



# GPU-Assisted Password Cracking



**ELCOMSOFT**  
PROACTIVE SOFTWARE

# Who may need Password Recovery?

- Ordinary users (own passwords)
- IT Departments (employee's passwords)
- Security auditors, consultants and penetration testers
- Law enforcement & government
- **Hackers usually don't!**



# Why speed counts?

Users and IT Departments:

«**We needed those passwords yesterday**»

Auditors, consultants  
and pentesters:

«**Time is Money**»



# How to increase speed?

Traditional way is to network together many computers to form a cluster

- Communication overhead
- Difficult to manage
- Not power-efficient







**Any other options?**

# Yes!

For many HPC applications GPUs  
**are many times faster**  
than CPUs



But they're not only  
faster, they are  
**greener!**



**Why?**

CPU's are designed to be efficient at serial computing...



...while GPU's main concern is parallel computing

# Intel® Core™ i7-965

“The highest performing desktop processor on the planet.”



4 cores  
3,2 GHz  
731 million transistors  
263 mm<sup>2</sup>

**Memory Controller**

**IO**

**Core**

**Core**

**Q  
u  
e  
u  
e**

**Core**

**Core**

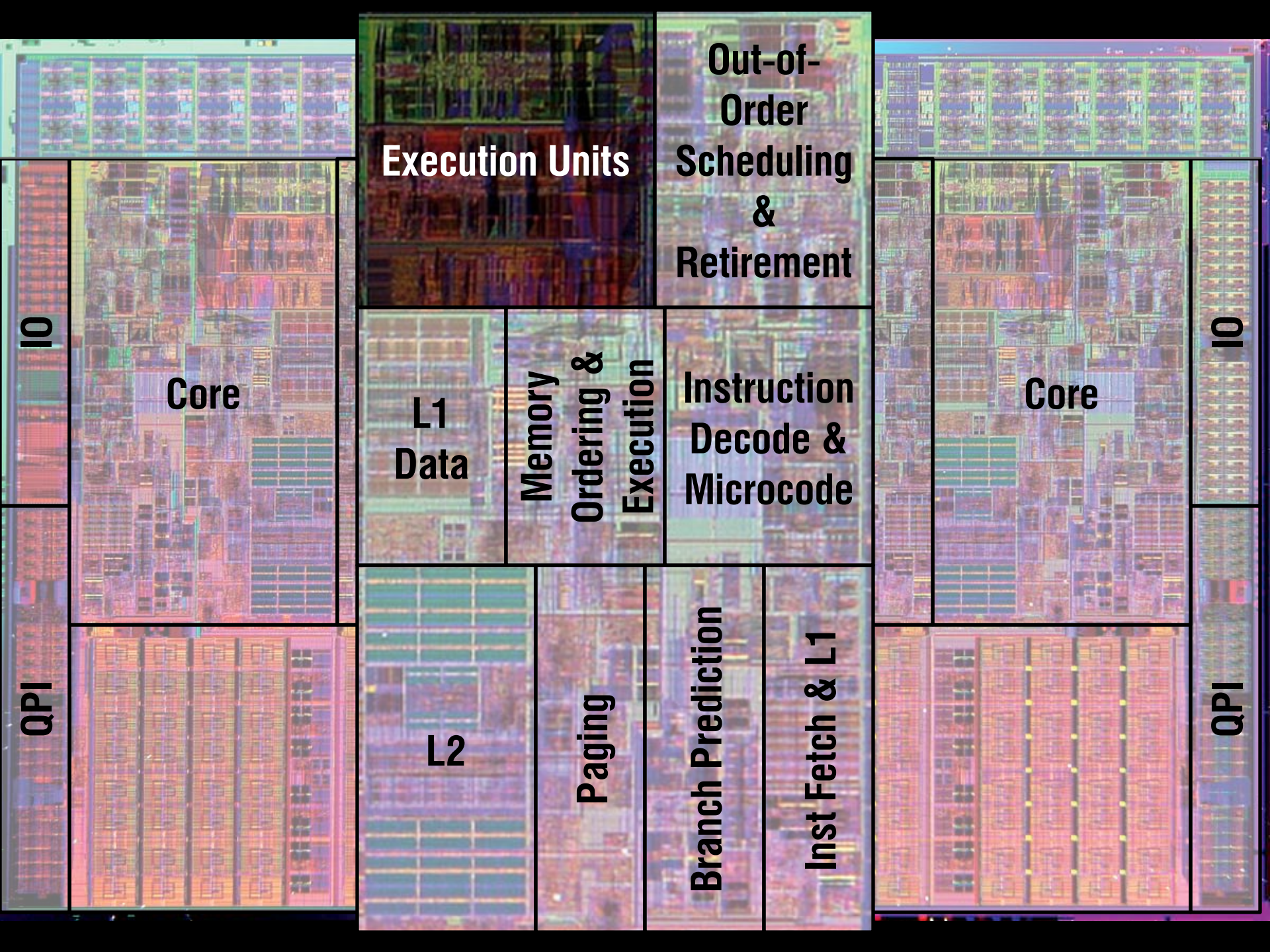
**IO**

**QPI**

**L3 cache  
8 Mb**

**>384 million transistors**

**QPI**



**IO**

**Core**

**QPI**

**Execution Units**

**Out-of-Order Scheduling & Retirement**

**L1 Data**

**Memory & Ordering & Execution**

**Instruction Decode & Microcode**

**L2**

**Paging**

**Branch Prediction**

**Inst Fetch & L1**

**IO**

**Core**

**QPI**

**Memory Controller**

**IO**

**Core**

**Core**

**Q  
u  
e  
u  
e**

**Core**

**Core**

**IO**

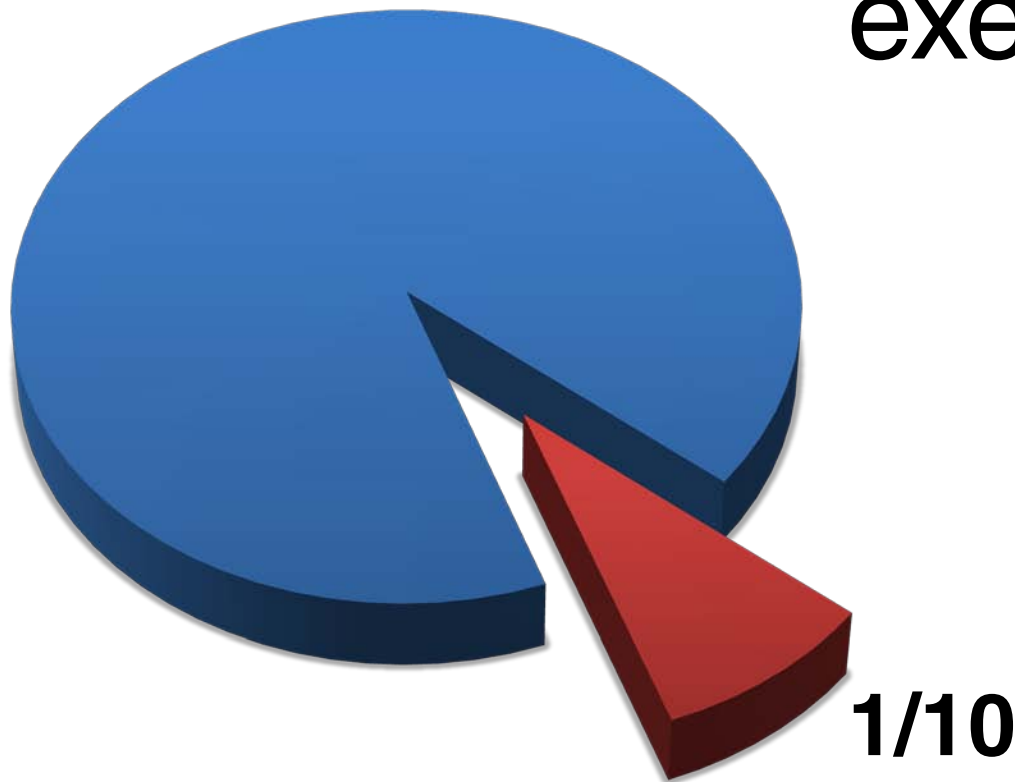
**QPI**

**L3 cache  
8 Mb**

**>384 million transistors**

**QPI**

CPU dedicates only  
about **10%** to the  
execution units!



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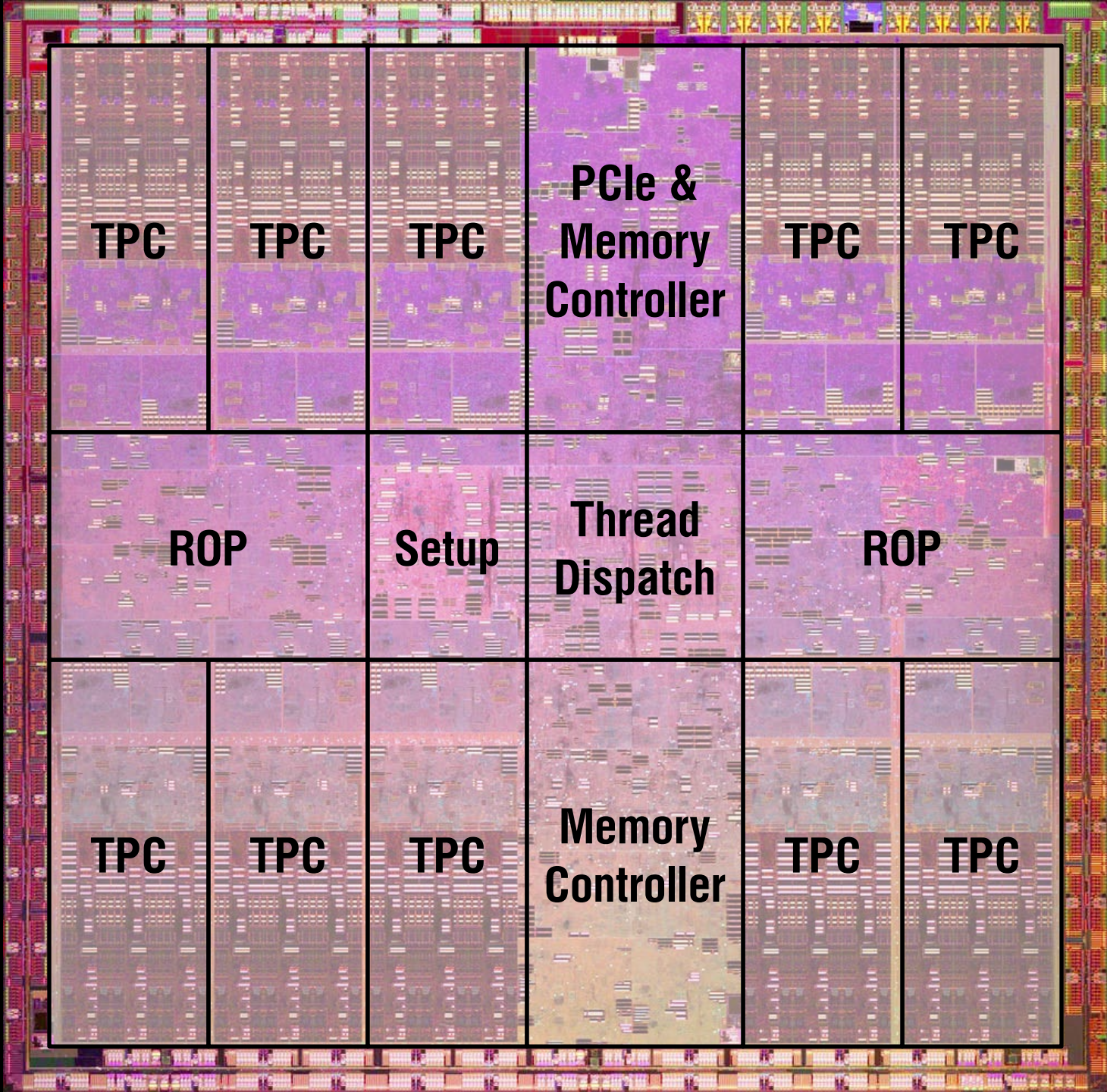




