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24 March 2017

Intel announces the first Optane-branded product featuring 3D XPoint technology -- the Optane SSD DC P4800X, a drive customers can use as either storage or memory.

Aimed for datacentre use, the P4800X is ideal for high read/write applications demanding low latency, It has sequential transfer speeds of 2400MB/s read and 2000MB/s write, and can sustain high IOPS of 550000 read and 500000 write even at low queue depths. The result allows customers to do more work with the same servers, improving TCO or expanding capabilities, Intel claims.

In addition, "Memory Drive Technology" turns the P4800X as RAM once paired with an appropriate chipset and Xeon processor. Memory Drive Technology is a middleware layer combining DRAM with the SSD to create a single large pool of volatile memory. Technically Optane "memory" is slower than regular DRAM, but it offers higher density at a lower pricepoint.

The P4800X is available now as a 375GB PCIe card. Intel will release a 750GB PCIe model and a 375GB U.2 form factor model in Q2 2017, before the launch of a 1.5TB PCIe card and 750GB and 7.5TB U.2 stick on H2 2017.

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