

Advertisement

Microsoft

There's a key ingredient you'll find in every successful partner relationship.

SEARCH: News Web results by **Google™** | [Search Archives](#)

washingtonpost.com > Technology > Wires



[Print This Article](#)
[E-Mail This Article](#)

Advertisement



QUICK QUOTES

Enter Symbol go
[Tables](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [Index](#)

Latest News: [Equifax says laptop with employee data was stolen](#)

IBM develops speedier transistor

Reuters
Tuesday, June 20, 2006; 12:39 AM

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - IBM has built a transistor that runs about 100 times faster than current chips, a development that could pave the way for ultra-fast computers and wireless networks, the computing giant said on Monday.

Transistors are the basic building blocks of the processors found in everything from supercomputers to digital music players, and IBM achieved the record speeds by building one from silicon laced with exotic chemical element germanium.

"What we've been doing in the last several years is pushing the absolute limits of silicon technology," said Bernie Meyerson, head of semiconductor research for

LESLIE WALKER AT EBAY LIVE



Post technology columnist blogs from Las Vegas gathering for 15,000 online sellers.

Advertisement

FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

- [Refinance Rates As Low As 2.9% - FREE QUOTES!](#)
- [\\$200,000 loan for \\$917/mo. Bad credit OK](#)
- [For College Graduates, Reduce Your Student Loans](#)
- [Barbra Streisand Tickets, Tim McGraw Tickets w/ Faith Hill](#)
- [NASCAR Tickets, Eric Clapton Tickets](#)
- [ReNu, Celexa, Car Accident, Vioxx, Bextra](#)

MOST VIEWED ARTICLESTechnology [On the Site](#)

Updated 4:15 p.m. ET

- [Equifax: Laptop With Employee Data Stolen](#)
- [Candidate Profiles Pop Up on Facebook](#)
- [Nielsen to gauge TV viewing on Web, mobile devices](#)
- [Sleuths Crack Tracking Code Discovered in Color Printers](#)
- [New Uses for Old Hard Drives](#)

RSS NEWS FEEDS[Top News](#)[Technology](#)[What is RSS? | All RSS Feeds](#)**E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS**

View a Sample and Sign Up

[TechNews Daily Report](#)[Personal Finance](#)[Personal Tech](#)[Manage Your Newsletters](#)

International Business Machines <IBM.N>.

"What we've done in demonstrating this is that we're nowhere near having tapped the limits of silicon performance, and that's very encouraging," Meyerson said.

The transistor achieved a speed of 500 gigahertz, which is more than 100 times speedier than the fastest PC chips sold today, and about 250 times faster than the typical mobile telephone chip, Meyerson said.

That speed was hit only when IBM researchers, working with counterparts from the Georgia Institute of Technology, cooled the transistor to near absolute zero, but Meyerson said the device still ran at 300 gigahertz at room temperature.

Clay Ryder, president of Sageza Group, a technology market research firm, said the breakthrough should lead to faster processors, but ones that will run far below the top speed demonstrated by IBM.

"We can build a (race car) that can go 240 miles per hour, but is that what you're going to drive to work? No, but you learn things that you can put in mass-produced cars," Ryder said.

Most improvements in chip speeds over the years have come from shrinking the size of transistors, but IBM's approach is to tweak the

- [What "It" Is eBay Wants](#)
- [Alibaba and the eBay Thieves](#)
- [Back to Collectibles](#)
- [Tech Blog: More Posts](#)
- [XML Sign Up for RSS Feed](#)
- [Leslie Walker's .com Column](#)

QUIZ**TECHNOLOGYTRIVIA**

What state has not passed a "security freeze" law which allows consumers to indefinitely prevent anyone from issuing credit in their name?

- A. [California](#)
- B. [Maine](#)
- C. [Maryland](#)
- D. [South Dakota](#)

- [Test Your Knowledge -- More Questions](#)
- [Submit Your Trivia Questions](#)

SAVE & SHARE[Tag This Article](#)▶ [Saving options](#)
 Powered by [Del.icio.us](#)
[\\$145,000 Mortgage for Under \\$484/Month!](#)[Promotional Pens, T-shirts, Custom Hats](#)[Cool Gadgets, Great Deals, Visit CircuitCity.com](#)[Get Free Checking with direct deposit](#)

silicon on the atomic level, meaning that transistors can be designed from the ground up with very specific applications in mind.

"That means you can have Babe Ruth-style scenarios where you step up and point the bat to left field and nail a shot there," Meyerson said.

Meyerson forecasts that the advances will show up in real products within a couple years, probably in chips to power super-fast wireless networks capable of moving a DVD-quality movie in as little as 5 seconds.



[Full Legal Notice](#)

MORE TECHNOLOGY ARTICLES

Most Viewed Technology Articles

- [Equifax: Laptop With Employee Data Stolen](#)
- [Candidate Profiles Pop Up on Facebook](#)
- [Nielsen to gauge TV viewing on Web, mobile devices](#)
- [Sleuths Crack Tracking Code Discovered in Color Printers](#)
- [New Uses for Old Hard Drives](#)

» [Top 35 Most Viewed](#)

Editors' Picks: Technology

- [Flexcar Receives Infusion of Cash](#)
- [Polygraph Test Results Vary Among Agencies](#)
- [U.S. to Buy Anthrax Treatment From HGS](#)
- [Equifax: Laptop With Employee Data Stolen](#)
- [Radical Evolution](#)

» [More in the Technology Section](#)

[Print This Article](#)

[E-Mail This Article](#)

© 2006 Reuters

Ads by Google

[Dual-Core Duel](#)

AMD vs. Intel - Get More Info About AMD's Proposed Dual-Core Duel