

# PCI Technology



## ■ Conventional PCI

- Initial PCI 1.0 proposal by Intel in 1991
- Introduced by PCI-SIG as PCI 2.0 in 1993
- Version 2.1 approved in 1995
- Recent version 2.3 approved in March 2002

## ■ PCI-X

- Version 1.0 approved in September 1999
- Version 2.0 approved in July 2002

## ■ PCI Express

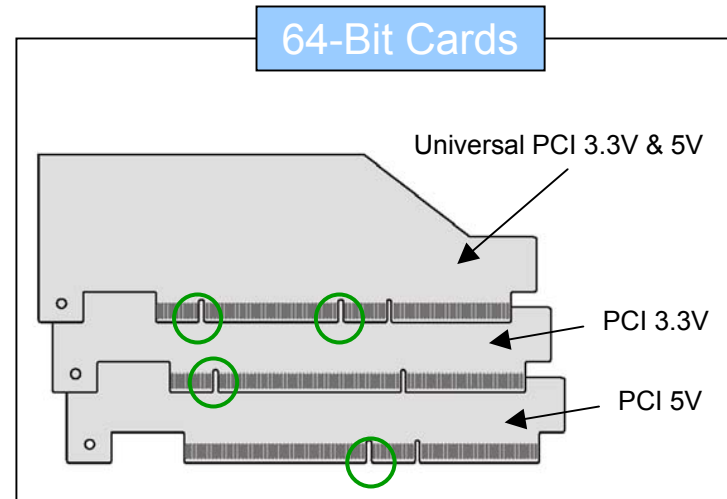
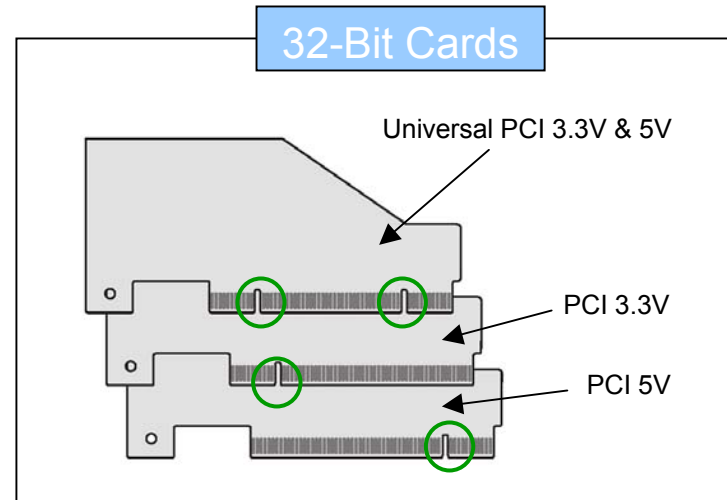
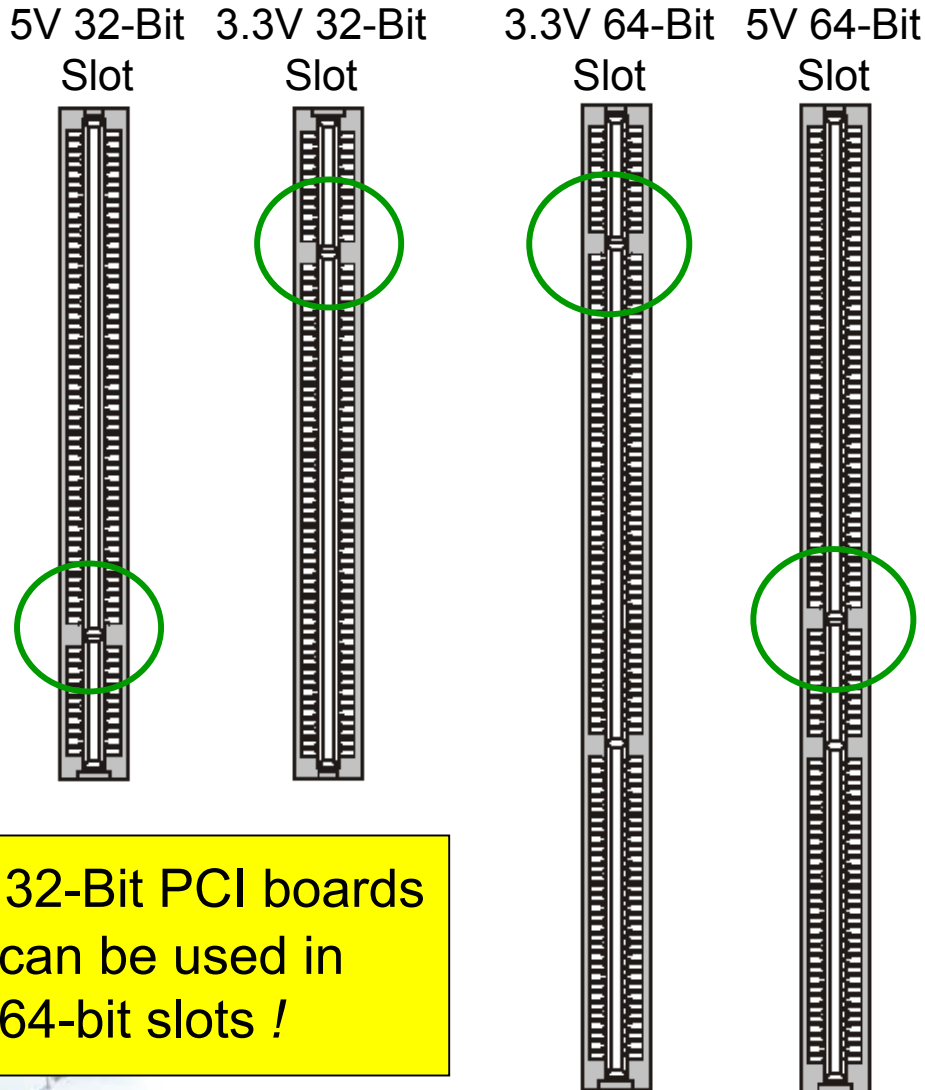
- Formerly known as 3GIO
- Version 1.0 approved in July 2002

