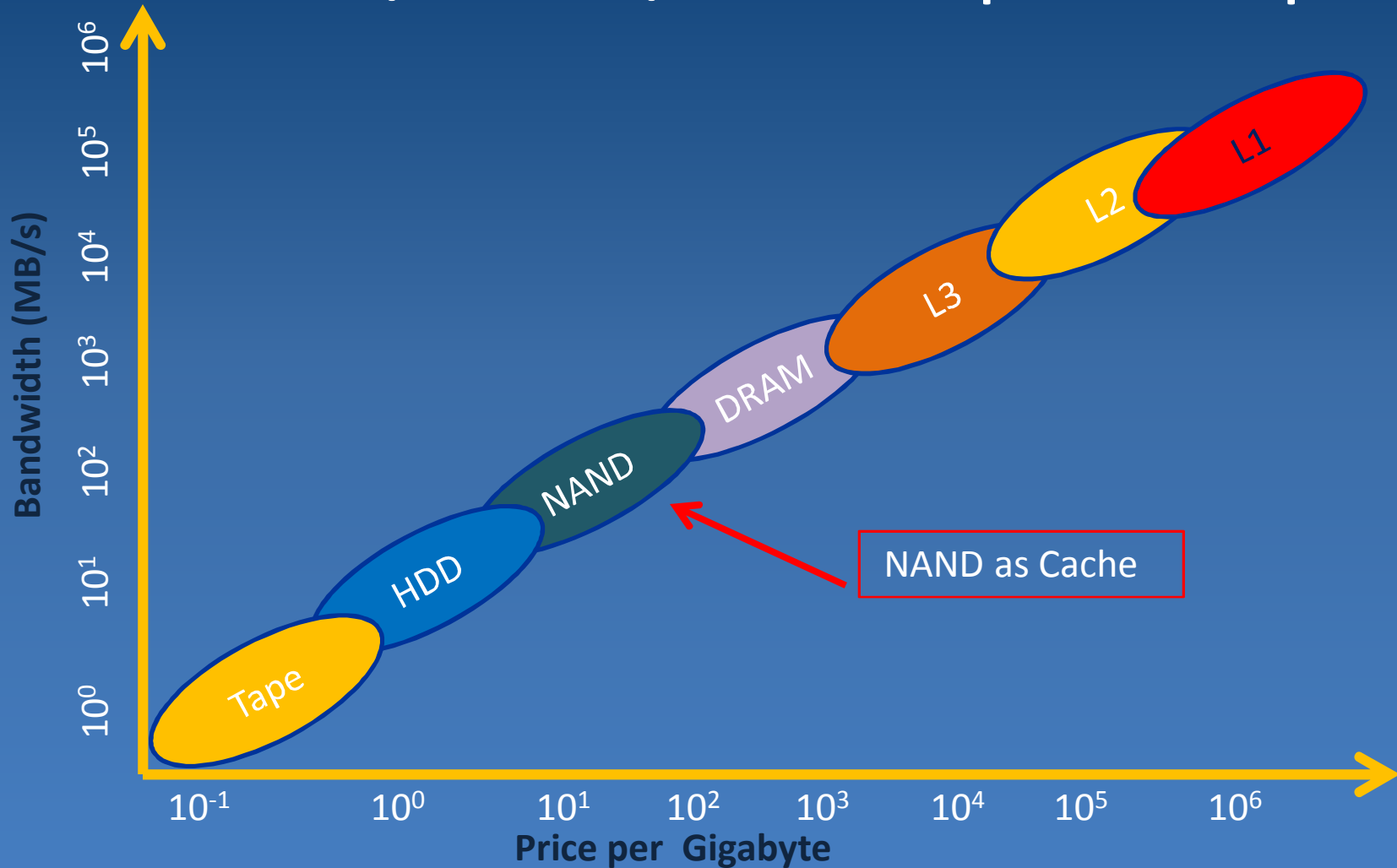
## Why needs Cache ?