# NVIDIA® GeForce® GTX 285

240 cores  
1.476 GHz  
1.4 billion transistors  
470 mm<sup>2</sup>





**TPC**

**TPC**

**TPC**

**PCIe &  
Memory  
Controller**

**TPC**

**TPC**

**ROP**

**Setup**

**Thread  
Dispatch**

**ROP**

**TPC**

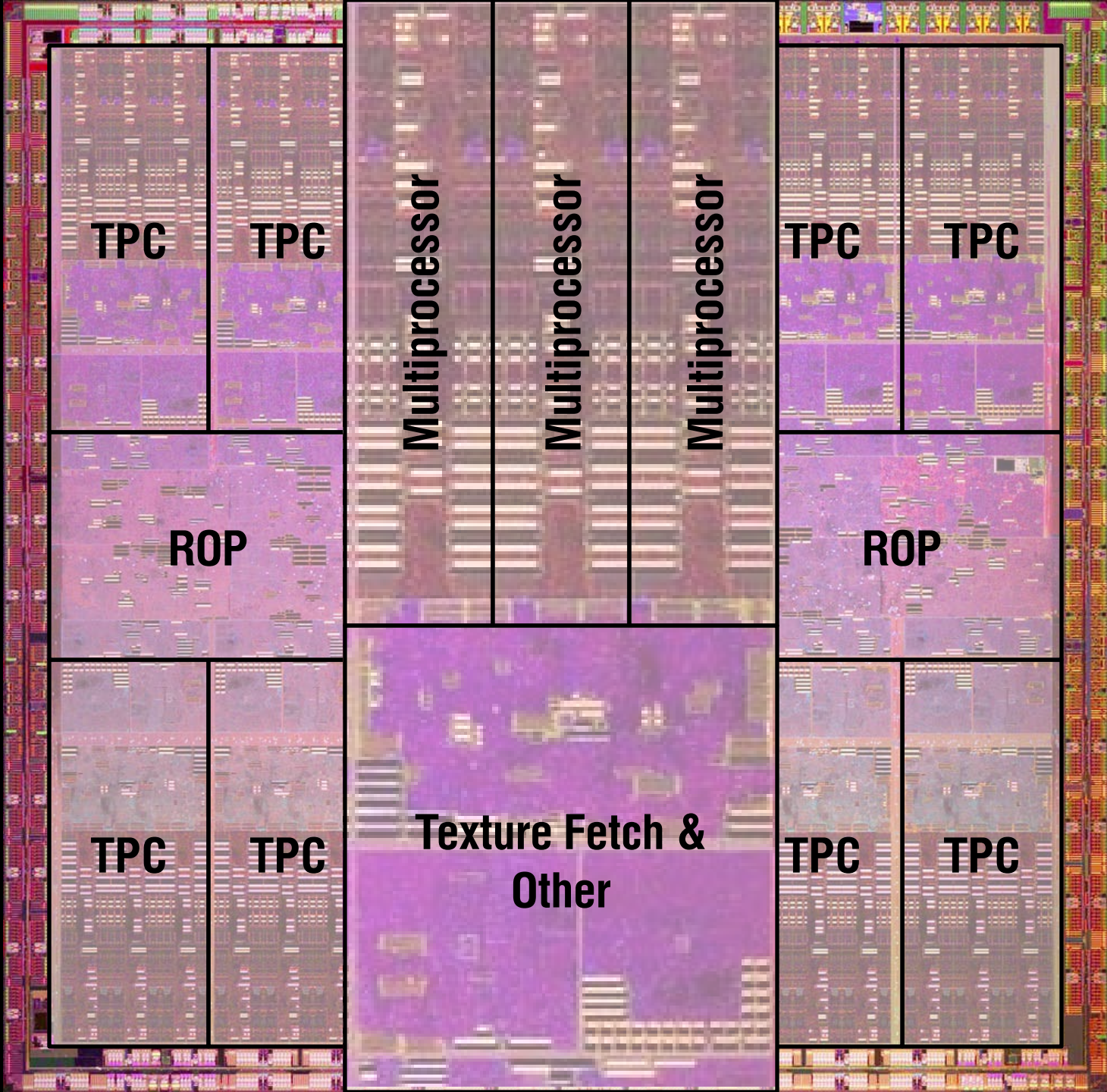
**TPC**

**TPC**

**Memory  
Controller**

**TPC**

**TPC**



**TPC**

**TPC**

**Multiprocessor**

**Multiprocessor**

**Multiprocessor**

**TPC**

**TPC**

**ROP**

**ROP**

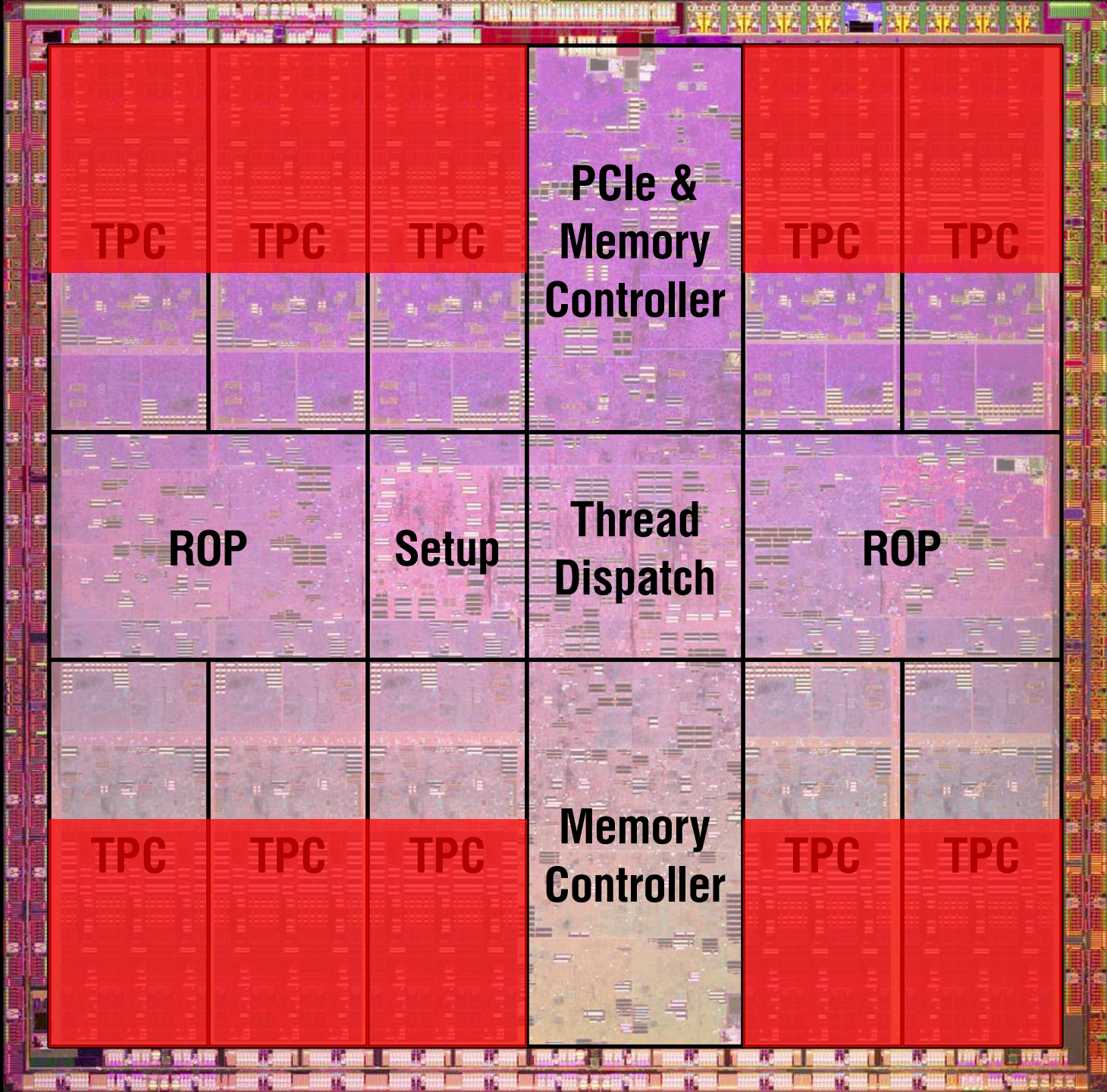
