Product Guide



Silicon Graphics® Onyx2®



Combining the Ultimate in Visualization Technologies

Silicon Graphics® Onyx2® from SGI is the world's most powerful visual workstation, providing breathtaking performance for the most demanding visual computing challenges. Designed to simultaneously process 3D graphics, 2D imagery, and video data in real time, the highly scalable workstation family combines the ultimate in supercomputing and visualization technologies. Its groundbreaking performance and speed, record-setting bandwidth, and robust parallel compute technology establish Onyx2 in a class of its own. Configurable modules boast scalable system bandwidth and lowlatency memory access while supporting a familiar programming environment. Whether it is supporting engineering, training, science, or entertainment, Onyx2 is the right technical computing platform for any organization planning to extend its leadership into the new millennium.

Unparalleled Capabilities Deliver Supreme Performance Incorporating the richest, deepest feature set in the industry, Onyx2 stimulates creativity and profitability with unique tools such as clip-mapping, texture paging, volume rendering, multistream HDTV video manipulation, and multichannel, multioutput immersion support. These advanced visualization tools allow users to achieve astounding realism and exceptional dynamic rendering while improving and simplifying collaboration. Tap into numerous software and hardware products that harness the power of Onyx2 systems and today's highperformance MIPS® RISC processors, industry-proven Geometry Engine® technology, and exceptional development tools. Whether you want to expand your perception via visualization or make your first move into multiprocessor visual supercomputing, Onyx2 systems fit your needs and budget.

The Affordable Onyx2 Supercomputer

Along with extreme performance and an unmatched feature set, SGI also delivers affordability to empower budget-conscious commercial and academic teams. Scale your graphics, compute power, memory, storage, and networking capabilities to suit your application needs. Just as Onyx2 offers unmatched I/O bandwidth, it adds unmatched video I/O scalability for digital media excellence. Likewise, distributed applications can rely on the Onyx2 architecture, which meets all the demands of complex, collaborative virtual environments.

Onyx2 appears in compact deskside enclosures as well as highly scalable rack configurations. A rack system can be configured with multiple graphics subsystems driving either one rendered display for scalable graphics performance or multiple displays comprising an SGI[™] Reality Center[™] facility or visual simulator. The Onyx2 GroupStation, a rack system, can support up to 16 operators, each working with large data sets on dedicated displays while sharing the system's memory and bandwidth.

Supercomputing and



Onyx2 InfiniteReality3™ Multirack System

Raster Managers and up to 320MB frame buffer.

- 256MB to 256GB system RAM
- Up to 2.3TB internal disk storage
- Unprecedented scalability of visual application performance; polygons per second, 7 billion pixels-per-second fill rate, and IGB of physical texture memory to tackle the world's most challenging visual computing tasks
- Integrated audio and standard CD-ROM
- 24-inch SuperWide™, ultrahigh-resolution 1920x1200 monitor



Onyx2 InfiniteReality3 Deskside System

Managers and 64MB texture memory. Includes up to four RI2000 processors with 4MB secondary cache.

- 80MB or 160MB frame buffer
- 256MB to 8GB system RAM
- Up to 90GB internal disk storage
- 13.1 million polygons per second
- Eight-sample anti-aliasing

- Four I/O slots (optional PCI)
 24-inch SuperWide, ultrahigh-resolution 1920x1200 monitor



Onyx2 InfiniteReality3 Single-Rack System

Supports up to eight RI2000 processors and up to two visual-Raster Managers and up to 320MB frame buffer; the other supports one or two Raster Managers and up to 160MB frame buffer.

- 256MB to 16GB system RAM
- Up to 198GB internal disk storage

- Integrated audio and standard CD-ROM
- Nine I/O slots (optional PCI)
- 24-inch SuperWide, ultrahigh-resolution 1920x1200 monitor



Onyx2 Reality™ Deskside System

64MB of texture memory, up to 90GB of internal disk storage, and one Reality visualization subsystem with one or two Raster Managers.

