

# Introducción a lowRISC

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- [www.lowrisc.org](http://www.lowrisc.org) :
  - “A fully open-sourced, Linux-capable, System-on-a-Chip”
- Completamente abierto: Basado en la arquitectura **RISC V 64 bits**
  - Otras características: seguridad, flexibilidad, ...
- Hasta ahora: varios tutoriales
  - Versión “tethered”, “un tethered” y con soporte para debug
- Quienes fundan el proyecto:
  - Universidad de cambridge: provienen de proyecto Raspberry Py
- Presentación de lowRISC en ORCONF2016 (octubre 2016):
  - <http://orconf.org/2016/>
  - <https://youtu.be/52QucTks68Y>

# Introducción a RISC-V (Risc five)

“RISC-V (pronounced “risk-five”) is a new **instruction set architecture** (ISA) that was originally designed to support computer architecture **research and education** and is now set to become a standard open architecture for industry implementations under the governance of the RISC-V Foundation.

RISC-V was originally developed in the Computer Science Division of the EECS Department at the University of California, Berkeley.”

## ■ *¿Porque desarrollar un nuevo ISA, porque abierto y cual es el objetivo a medio plazo?*

- En lo que sigue emplearemos transparencias de los workshops de RISC-V: <http://riscv.org/workshops/>

# Introducción a RISC-V (Risc five)

RESUMEN DE LAS PRESENTACIONES DE  
INTRODUCCIÓN A RISC-V EN LOS  
WORKSHOPS Y EVENTOS PRESENTADOS



# ISAs don't matter

Most of the performance and energy running software on a computer is due to:

- Algorithms
- Application code
- Compiler
- OS/Runtimes
- ISA (Instruction Set Architecture)
- Microarchitecture (core + memory hierarchy)
- Circuit design
- Physical design
- Fabrication process

In a *system*, there's also displays, radios, DC/DC convertors, sensors, actuators, ...



# ISAs do matter

- Most important interface in computer system
- Large cost to port and tune all ISA-dependent parts of a modern software stack
- Large cost to recompile/port/QA all supposedly ISA-independent parts of stack
- Proprietary closed-source, don't have code
- Bit rot, lose ability to compile own source code
- Lost your own source code
  
- Most of the cost of developing a new chip is developing software for it
- Most big new chips have several ISAs...

So...

If choice of ISA doesn't have much impact on system energy/  
performance,  
and it costs a lot to use different ones

*Why isn't there a free, open standard ISA that everyone can use for everything?*

# Open Software/Standards Work!

<i>Field</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Free, Open Impl.</i>	<i>Proprietary Impl.</i>
Networking	Ethernet, TCP/IP	Many	Many
OS	Posix	Linux, FreeBSD	M/S Windows
Compilers	C	gcc, LLVM	Intel icc, ARMcc
Databases	SQL	MySQL, PostgresSQL	Oracle 12C, M/S DB2
Graphics	OpenGL	Mesa3D	M/S DirectX
Architecture	--	--	x86, ARM

- Why not successful free & open standards and free & open implementations, like other fields?



# ISAs Should Be Free and Open

- ISAs proprietary for historical business reasons, no good reason for the lack of free, open ISAs:
- Not an error of omission by ISA owners
- Nor because owners do most software development
- Nor are most popular ISAs, wonderful ISAs
- Nor are companies great stewards of an ISA
- Nor can only owners verify ISA compatibility
- Not as if buying ISA protects you from patent lawsuits
- Finally, proprietary ISAs are not guaranteed to last, and many actually disappear



# RISC-V Background

- In 2010, after many years and many projects using MIPS, SPARC, and x86 as basis of research, time to look at ISA for next set of projects
- Obvious choices: x86 and ARM
- x86 impossible – too complex, IP issues
  - 1300 instructions, x86 ISA manual 2900 pages, instruction length 1 to 15 bytes, ...
- ARM mostly impossible - baroque, IP issues
  - 400 instructions, ARMv7 ISA manual 2700 pages
- So we started “3-month project” in summer 2010 to develop our own clean-slate ISA
- Four years later, we released frozen base user spec
  - But also many tape outs and several research publications



# What is RISC-V?

- A new free and open ISA developed at UC Berkeley starting in 2010 (ParLab and ASPIRE)
  - Free as in “beer”, and free as in “speech”
- Designed for
  - research
  - education
  - commercial use
- Not just a free ISA, we also think it’s a good ISA