**TPC**

**TPC**

**Texture Fetch &  
Other**

**TPC**

**TPC**



**TPC**

**TPC**

**TPC**

**PCIe &  
Memory  
Controller**

**TPC**

**TPC**

**ROP**

**Setup**

**Thread  
Dispatch**

**ROP**

**TPC**

**TPC**

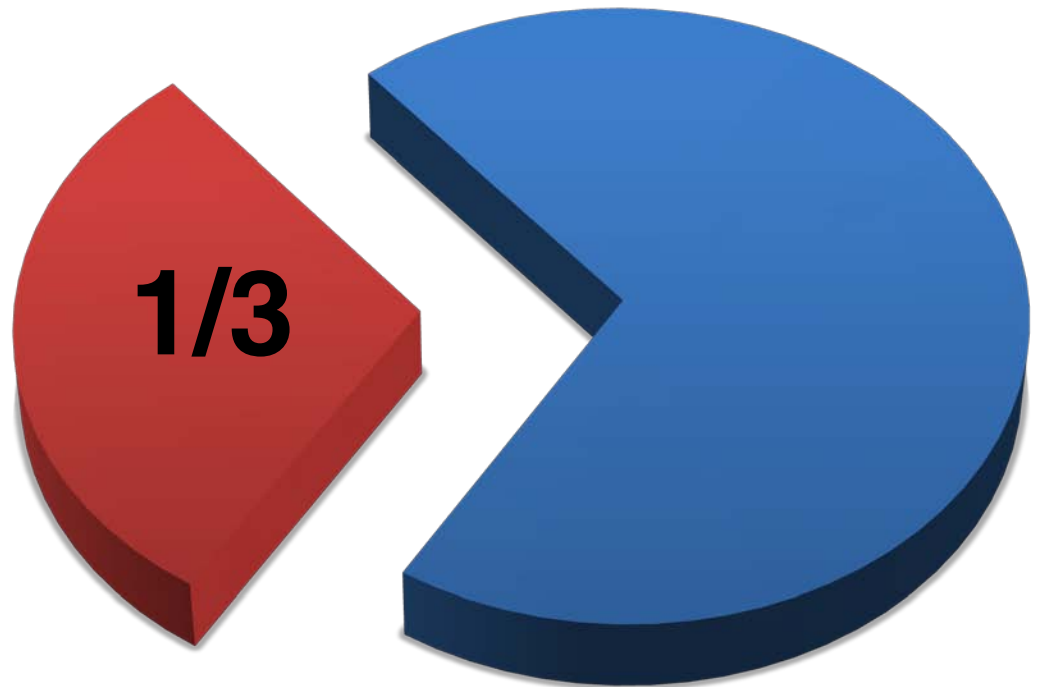
**TPC**

**Memory  
Controller**

**TPC**

**TPC**

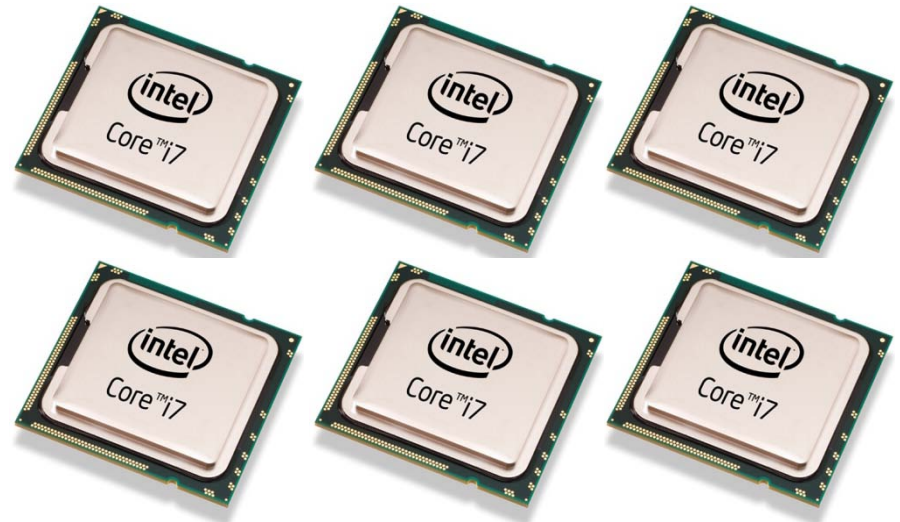
GPU dedicates about  
**30%** to the execution  
units!



