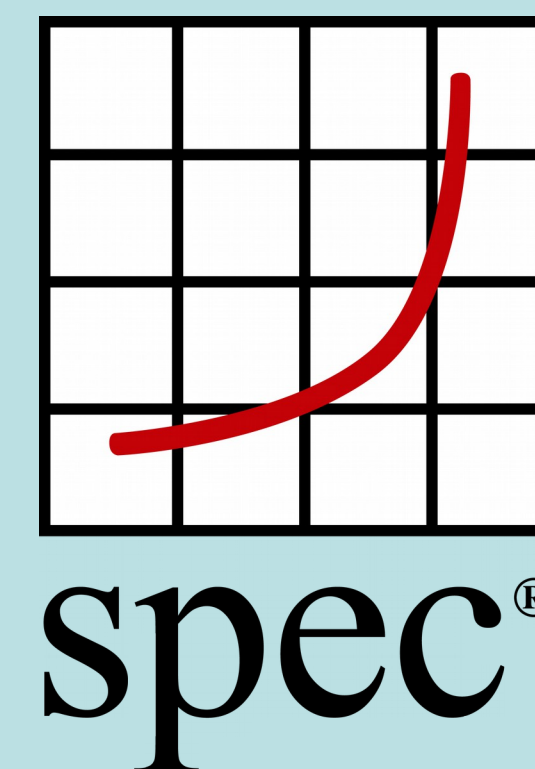


Driving Better Benchmarks

Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation



<http://www.spec.org>



Overview

- World-wide non-profit consortium formed in 1988 to establish, maintain and endorse a standardized set of relevant benchmarks
- Development of benchmark suites, review and publication of results
- 100 computer hardware and software vendors, educational and research institutions, and government agencies
- Large repository of well documented, peer reviewed, benchmark results
- Understanding of workloads, benchmark code, fair comparisons across different systems
- Provide guidance on workloads and benchmark development

Philosophy

- Ensure that the marketplace has a fair and useful set of metrics to differentiate systems
- Provide standardized code ported to a wide variety of platforms, metrics that are relevant and comparable across systems, and run rules to ensure representative and repeatable tests

Advantages

- Costs of benchmarking are kept down since:
 - Benchmarks are applicable to a broad range of platforms
 - A single standard benchmark replaces dozens of single use custom benchmarks
 - Peer review saves time and money over 3rd party audits
- Benchmarks are retired and replaced every 3-5 years to keep pace with technology
- New benchmarks can be created whenever there is sufficient interest

Membership Benefits

- Access to the cutting edge benchmark development
- Access to all benchmarks of a specific group
- Participation in development meetings
 - Contribute your ideas - get information on the latest thinking in commercial engineering
 - Real world experience for grad students aiding in dissertation research and job searches
 - Real world experience from grad students aiding companies in recruiting top talent
- Connect with dozens of leading universities worldwide who are SPEC associates and Research Group members for research collaboration
- Participate in ICPE conference with ACM - the premier performance evaluation conference in the world
- Join SPEC and participate