- Up to 80MB frame buffer
- · 256MB to 8GB system RAM
- 5.5 million polygons per second
- Four-sample anti-aliasing

- 20-inch monitor

Energy

Government

Sciences and Education

Manufacturing

- Design review
 Engineering simulation
 Stγling

real-time modeling, Onyx2 is changing the manufacturing industry. Engineers can now create digital prototypes in





Entertainment/Media

No matter what market you serve, the Onyx2 visual workstation helps you gain insight into the toughest problems.

Customers in a wide range of industries have harnessed the power of Onyx2 and Reality Center solutions to achieve—and exceed—their business objectives.



Services and Support to Help Businesses Succeed The system becomes even more productive when our expert teams tailor setup, service, and support to match your unique computing requirements. SGI Global Services professionals work closely with organizations to ensure successful systems integration and maximum return on investment. A full complement of flexible, high-quality, cost-effective programs and services allows you to get the most out of your Onyx2 installation and increase your competitive edge.

Onyx2 for Supreme Perfor



It's one thing to be faster than other visual workstations. It's another to offer wholly unique capabilities. Onyx2 does both.







It is the only advanced visualization platform that doubles as a tightly coupled supercomputer—one equipped with superb media tools, such as digital audio for professionalquality sound, video reference input, a real-time graphicsto-video option, and a digital video option for routing multiple video and audio streams. Broadcast-quality video maps directly onto any 3D surface while image processing functions enhance the video stream in real time.

Exceptional Feature Set

Onyx2 operators consistently leverage a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts, tapping into the richest, deepest feature set anywhere:

- Interactive imaging of unbounded 3D volumes and unbounded 2D texture maps
- Data fusion: the ability to visualize scenes comprising 2D imagery, 3D polygons, and video with little or no performance penalty
- Real-time operating sγstem support across application segments
- Integral support for virtual reality, real-time six degrees of freedom (6DOF) interaction, and sensory immersion
- Support for most display resolutions and out-of-the-box PCI compatibility with advanced interfaces, including force feedback, motion capture, telerobotics, stereoscopic display systems, and Reality Center facilities

mance and Flexibility

Expandability

By using high-bandwidth crossbar interconnects, the revolutionary Onyx2 architecture eliminates the bottleneck associated with bus-based designs. On Onyx2 rack systems, you can integrate additional modules any time you need more processing power, main memory, I/O connectivity, graphics, or system bandwidth. The high system bandwidth and low memory latency make it possible to combine multiple visualization subsystems into a single rendered display. This unprecedented capability delivers increased frame update rates for complex geometries and increased texture memory for massive volume rendering.

Flexibility for Peak ROI

An idle system earns no return on investment, so SGI designed Onyx2 to offer varied operating modes to keep it working around the clock. Employ Onyx2 as an interactive visualization station by day and a batch compute processing machine by night. Rack configurations offer several additional modes: multiuser GroupStation, multidisplay [for Reality Center facilities], and multipipe rendering [using the DPLEX hardware option or MonsterMode software] in which multiple InfiniteReality3 subsystems focus on a single rendering task. In most cases, you move from one mode to another by flipping a software switch; no hardware reconfiguration is required.

Onyx2 GroupStation: A New Pathway to Collaboration Onyx2 GroupStation is the ideal solution for teams that need to interact with data sets that exceed the memory capacity, disk storage, and processing capabilities of desktop workstations. It can be configured for up to 16 independent operators to work with large models while sharing memory and bandwidth using the same machine. Faster application performance, massive local disk space, and unparalleled compute power make Onyx2 GroupStation the ultimate workgroup resource.

SGI Reality Center Immersive Visualization Facilities In response to the trend toward collaborative work processes, SGI offers a complete line of standard and custom Reality Center solutions. SGI configurations range from benches and desks to large-screen walls and immersive rooms, each driven by the power of Onyx2. Many Reality Center facilities seamlessly integrate with off-the-shelf applications and utilize techniques such as stereoscopic viewing for more effective problem solving.