GPU dedicates **6 times as many**  
resources to the execution units  
as CPU!

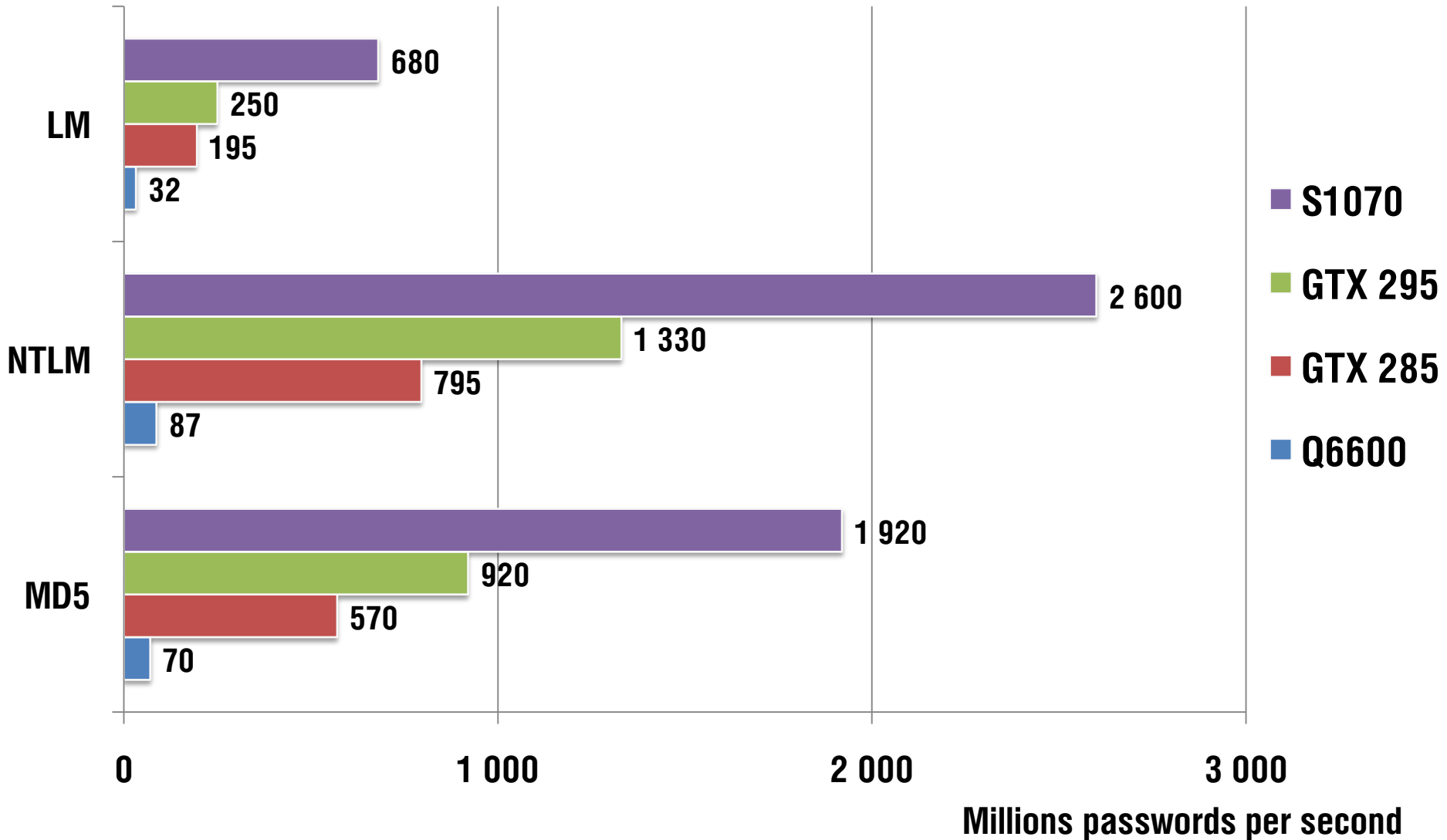


**183 Watts**  
**full load**

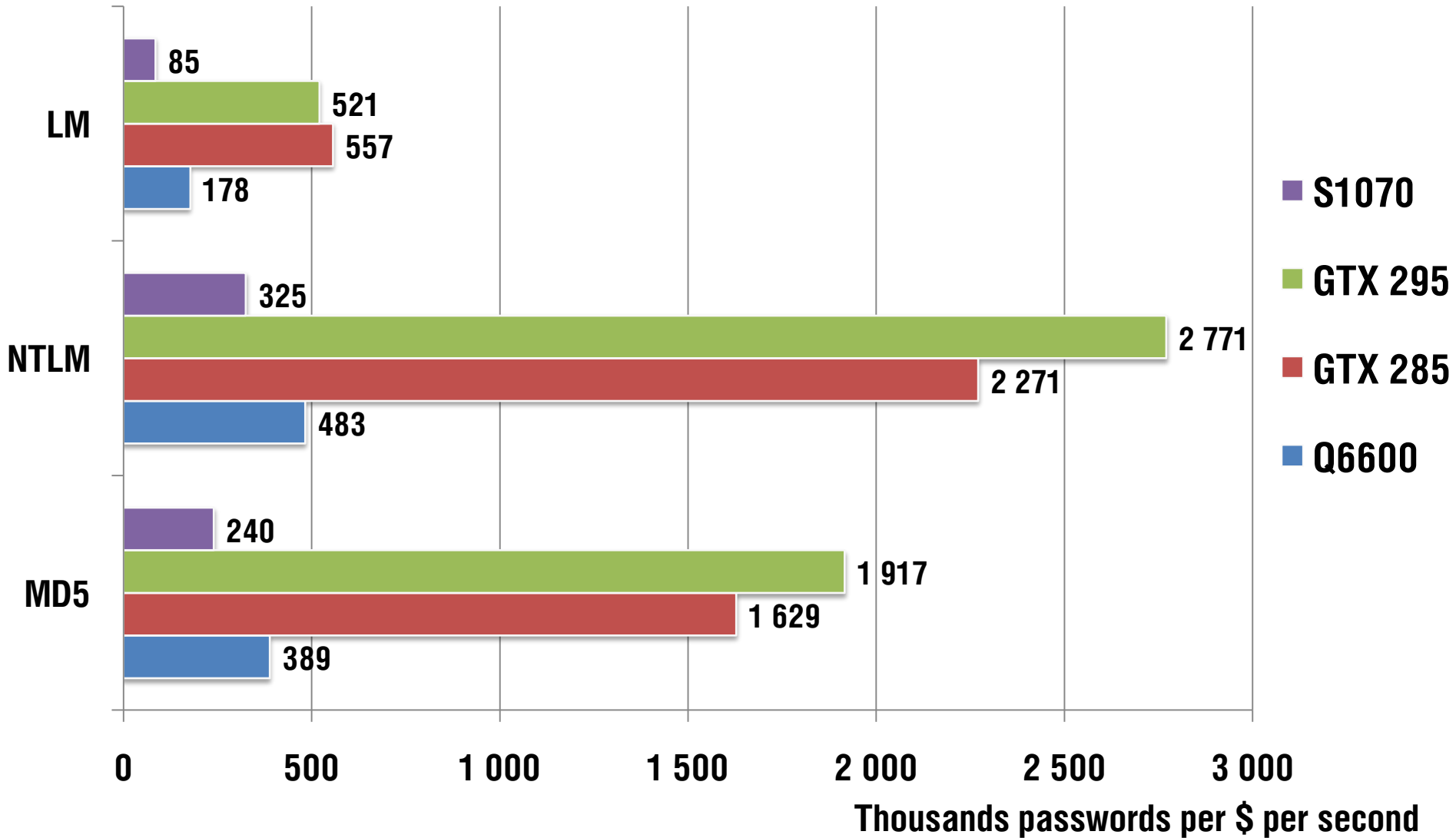


**6x130=780 Watts**  
**full load**

# Performance