- Due to increasing gap between CPU and main Memory, small SRAM memory called L1 cache inserted.
- L1 caches can be accessed almost as fast as the registers, typically in 1 or 2 clock cycle
- Due to even more increasing gap between CPU and main memory, Additional cache: L2 cache inserted between L1 cache and main memory : accessed in fewer clock cycles.

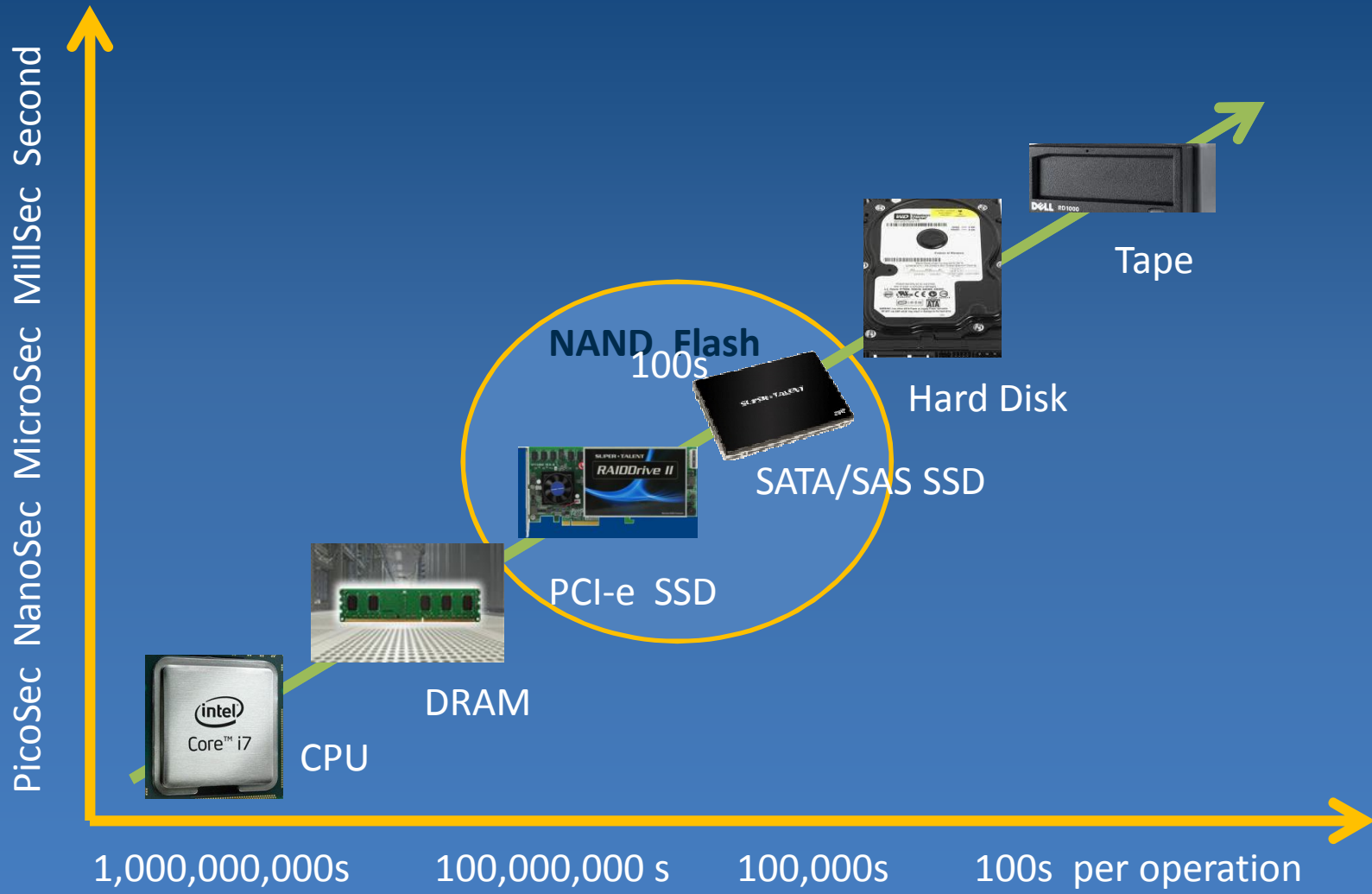
## Why needs Cache (continue) ?