The strategic advantage conferred by group visualization has the proven ability to increase return on investment. SGI can help assess the needs of any organization, along with the likely benefits of adding Reality Center technology to its workflow. In addition, SGI offers complete turnkey solutions, including facility design, installation, integration, custom applications, and operator training. From simple to complex, standard to custom, SGI offers the broadest range of solutions to suit a wide variety of budgets and needs.



Distinctive Technologies D Unprecedented Scalability

Drawing on a decade's experience in designing bestof-class multiprocessing supercomputers, SGI created an advanced implementation of ccNUMA (cache-coherent nonuniform memory access] architecture. This tightly coupled architecture with inherent scaling of system and graphics bandwidth is central to the Onyx2 system's breakthrough visual performance and feature set. It's why Onyx2 system-based simulators deliver the lowest transport latency in the industry plus the unique ability to handle continuous, real-time fly-overs of arbitrarily large, geospecific terrain (up to and including the entire globe). It's why Onyx2 supports preview at full film resolution. And it's why Onyx2 supports interactive, immersive visualization of "unbounded" volumes [e.g., the entire Visible Human] and full-product digital prototyping (e.g., entire cars, airplanes, factories). Thanks to the enormous bandwidth unique to ccNUMA, you can engage multiple InfiniteReality3 subsystems simultaneously, focusing incredible power on solving a single visual problem.

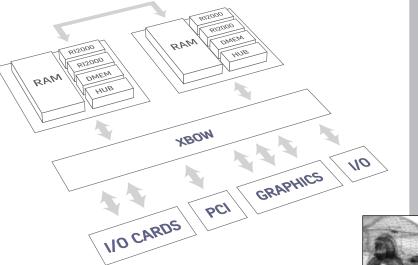
The heart of ccNUMA is the crossbar interconnect that moves data from CPUs and memory to every other part of the system: I/O, graphics, and other node boards. Each interconnect consists of eight bidirectional links. This means even the entry-level Onyx2 system boasts 6.4GB per second of bandwidth. Each processor and every megabyte of memory are seamlessly interconnected to form a single machine image. Adding CPUs and memory increases the bandwidth of the entire system. Adding visualization subsystems increases total host-to-graphics throughput.

High-Performance Connectivity: Seamless Integration with Your World

Onyx2 visual workstations feature versatile networking options, including industry-standard Ethernet, HIPPI, and FDDI interfaces. Fibre Channel and asynchronous transfer mode connections take network capabilities to a new level of communications performance. With unrivaled system bandwidth, I/O devices in Onyx2 systems operate at peak performance, avoiding bandwidth contentions among graphics, video, storage, and other I/O. The optional peripheral component interconnect (PCI) local bus gives Onyx2 systems access to a wide range of standard peripherals. The PCI bus supports 32-bit and 64-bit PCI boards with a peak bandwidth of 264MB per second. For applications requiring VME, an optional XIO VME adapter is available, with an easy-to-program interface for system integrators.

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The high-speed bidirectional interconnects in a fourprocessor deskside Onyx2 system. Each node board communicates with other parts of the system via high-speed interconnects operating at 1.6GB per second, full duplex.

MIPS R12000: Extraordinary Power

The 64-bit MIPS RI2000 processor is the engine that drives the blazing compute performance of Onγx2. This superscalar RISC CPU is the same processor used in the industry-leading SGI™ Origin™ server line.

- High clock rate accelerates every system function
 Four-way superscalar architecture, dynamic out-
- of-order instruction issue, and speculative execution maximize utilization of processing units
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Large nonblocking cache keeps essential data in fast memory





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Visualization Pipeline Architecture Geometry Engine

High-performance Geometry Engine processors perform lighting calculations and geometric transformations such as translation, rotation, and scaling. Geometry Engine processors also execute image processing functions such as convolution and histogram equalization, representing a more effective approach than that of CPUs.