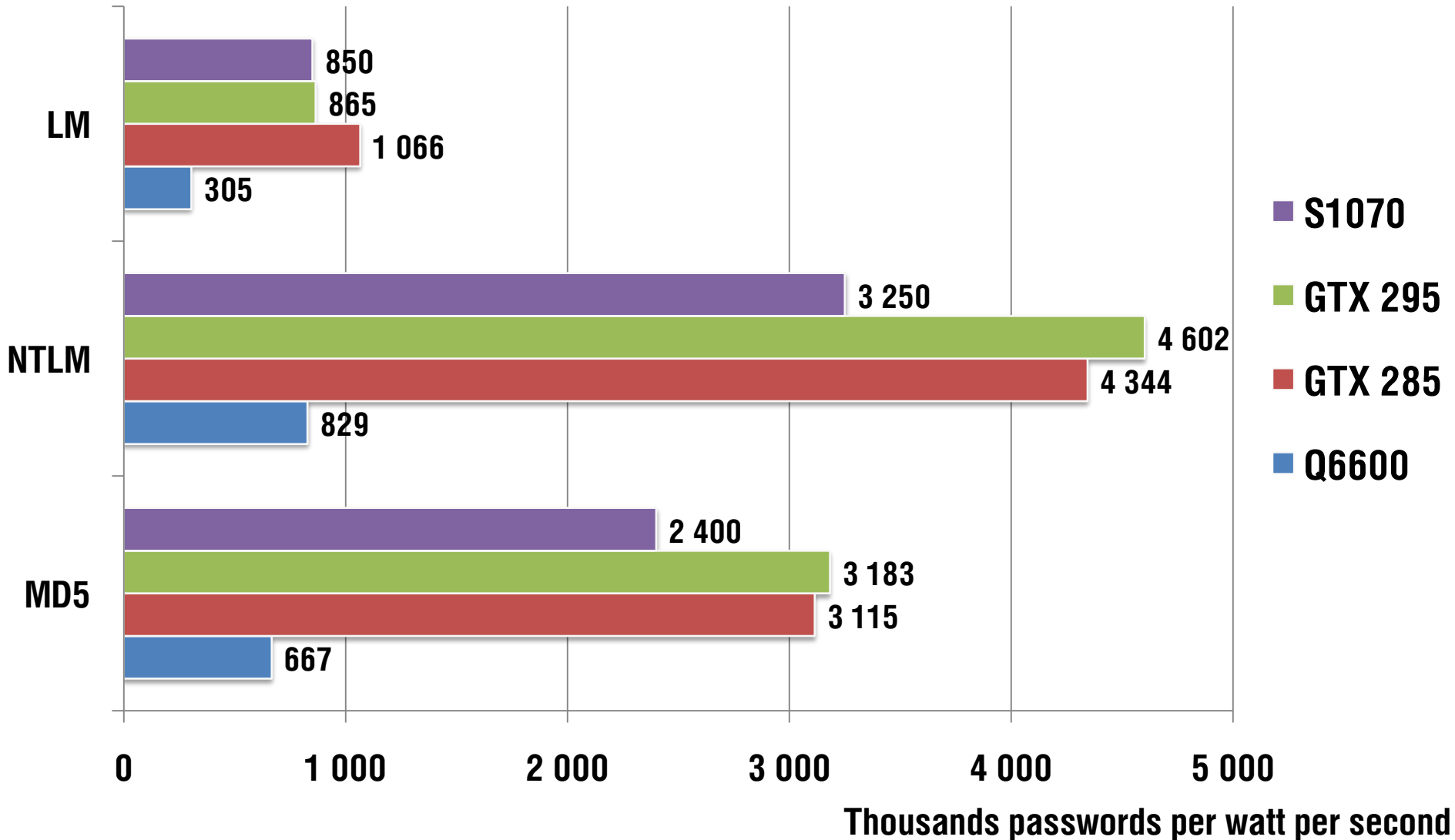


# Performance per \$





# Performance per Watt



# Bad News:

**Not every algorithm is worth offloading to GPU**

GPU is good at computing

but

GPU is bad at accessing random memory locations