# What's Different about RISC-V?

- *Simple*
  - Far smaller than other commercial ISAs
- *Clean-slate design*
  - Clear separation between user and privileged ISA
  - Avoids μarchitecture or technology-dependent features
- *A modular ISA*
  - Small standard base ISA
  - Multiple standard extensions
- *Designed for extensibility/specialization*
  - Variable-length instruction encoding
  - Vast opcode space available for instruction-set extensions
- *Stable*
  - Base and standard extensions are frozen
  - Additions via optional extensions, not new versions



# RISC-V is NOT an Open-Source Processor

- RISC-V is an ISA *specification*
- Want to encourage both open-source and proprietary implementations of the RISC-V ISA specification
- Most of cost of hardware design is software, so make sure software can be reused across many chip designs
- Expand to have open specifications for whole platforms, including I/O and accelerators



# Frozen RISC-V Base + Standard Extensions

- ~~Three~~ Four base integer ISAs
  - RV32E, RV32I, RV64I, RV128I
  - RV32E is 16-register subset of RV32I
  - Only <50 hardware instructions needed
- Standard extensions
  - M: Integer multiply/divide
  - A: Atomic memory operations (AMOs + LR/SC)
  - F: Single-precision floating-point
  - D: Double-precision floating-point
  - G = IMAFD, “General-purpose” ISA
  - Q: Quad-precision floating-point
- All the above are a fairly standard RISC encoding in a fixed 32-bit instruction format
- Above user-level ISA components frozen in 2014
  - Supported forever after

# ARMv8 ISA vs. RISC-V ISA

Category	ARMv8	RISC-V	ARM/RISC
Year announced	2011	2011	--
Address sizes	32 / 64	32 / 64 / 128	--
Instruction sizes	32	16 <sup>†</sup> / 32	--
Relative code size	1	0.8 <sup>†</sup>	--
Instruction formats	53	6 / 12 <sup>†</sup>	4X-8X
Data addressing modes	8	1	8X
Instructions	1070	177 <sup>†</sup>	6X
Min number instructions to run Linux, gcc, LLVM	359	47	8X
Backend gcc compiler size	47K LOC	10K LOC	5X
Backend LLVM compiler size	22K LOC	10K LOC	2X
ISA manual size	5428 pages	163 pages	33X