- L2 cache attached to the memory bus or to its own cache bus
- Some high performance systems also include additional L3 cache which sits between L2 and main memory . It has different arrangement but principle same.
- The cache is placed both physically closer and logically closer to the CPU than the main memory.

# The HDD/NAND/DRAM Speed Gap

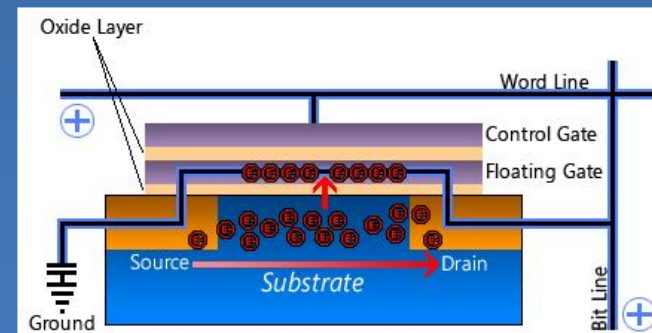
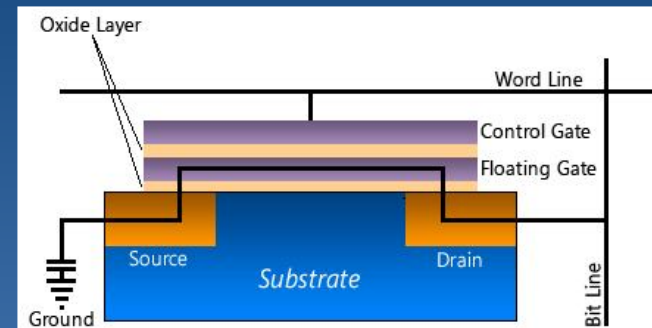


# CPU/Memory/NAND/HDD evolution



# Keys to Consider using NAND

- Performance
- Capacity
- Bits per Cell
- Number of Write/Erase Cycles (Endurance)
- Data Retention
- Cost
- Cell Size/Lithography



## Why NAND flash as cache so important?

- Increasing IOPS up to 20% to 30%
- Improving average response time up to 20%
- Less power up to 30% to 40%
- Lower storage cost up to 45% per TB