MD4 / MD5 

SHA-1 / SHA-2 

RIPEMD 

MD2 

AES 

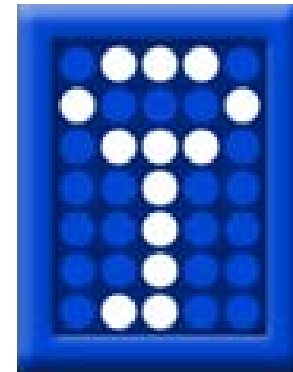
DES 

RC4 

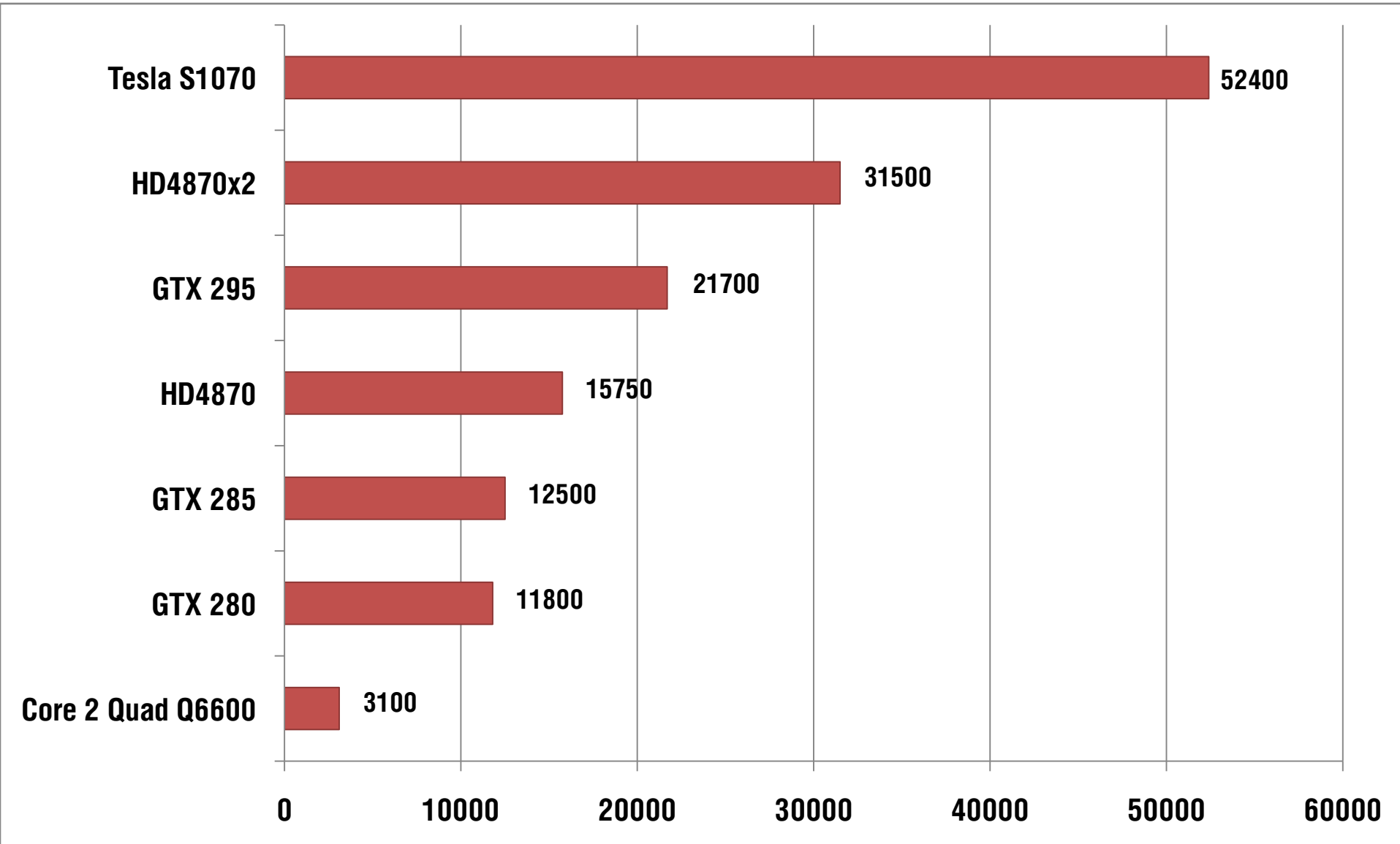
**Good News:**

**Humans love  
repetition**





# WPA-PSK



# Other Accelerators?

Based on FPGA (Xilinx)