MIPS manual 700 pages  
 80x86 manual 2900 pages

<sup>†</sup>With optional Compressed RISC-V ISA extension



# RISC-V “Green Card”

## RV32I / RV64I / RV128I + C, M, A, F, D,& Q

RVI Base Instructions: RV32I, RV64I, and RV128I								RVM Multiply-Divide Instruction Extension												
Category	Name	Format	RV32I Base			+RV64		+RV128			Category	Name	Format	RV32M (Multiply-Divide)			+RV64		+RV128	
<b>Loads</b>	Load Byte	I	LB	rd,rs1,imm				LQ	rd,rs2,imm		<b>Multiply</b>	MUL	rd,rs1,rs2	MULW	rd,rs1,rs2	MULD	rd,rs1,rs2			
	Load Halfword	I	LH	rd,rs1,imm							R	MULH	rd,rs1,rs2							
	Load Word	I	LW	rd,rs1,imm		LD	rd,rs1,imm			R	MULHSU	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Load Byte Unsigned	I	LBU	rd,rs1,imm						R	MULHU	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Load Half Unsigned	I	LHU	rd,rs1,imm		LNU	rd,rs1,imm			R	DIV	rd,rs1,rs2	DIVW	rd,rs1,rs2	DIVD	rd,rs1,rs2				
<b>Stores</b>	Store Byte	S	SB	rs1,rs2,imm						R	DIVU	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Store Halfword	S	SH	rs1,rs2,imm						R	REN	rd,rs1,rs2	REMW	rd,rs1,rs2	REMD	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Store Word	S	SW	rs1,rs2,imm		SD	rs1,rs2,imm			R	REMU	rd,rs1,rs2	REM UW	rd,rs1,rs2	REMUD	rd,rs1,rs2				
<b>Arithmetic</b>	ADD	R	ADD	rd,rs1,rs2		ADDDW	rd,rs1,rs2			<b>Multiply</b>	MUL	rd,rs1,rs2	MULW	rd,rs1,rs2	MULD	rd,rs1,rs2				
	ADD Immediate	I	ADDI	rd,rs1,imm		ADDIW	rd,rs1,imm			R	MULH	rd,rs1,rs2								
	SUBtract	R	SUB	rd,rs1,rs2		ADDID	rd,rs1,imm			R	MULHSU	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Load Upper Imm	U	LUI	rd,imm		SUBW	rd,rs1,rs2			R	MULHU	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Add Upper Imm to PC	U	AUIPC	rd,imm						R	DIV	rd,rs1,rs2	DIVW	rd,rs1,rs2	DIVD	rd,rs1,rs2				
<b>Shifts</b>	Shift Left	R	SLL	rd,rs1,rs2		SLLW	rd,rs1,rs2			<b>Divide</b>	DIV	rd,rs1,rs2	DIVW	rd,rs1,rs2	DIVD	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Shift Left Immediate	I	SLLI	rd,rs1,shamt		SLLIW	rd,rs1,shamt			R	DIVU	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Shift Right	R	SRL	rd,rs1,rs2		SR LW	rd,rs1,rs2			R	REN	rd,rs1,rs2	REM W	rd,rs1,rs2	REMD	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Shift Right Immediate	I	SRLI	rd,rs1,shamt		SRLIW	rd,rs1,shamt			R	REM U	rd,rs1,rs2	REM UW	rd,rs1,rs2	REMUD	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Shift Right Arithmetic	R	SRA	rd,rs1,rs2		SR AW	rd,rs1,rs2			<b>Remainder</b>	REM A	rd,rs1,rs2								
	Shift Right Arith Imm	I	SRAI	rd,rs1,shamt		SRAIW	rd,rs1,shamt			R	REM U	rd,rs1,rs2	REM UW	rd,rs1,rs2	REMUD	rd,rs1,rs2				
<b>Logical</b>	XOR	R	XOR	rd,rs1,rs2						<b>RVA Atomic Instruction Extension</b>										
	XOR Immediate	I	XORI	rd,rs1,imm						<b>Category</b>	Name	Format	RV32A (Atomic)			+RV64		+RV128		
	OR	R	OR	rd,rs1,rs2						R	LR.W	rd,rs1	LR.D	rd,rs1	LR.Q	rd,rs1				
	OR Immediate	I	ORI	rd,rs1,imm						R	SC.W	rd,rs1,rs2	SC.D	rd,rs1,rs2	SC.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	AND	R	AND	rd,rs1,rs2						R	SWAP.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOSWAP.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOSWAP.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	AND Immediate	I	ANDI	rd,rs1,imm						<b>Category</b>	Name	Format	RV32A (Atomic)			+RV64		+RV128		
<b>Compare</b>	Set <	R	SLT	rd,rs1,rs2						R	AMOADD.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOADD.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOADD.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Set < Immediate	I	SLTI	rd,rs1,imm						R	AMOXOR.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOXOR.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOXOR.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Set < Unsigned	R	SLTU	rd,rs1,rs2						R	AMOAND.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOAND.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOAND.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Set < Unsigned Imm	I	SLTIU	rd,rs1,imm						R	AMOOR.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOOR.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOOR.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
<b>Branches</b>	Branch =	SB	BEQ	rs1,rs2,imm						R	AMOMIN.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMIN.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMIN.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Branch #	SB	BNE	rs1,rs2,imm						R	AMOMAX.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMAX.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMAX.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Branch <	SB	BLT	rs1,rs2,imm						R	AMOMINU.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMINU.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMINU.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Branch >	SB	BGE	rs1,rs2,imm						R	AMOMAXU.W	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMAXU.D	rd,rs1,rs2	AMOMAXU.Q	rd,rs1,rs2				
	Branch < Unsigned	SB	BLTU	rs1,rs2,imm						<b>RVC Compressed Instruction Extension</b>										
	Branch > Unsigned	SB	BGEU	rs1,rs2,imm						<b>Category</b>	Name	Format	RV32C (F,D,Q) (SP,DP,OP Fl. Pt.)			+RV64		+RV128		
<b>Jump &amp; Link</b>	J&L	UJ	JAL	rd,imm						R	FS(W,D,Q)	rd,rs1,imm								
	Jump & Link Register	UJ	JALR	rd,rs1,imm						R	FS(S,W,D,Q)	rs1,rs2,imm								
<b>Synch</b>	Synch threads	I	FENCE							<b>Arithmetic</b>	ADD	rd,rs1,rs2	FADD.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
	Synch Instr & Data	I	FENCE.I							R	SUBTRACT	rd,rs1,rs2	FSUB.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
<b>System</b>	System CALL	I	SCALL							R	MULTIPLY	rd,rs1,rs2	FMUL.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
	System BREAK	I	SBREAK							R	DIVIDE	rd,rs1,rs2	FDIV.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
<b>Counters</b>	Read CYCLE	I	RDCYCLE	rd						R	SQUARE ROOT	rd,rs1	FSQR(T).(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1						
	Read CYCLE upper Half	I	RDCYCLEH	rd						<b>Mul-Add</b>	Multiply-ADD	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3	FMADD.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3						
	Read TIME	I	RTIME	rd						R	Multiply-SUBTRACT	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3	FMSUB.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3						
	Read TIME upper Half	I	RTIMEH	rd						R	Negative Multiply-Subtract	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3	FNNSUB.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3						
	Read INSTR RETired	I	RDINSTRET	rd						R	Negative Multiply-ADD	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3	FNNADD.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2,rs3						
	Read INSTR upper Half	I	RDINSTRETH	rd						<b>Move</b>	Move from Integer	rd,rs1	FMV.D.X	rd,rs1	FMV.Q.X	rd,rs1				
										R	Move to Integer	rd,rs1	FMV.X.D	rd,rs1	FMV.X.Q	rd,rs1				
<b>32-bit Formats</b>										<b>Sign Inject</b>	SIGN source	rd,rs1,rs2	FSGNJ.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										R	Negative SIGN source	rd,rs1,rs2	FSGN NJ.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										R	Xor SIGN source	rd,rs1,rs2	FSGN JX.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										<b>Min/Max</b>	MINimum	rd,rs1,rs2	FMIN.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										R	MAXimum	rd,rs1,rs2	FMAX.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										<b>Compare</b>	Compare Float =	rd,rs1,rs2	FEQ.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										R	Compare Float <	rd,rs1,rs2	FLT.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										R	Compare Float ≤	rd,rs1,rs2	FLE.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1,rs2						
										<b>Convert</b>	Convert from Int	rd,rs1,rs2	FCVT.(S,D,Q).L	rd,rs1	FCVT.(S,D,Q).T	rd,rs1				
										R	Convert from Unsigned	rd,rs1,rs2	FCVT.(S,D,Q).W	rd,rs1						
										R	Convert to Int	rd,rs1,rs2	FCVT.(S,D,Q).LU	rd,rs1	FCVT.(S,D,Q).TU	rd,rs1				
										R	Convert to Unsigned	rd,rs1,rs2	FCVT.W.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1	FCVT.L.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1	FCVT.T.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1		
										R	Convert to Int Unsigned	rd,rs1,rs2	FCVT.WU.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1	FCVT.LU.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1	FCVT.TU.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1		
										<b>Categorization</b>	Classify Type	rd,rs1,rs2	FCLASS.(S,D,Q)	rd,rs1						
										<b>Configuration</b>	Read Status	rd,rs1,rs2	FRCCSR	rd						
										R	Read Rounding Mode	rd,rs1,rs2	FRRM	rd						
										R	Read Flags	rd,rs1,rs2	FRFLAGS	rd						
										R	Swap Status Reg	rd,rs1,rs2	FSCSR	rd,rs1						
										R	Swap Rounding Mode	rd,rs1,rs2	FSRM	rd,rs1						
										R	Swap Flags	rd,rs1,rs2	FSFLAGS	rd,rs1						
										R	Swap Rounding Mode Imm	rd,imm	FSRMI	rd,imm						
										R	Swap Flags Imm	rd,imm	FSFLAGSI	rd,imm						

