

EMC Buys Graphite Systems

Written by Marco Attard
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EMC-owned DSSD quietly buys Graphite Systems, a stealth-mode startup working on server/flash array systems with low latency and high throughput.



The storage giant did not announce the acquisition, and is still to comment on the news, but the Graphite Systems LinkedIn page bears the title "acquired by EMC/DSSD 08/2015."

Graphite Systems was founded in 2012, and has been in stealth-mode ever since. According to the LinkedIn page of one systems performance architect at the company it is working on a "low latency, high throughput compute server consisting of proprietary software and hardware components."

Another clue comes from a couple of patent applications. One such filing (number US 20140304460 A1) mentions a system "implement[ing] a cost-effective architecture that efficiently creates a very large, shared memory [and] exploit low cost solid-state devices, thereby providing "Flash As Memory" [...] the solid-state devices (e.g., flash memory chips) have addresses in the processor's memory space. Thus, the processor can directly access data in "flash memory" without first having to swap it into its main memory."

The system scales to petabyte levels, with "each central processing unit directly accesses solid state memory resources without swapping solid state memory contents into main memory."

Meanwhile rumour has it EMC's DSSD unit is developing something similar, namely a flash array using high-speed NVMe fabric interconnect to connect to servers, with flash residing in the server memory space. As such, the acquisition makes sense, if as a means to obtain patents and employees with relevant skills.

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