# Conventional PCI



- Plug-and-Play Functionality
- Standard PCI is 32 bit and operates at 33 MHz
  - Throughput 133 MB/sec
- PCI 2.1 introduced
  - Universal PCI cards supporting both 3.3V and 5V
  - 64 Bit slots and 66 MHz capability
    - 32-Bit throughput @ 66 MHz: 266 MB/sec
    - 64-Bit throughput @ 66 MHz: 532 MB/sec
- PCI 2.3 system no longer supports 5V-only adapters
  - 3.3V and Universal PCI products are still fully supported !

# 32-Bit vs 64-Bit Slots/Boards



▶▶ 32-Bit PCI boards can be used in 64-bit slots !

# PCI-X 1.0



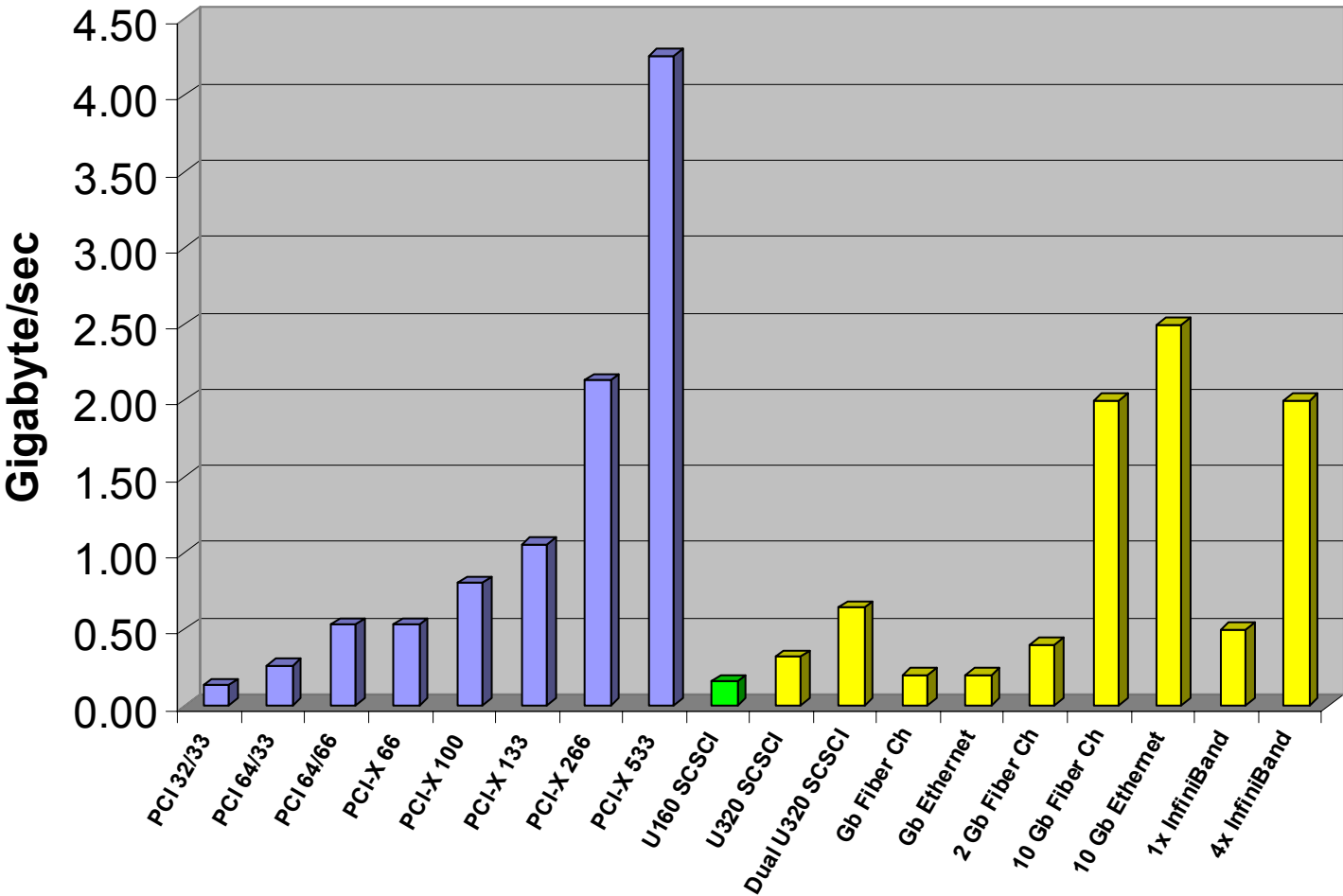
- Based on existing PCI architecture
- 64-Bit slots with support for 3.3V and Universal PCI
  - No support for 5V-only boards !
- Fully backwards-compatible
  - Conventional 33/66 MHz PCI adapters can be used in PCI-X slots
  - PCI-X adapters can be used in conventional PCI slots
- Provides two speed grades: 66 MHz and 133 MHz
  - The *slowest board* dictates the maximum speed on a particular bus !
- Targeted at high-end data networking and storage network applications



# PCI-X 2.0

- Based on PCI-X 1.0
  - Still fully backwards-compatible