# NAND flash Caching Architectures

Server



Flash On Server  
Closest to CPU  
Lowest latency

Network



Good for Cluster Servers

Storage



Flash on Storage  
Controller

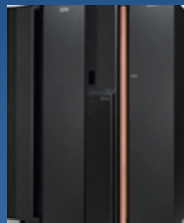


# Google Data Center



# NAND flash as Cache In Data Center

Server Level



- \* PCI-e SSD on the Host
- \* SAS/SATA SSD on the Host

Controller Level



- \* Flash Cache

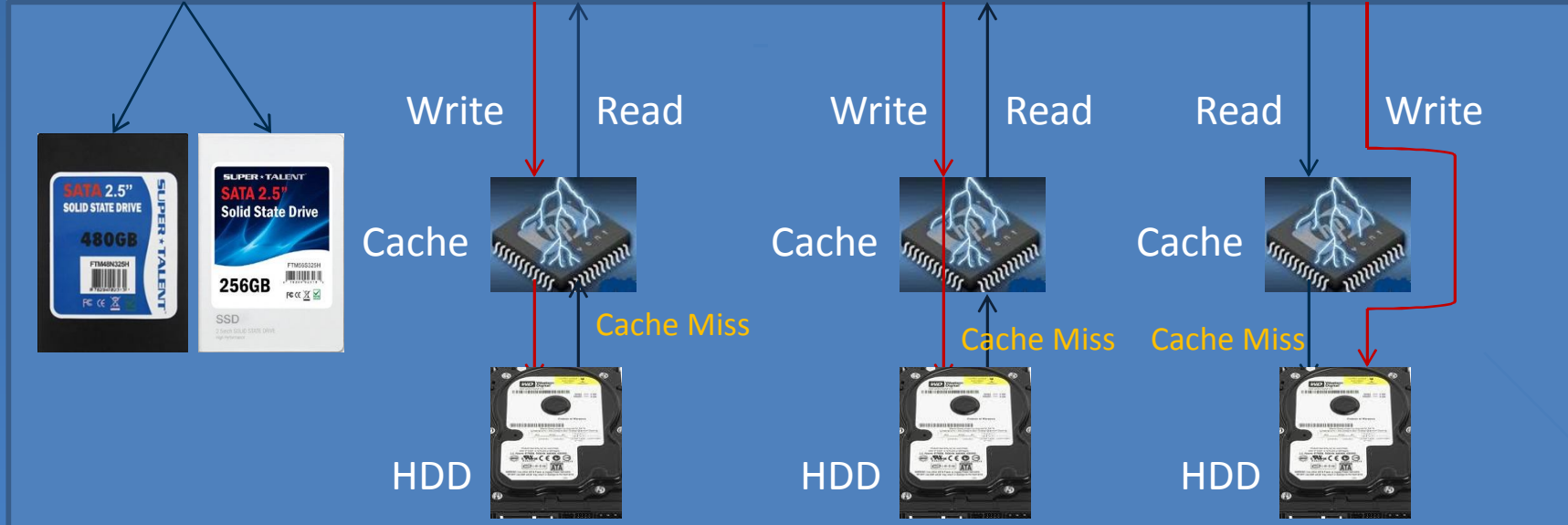
Disk Array Level



- \* Flash Array Pool
- \* Flash as Cache

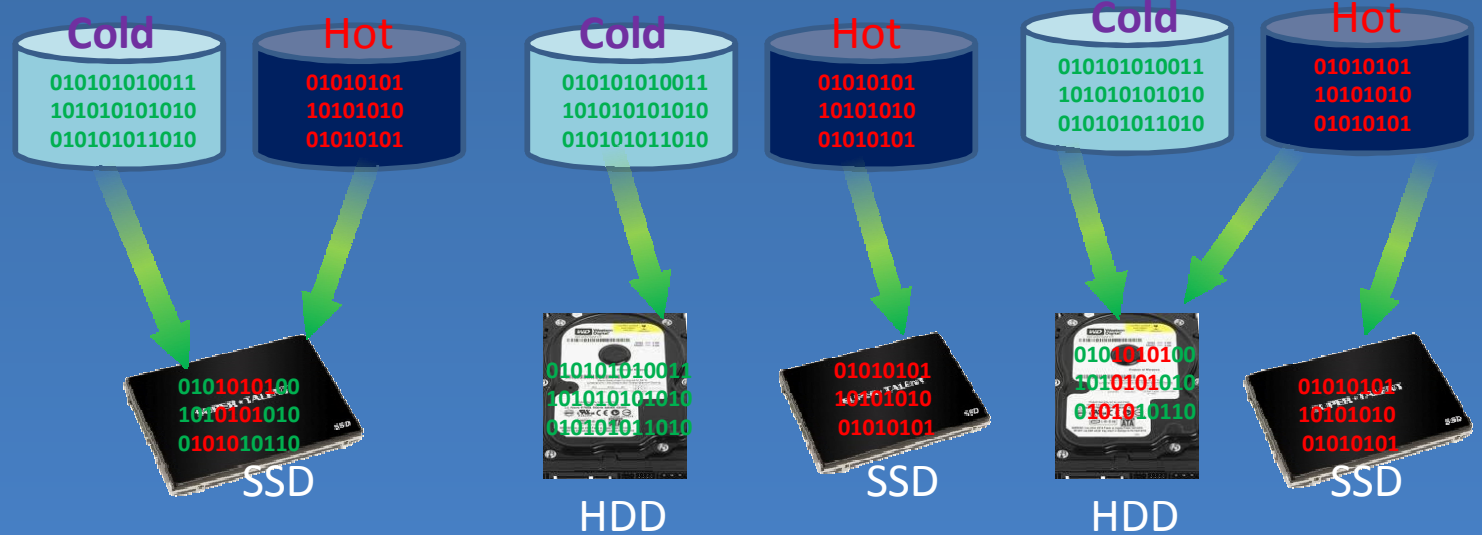
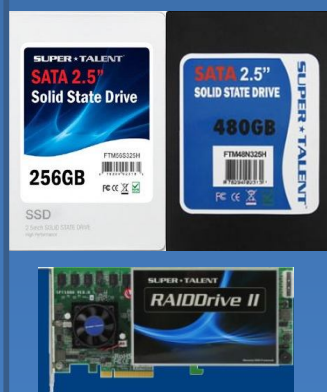
# Cache Write Policy