Raster Managers

Raster Managers scan-convert data from Geometry Engine processors into digital images. Raster Managers perform pixel operations, including z-buffer testing, color and transparency blending, texture mapping, and multisample anti-aliasing, at real-time rates.

Display Generator

The Display Generator converts digital data from the Raster Managers into analog or digital video signals for display. A two-channel Display Generator provides one high-resolution analog output and a second highresolution analog or NTSC/PAL output. An optional eight-channel Display Generator provides up to eight distinct analog outputs. There are several digital output options as well. Multiple channels are used to drive visual trainers, stereo devices, and other advanced interfaces.





OpenGL: The Foundation for High-Performance Graphics Application programmers access Onyx2 graphics through the industrystandard OpenGL environment to develop 2D and 3D graphics applications. The OpenGL API helps developers guickly and easily create advanced, portable graphics applications. OpenGL fosters innovation by providing low-level access to the advanced rendering capabilities of Onyx2.



Building with OpenGL Optimizer™

The award-winning OpenGL Optimizer development environment is a multiplatform toolkit providing higher level constructs for interacting with extremely large geometric databases. Applications in CAD, CAM, CAE, digital prototyping, and AEC will achieve optimal graphics performance. The OpenGL Optimizer toolkit includes multiprocessing, occlusion culling, topological synthesis, and full support for all complex higher-order trimmed parametric curves and surfaces. These capabilities enable applications that provide efficient rendering performance while maintaining the underlying properties of the model. OpenGL Optimizer combined with Onyx2 revolutionizes complex surface evaluation with RealityMapping™

Real-Time 3D Rendering with OpenGL Performer" OpenGL Performer is the multiplatform toolkit for developers of real-time, multiprocessed, interactive graphics applications. OpenGL Performer dramatically simplifies the development of complex applications in visual simulation, simulationbased design, virtual reality, interactive entertainment, broadcast video, and architectural walkthroughs. Your application can make automatic and optimal use of all available system features-including peak performance rendering, multiple CPUs, multiple graphics subsystems, filesystem and disk access, and real-time scheduling features. OpenGL Performer provides efficient access to Onyx2 capabilities by automatically managing multiple levels of detail, paging of huge textures, and dynamic animated geometry.

s for Developers

Great hardware is only part of the solution. SGI provides a suite of application programming interfaces (APIs) to help you achieve the best performance with your hardware investment. The Onyx2 APIs were built on OpenGL, the industry standard for graphics application development.

OpenGL Volumizer: A Breakthrough in Volume Imaging OpenGL Volumizer is a revolutionary graphics API that facilitates visualization of voxel-based data sets common in geoscience, medical, and engineering applications such as CFD and finite element analysis, as well as those implementing physics-based models for special effects such as smoke, fog, and liquid. Developers can more easily create applications to display and manipulate volumetric data (along with geometric data if desired]. Its use of tetrahedral primitives is an innovative and powerful approach to volume imaging.

ImageVision Library® AE Tools

For manipulating, processing, and displaying images, SGI offers ImageVision Library. ImageVision Library tools comprise a powerful development environment that provides more than 70 robust image operators optimized for use with multiple processors and Onyx2 hardware graphics acceleration. ImageVision Library provides functions for color conversion. geometric transformation, filtering and edge detection, graphics subsystem statistics, robust caching and data management functions, and debugging tools.