- Introduces ECC (Error Correction Codes) mechanism to improve robustness and data integrity
- Provides two additional speed grades
  - PCI-X 266: 266 MHz (2.13 GB/sec)
  - PCI-X 533: 533 MHz (4.26 GB/sec)
- Bandwidth sufficient to support new breed of cutting-edge technologies
  - 10 Gigabit Ethernet / Fiber Channel
  - 4X / 12X InfiniBand

# PCI / PCI-X Performance vs Demand



Source: PCI-SIG

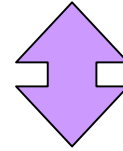
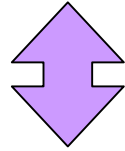
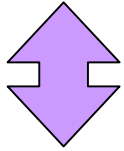
# PCI-X Speed Limitations



- PCI-X supports point-to-point and multi-drop loads
- Highest speed grades are supported *exclusively* with point-to-point loads
  - PCI-X 133
  - PCI-X 266
  - PCI-X 533
- Two PCI-X 133 loads operate at 100 MHz
- Four loads operate at a maximum of 66 MHz
- OEMs can build connector-less systems with multiple loads utilizing high speed grades

# PCI-X Speed Limitations

Memory Controller



PCI-X Bridge

PCI-X Bridge

PCI-X Bridge

PCI-X Slot

PCI-X Slot

PCI-X Slot

PCI-X Slot

PCI-X Slot

PCI-X Slot

PCI-X Slot

▶ Maximum speed  
133 / 266 / 533 MHz

▶ Maximum speed  
100 MHz

▶ Maximum speed  
66 MHz

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