Policy	Write Back	Write Through	Write Around/ Read only
Store operation	Write to SSD 1st then copy to HDD	Write to SSD and HDD at the same time	No write to SSD
Data protection	Data loss risk if write to SSD failure	Yes	Yes
Performance	Middle	Low	High if Read Intensive
Application	Data Mining Searching TeraDrive/SuperNova SATA III SSD	OLPT TeraDrive/SuperNova SATA III SSD	Database/Wed Searching TeraDrive/SuperNova SATA III SSD
STT Solutions			



# Data Placement Strategy

Strategy	Primary Storage	Tiering Storage	Caching
Capacity Usage	All	Frequently accessed Data	Copy of Frequently accessed data
Data Protection	SSD failure cause data loss	SSD failure cause data loss	SSD failure impact operation a little
Write Policy	Read/Write Intensive	Read Intensive	Mixed Read/Write, Changing data access pattern
Application	Big data	Middle size data	A smaller chunk data
NAND Flash Type	SLC /eMLC/MLC	SLC/eMLC	SLC or eMLC
STT Solution	TeraDrive/SuperNova SATA III SSD	SSD/RAIDRIVE II	TeraDrive/SuperNova SATA III SSD/RAIDRIVE II

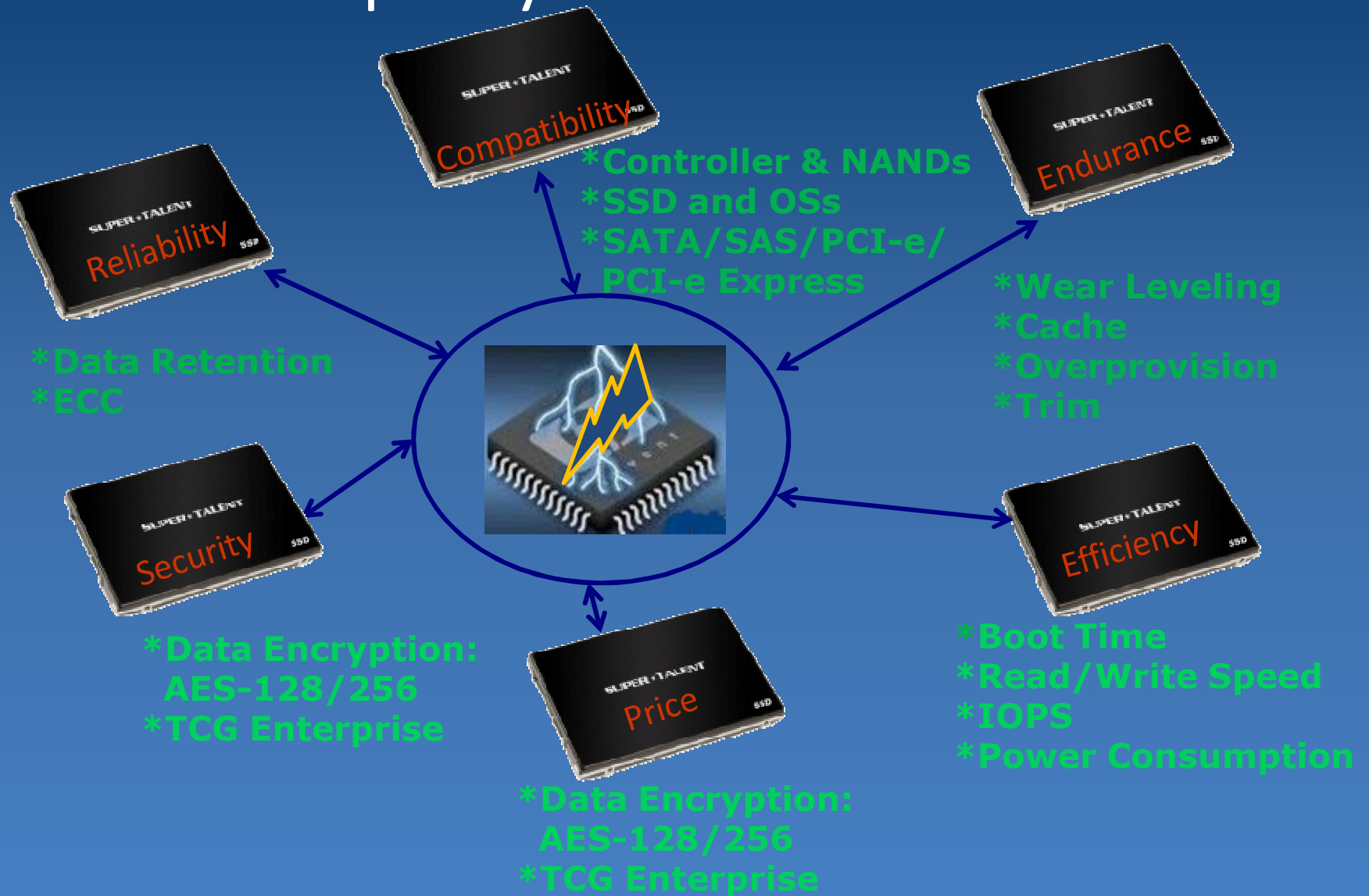


# NAND Flash Type Comparison

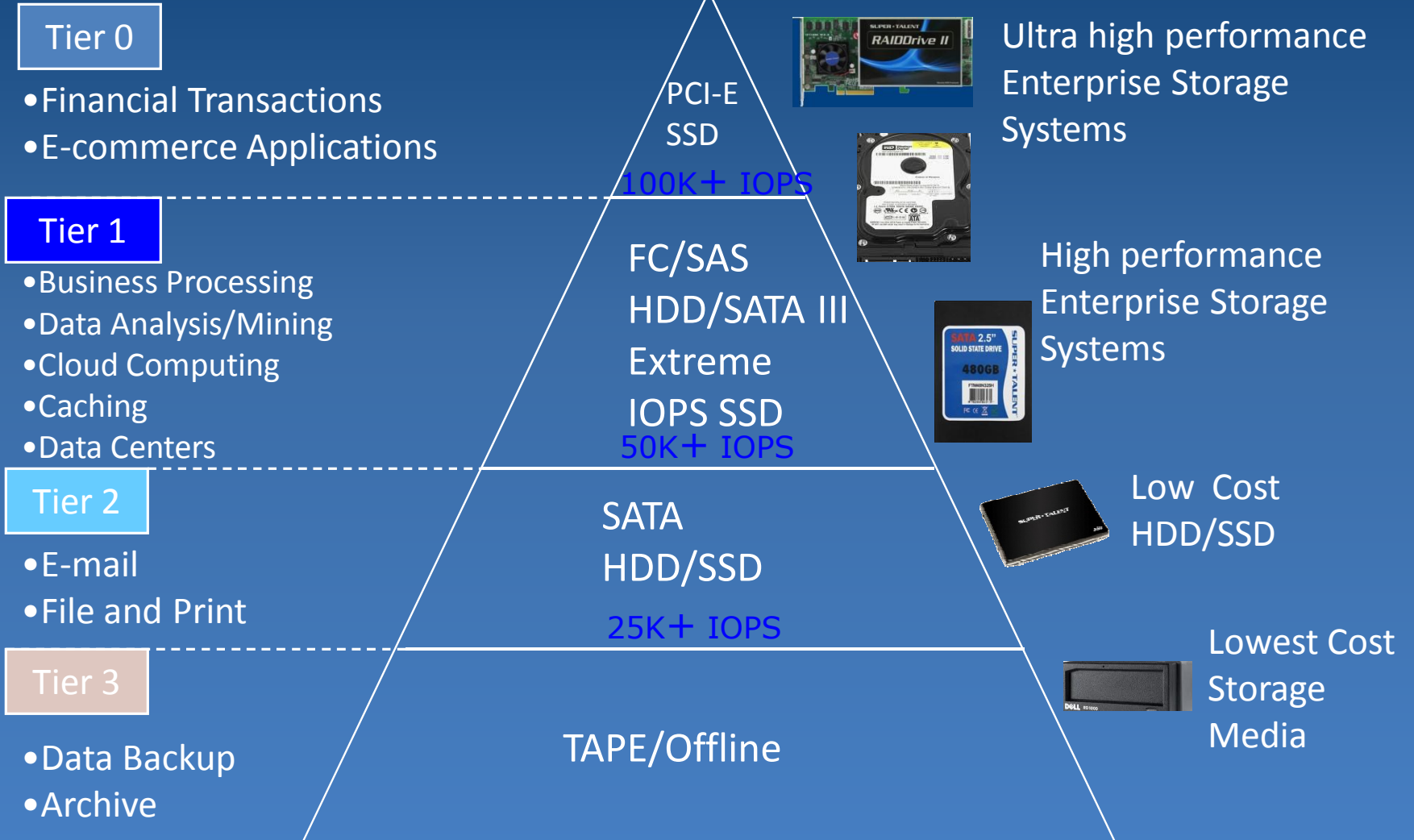
Type	P/E Cycle	Cost	Random Write Performance Comparing HDD
SLC	100k	High	5X
eSLC	50k	Middle High	3.75X
eMLC	30k	Middle	3X
MLC	10k	Low	2X
TLC	1K	Very Low	1X



# What to expect your NAND flash device?



# Performance Tier for Enterprise Storage Systems



# NAND flash Solutions for Enterprise

- Server Based SSD has value for rapid boot
- PCIe has value for **caching** /storage memory
- Network Caching bring performance to legacy systems
- Storage Systems with integrated flash or flash only are compelling refreshes



## Recap

- NAND Flash for Cache now is the critical part of the Server/Storage/Network
- Increase IOPS and lower IPOS/watt
- Cache Write policy and Data placement strategy impact IOPS and \$ IPOS
- STT RAIDdrive , TeraNova and SuperNova are the right cache solution for Server/Storage/Network

# Backup

# Storage Technology Map

Architecture	System	Network	Technology	Component	Software
DAS	Disk	Switch	FC	RAID Controller	OS
SAN	Tape	Directors	SAS	JBOD	Security
NAS	High End FC Array	Gateway/Bridge	SCSI	HBA	Deduplication
Hybrid	Mid End FC Array	Appliances	SATA	NIC/TOE	Virtualization
	Unified Storage		iSCSI	NAS Head	Cloud Computing
	Libraries		InfiniBand	iSCSI Head	Snapshot
	Virtual Tape		GbE	CNA	Remote Duplication
			FCIP		Thin Provision
			IFCP		
			FCoE		

# Thank you

For more info:

Visit:

<http://www.supertalent.com> or

Email:

[sales@supertalent.com](mailto:sales@supertalent.com)