RIX®

Onyx2 systems use the state-of-the-art, 64-bit SGI IRIX operating system, based on industry-standard UNIX® System V, Release 4 technology. With IRIX, Onyx2 users operate within a familiar shared-memory programming environment with backward compatibility for existing applications. At the same time, new capabilities support extensive scalability, high-availability features, and XFS.™

REACT™ Real-Time Performance The REACT extensions for IRIX deliver deterministic performance for real-time applications. REACT tools give users control over system overhead, processs priority, and processor allocation and scheduling; real-time disk access; and synchronization to external events. **OpenGL Vizserver:** Bringing the Power of Onyx2 to Existing Desktop Environments When technical and creative professionals need the power of a highend graphics system on their desktops, but also need to make that resource available to other people, OpenGL Vizserver is the solution. Visual applications run without modification on Onyx2 and make use of the scalable computing, memory, and I/O power of Onyx2 as well as the unique graphical capabilities of the InfiniteReality3 graphics subsystem. Applications are controlled by the desktop user as if they were running on the local desktop system, but the visual results are actually generated on the Onyx2 system and sent to the desktop over standard LAN and WAN technologies to any location in an organization.











Onyx2 Technical Specificati	ons				
	Onyx2 Reality Deskside	Onyx2 InfiniteReality3 Deskside	Onyx2 InfiniteReality3 Rack Single-Pipe	Onyx2 InfiniteRealitγ3 Rack 16-Pipe with Multipipe Rendering'	
Graphics					
Polygons/sec Pixel fill, smooth, Z Pixel fill, textured, AA, Z Anti-aliased vectors/sec Trilinear interpolations/sec Convolutions/sec [5x5 sep. RGBA] Voxels/sec 24-bit floating-point Z Color Overlay planes Anti-aliasing multisampling Max. bits/pixel Graphics pipelines Geometry Engine processors/pipeline Raster Managers/pipeline Texture memory/pipeline Frame buffer size/pipeline Display channels/pipeline Display capability	5.5M 224M to 448M 94M to 188M 3.6M 100M to 200M 6.4M 100M to 200M Yes 48-bit RGBA 16 4x4 128 to 512 1 2 1 to 2 64MB 40MB to 80MB 2 or 8 VGA to HDTV	13.1M 224M to 448M 192M to 384M 8.6M 200M to 400M 15.3M 200M to 400M Yes 48-bit RGBA 16 8x8 256 to 2,048 1 4 1 to 2 256MB 80MB to 160MB 2 or 8 VGA to HDTV	13.1M 224M to 896M 192M to 768M 8.6M 200M to 800M 15.3M 200M to 800M Yes 48-bit RGBA 16 8x8 256 to 2,048 1 to 16 4 1 to 4 and 1 to 2 256MB 80MB to 320MB 2 or 8 VGA to HDTV	210M 7.2B 6.1B 138M 6.4B 245M 6.4B 245M 6.4B Yes 48-bit RGBA 16 8x8 256 to 2,048 1 to 16 4 1 to 4 and 1 to 2 Up to 4GB combined texture memory capacity with MonsterMode software 80MB to 320MB 1 ¹ , 2, or 8 VGA to HDTV	
Std. monitor size resolution	20" 1280x1024	24" 1920x1200	24" 1920x1200	24" 1920x1200	
Computer Platform					