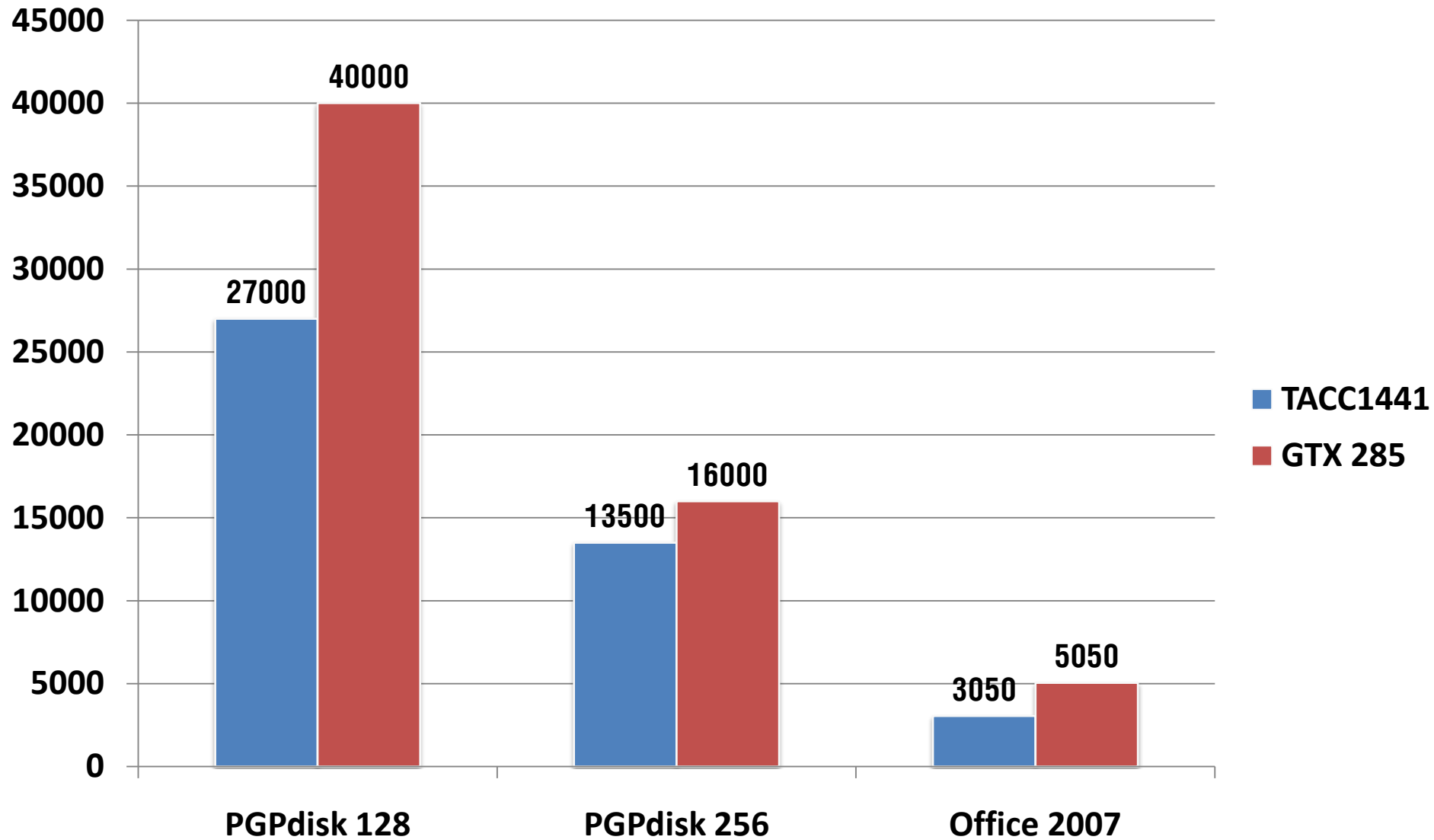
FireWire

Proprietary SDK

**US \$3'995**



# Single Unit Performance



**US \$3'995**

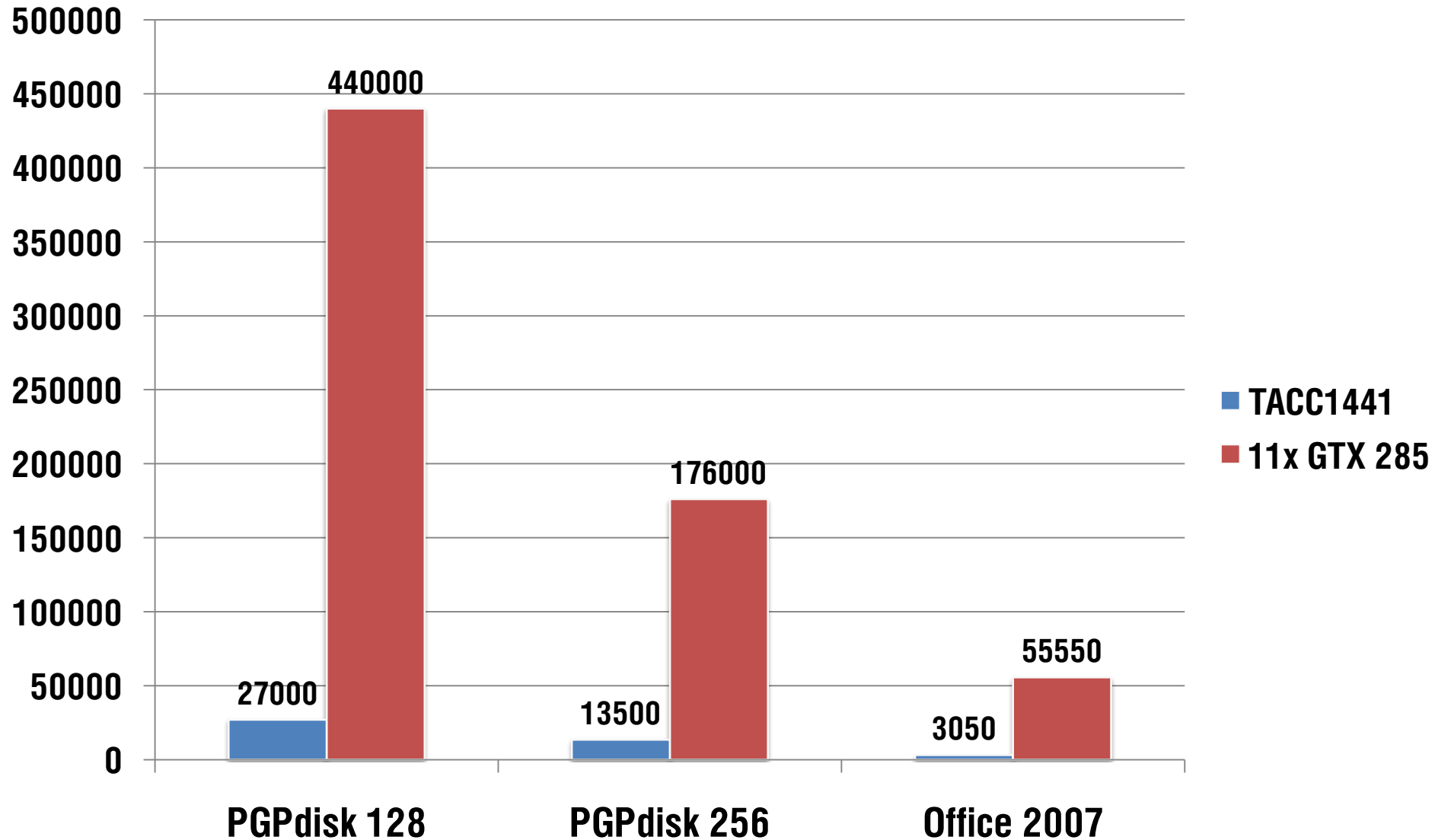




**US \$3'995**



# Performance for \$4K



# Greener Computing

- Consider a cluster of 25 dual-CPU quad-core computers
- 400 watts full load each
- 10'000 watts total



# Greener Computing

- Two Tesla S1070 provide same performance
- 800 watts full load each
- One computer for management
- 2'000 watts total







# Greener Computing

- 8'000 watts saved
- 49'090 kWh a year (at 70% utilization)
- €5'890 savings on electricity a year (at 0.12€ per kWh average rate)
- Prevents 27'500 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emission
- Takes 5 cars off the roads
- Saves 2'300 trees/year



# Thank You!

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