# Simplicity breeds Contempt

- How can simple ISA compete with industry monsters?
- So far, no evidence more complex ISA justified for general code
  - Cray/RISC were right
- Many advantages to keeping base simple
  - Teaching (what profs do)
  - Learning (what engineers do)
  - Area
  - Energy
  - Quality-of-results versus Design time (HW and SW)
  - Verification
  - Security
  - Extensibility: one base ISA for all customized cores on chip



# RISC-V Timeline

- In summer of 2010, UC Berkeley started “3-month project” to develop their own clean-slate ISA
- May 2014, frozen user-level spec (IMAFDQ)
- August 2015, **non-profit RISC-V Foundation** created



# Transitioning RISC-V Out of UC Berkeley

- RISC-V Foundation is taking over standards process
  - Incorporated Aug 2015
  - Board of Directors formed Summer 2016
- Tools are starting the upstreaming process
- Students graduating
  - Lead RISC-V devs no longer at UCB
    - new start-up called SiFive
  - But many new students ([github.com/ucb-bar](https://github.com/ucb-bar))



# Foundation Mission Statement

*The RISC-V Foundation is a non-profit consortium chartered to standardize, protect, and promote the free and open RISC-V instruction set architecture together with its hardware and software ecosystem for use in all computing devices.*



# Platinum Founding Members

Berkeley  
Architecture  
Research

bluespec

D R A P E R

Google



Microsoft

cortus

Hewlett Packard  
Enterprise



NVIDIA

IBM



Mellanox<sup>®</sup>  
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Microsemi