CPU Quantity Primary caches [ins./data] Secondary cache RAM Disk storage [internal] Expansion slots	MIPS RI2000 2 to 4 32KB/32KB 8MB 256MB to 8GB 1 to 5 9.IGB or 18.2GB Ultra SCSI 4 XIO slots standard	MIPS RI2000 2 to 4 32KB/32KB 8MB 256MB to 8GB 1 to 5 9.1GB or 18.2GB Ultra SCSI 4 XIO slots standard	MIPS RI2000 2 to 8 32KB/32KB 8MB 256MB to 16GB 1 to 11 9.1GB or 18.2GB Ultra SCSI or 10 3.5" Fibre Channel 9 XIO slots standard and	MIPS RI2000 4 to 128 32KB/32KB 8MB 256MB to 256GB 1 to 11 9.1GB or 18.2GB Ultra SCSI or 10 3.5" Fibre Channel per rack 9 XIO slots standard	
Dimensions Dimensions Weight (max. configuration) Standard monitor weight	and 3-slot PCI optional 24" L, 20" W, 26.5" H 215 lb [98 kg] 71.6 lb [32.5 kg]	and 3-slot PCI optional 24" L, 20" W, 26.5" H 215 lb [98 kg] 90.2 lb [41 kg]	3-slot PCI optional 39" L, 29" W, 73" H 800 lb [364 kg] 90.2 lb [41 kg]	and 3-slot PCI optional per rack 39" L, 29" W, 73" H per rack 800 lb [364 kg] per rack 90.2 lb [41 kg]	
Electrical and Power					
Voltage Frequency Power	100 to 120 or 200 to 240 VAC, 1 phase [configurations limited below 200 V°] 47 to 63 Hz 2,300 W max at 208 V, 1,840 W max at 120 V	100 to 120 or 200 to 240 VAC, I phase [configurations limited below 200 V°] 47 to 63 Hz 2,300 W max at 208 V, 1,840 W max at 120 V	200 to 240 VAC, 1 phase 47 to 63 Hz 4,750 W (compute and graphics module) or 5,050 W (two	200 to 240 VAC, I phase 47 to 63 Hz 4,750 W [compute and graphics module] or 5,050 W [two	
Heat dissipation	7,843 BTU/hr [208 V], 6,274 BTU/hr [120 V]	7,843 BTU/hr [208 V], 6,274 BTU/hr [120 V]	graphics modules) 16,198 BTU/hr (compute and graphics module) or 17,220 BTU/hr (two graphics modules)	graphics modules] per rack 16,198 BTU/hr [compute and graphics module] or 17,220 BTU/hr [two graphics modules] per rack	
Electrical service type	NEMA 5-20 [120 V] or NEMA 6-15 [208 V] [U.S. only]	NEMA 5-20 [120 V] or NEMA 6-15 [208 V] [U.S. only]	NEMĂ Ló-30 (U.S. onlý)	NEMĂ L6-30 (U.S. onlý)	
 Noise	50 dBa	50 dBa	65 to 70 dBa	65 to 70 dBa	-
I/O Networking and Communication			Removable Media		
asy	asynchronous serial ports, 2 keyboard ports, 2 mouse ports, parallel port 2.75 ohm BNC AES/EBU stereo in/out, 2 optical ADAT 8-channel in/out, RCA phono jack stereo line-level input output, 3.5 mm stereo analog headphone output, mono microphone input jack ional data XIO to PCI adapter [I full-height, 2 double-height slots, 132MB to 264MB/sec], XIO to VME adapter [6U, 9U], FDDI single attach, FDDI dual attach, UTP FDDI, Token Ring, ISDN, high-speed synchronous		Standard Optional	CD-ROM DDS-2 (DAT), 8 mm Exabyte, DLT tape	
RC hec Optional data XIC 264 dui			Environmental (nonoperating) Temperature Humidity Altitude	-20 to +60°C [-4 to +140°F] 10% to 95% noncondensing 40,000 MSL	
serial, 100MB/sec Fibre Channel (2 ports), 40MB/sec Ultra SCSI [4 ports], 100Base-TX [4 ports] combined with 460 kbaud asynchronous serial [6 ports], ATMOC3 [4 ports], and ATMOC12, DIVO in/out [CCIR601, SMPTE 259]		Environmental (operating) Temperature	+5 to +35°C [+4] to +95°F] altitude 5 000 MSI		

*Onyx2 Reality with 2 Raster Managers and 2 node boards or Onyx2 InfiniteReality3 Deskside with 2 Raster Managers or 2 node boards

requires 200 VAC or greater [†] 2 Raster Managers per pipe and DPLEX option [†] 1 analog and 1 digital with DPLEX

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5,000 MSL

10,000 MSL

Humidity

+5 to +30°C (+41 to +86°F) altitude

10% to 90% noncondensing