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QUALCOMM<sup>®</sup>

Rambus



Western  
Digital<sup>®</sup>

Cryptography Research

## Gold, Silver & Auditor Founding Members

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ANDES  
TECHNOLOGY

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EMBEDDED SYSTEMS

BAE SYSTEMS

ICT

中科院计算所  
INSTITUTE OF COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY, CAS

Codasip

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Blockstream

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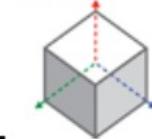
ROA  
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embedded supercomputing

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Syntacore<sup>™</sup>  
Custom cores and tools

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Rumble  
Development



# RISC-V Foundation Board of Directors

- Krste Asanović, Chairman
  - Professor in the EECS Department at UC Berkeley
- Zvonimir Bandić
  - Senior Director of Next Generation Platform Technologies at Western Digital Corporation
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- David Patterson
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- Jothy Rosenberg
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- Frans Sijstermans
  - Vice President Engineering at NVIDIA
- Ted Speers
  - Technical Fellow, Head of Product Architecture for Microsemi's SoC Group



# Bi-annual Workshops

- 1<sup>st</sup> RISC-V workshop Jan 14-15, 2015 in Monterey, CA
  - Sold out: **144** (33 companies & 14 universities)
  - [Slides & videos can be found here](#)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> RISC-V workshop Jun 29-30, 2015 at UC Berkeley
  - Sold out: **120** (30 companies & 20 universities)
  - [Slides & videos can be found here](#)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> RISC-V workshop Jan 5-6, 2016 at Oracle Redwood City, CA
  - Sold out: **157** (42 companies & 26 universities)
  - [Slides & videos can be found here](#)
- 4<sup>th</sup> RISC-V workshop Jul 12-13, at MIT Cambridge, MA
  - Sold out: **252** (63 companies & 42 universities)
  - [Slides & videos can be found here](#)



# RISC-V Workshop #4 at MIT in Cambridge, MA USA



- 252 attendees from 63 companies and 42 universities



# 5<sup>th</sup> RISC-V Workshop – Save the Date

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Google Mountain View, CA

Google





## Foundation Status

- Articles of Incorporation filed August 2015
  - RISC-V Foundation Corporation is a legal, non-profit operating entity
- Signed on 40+ Founding members
  - shaped the initial by-laws and membership agreements
- Board of Directors formed in Q2 of 2016
  - Ratify Membership Agreement
  - Ratify set of Bylaws
- **This is just the beginning of RISC-V...**



# Software Progress

- binutils, gcc
  - ~~"waiting on lawyers"~~, but should be good to go!
- glibc/Linux
  - will upstream after binutils, etc.
- QEMU
  - ucb-bar/riscv-qemu now has user-mode and system-mode
  - currently upstreaming user-mode
- LLVM
  - upstreaming in progress (ask Alex Bradbury)
- Fedora disk images now available
- coreboot
  - "RISC-V is a first class citizen"
- UEFI
- FreeBSD

- **Documentation**

- User-Level ISA Spec
- Privileged ISA draft
- Compressed ISA draft
- External Debug draft

- **Software Tools**

- GCC/glibc/GDB
- LLVM/Clang
- Verification Suite

- **Software**

- Linux, FreeBSD
- Yocto
- Fedora disk images

- **Software Implementations**

- QEMU
- Spike, In-house ISA Sim.
- ANGEL, JavaScript ISA Sim.

- **Hardware Implementations**

- UCB Rocket Chip Generator
  - Rocket in-order core
  - BOOM out-of-order core
- External implementations
  - PicoRV32
  - Pulp Platform
  - mRISCV
  - and many many more...



## RISC-V Summary

- Strong Industry Support
  - 40+ Founding Sponsors
  - Broad commercial and academic interest (252 workshop attendees representing 63 companies & 42 universities)
- Membership & Bylaw documents being ratified
- Board of Directors formed in Q2 2016
- 5<sup>th</sup> RISC-V Workshop save the date...

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Google Mountain View, CA



# ISA abierto versus ISA Propietario

- En 2014 los desarrolladores de RISC-V publicaron un articulo en la revista on-line Microprocessor Report donde presentan su propuesta para establecer un estándar abierto de ISA:
  - “The Case for Open Instruction Sets”
  - <http://linleygroup.com/mpr/article.php?pub=1&id=11267>
- Como contrapartida la misma revista publico un articulo por parte de ingenieros de ARM donde defiende un ISA propietario:
  - “The Case for Licensed Instruction Sets”
  - <http://linleygroup.com/mpr/article.php?id=11268>