



New Cray Urika-XA System Targets HPC–Big Data Convergence

October 16, 2014 - IDC Link

By: [Steve Conway](#)

Iconic supercomputer company Cray Inc. has [unveiled an important addition](#) to its lineup of offerings for the fast-growing market for high-performance data analysis, which spans high-performance computing (HPC) and commercial big data analytics. IDC forecasts that, by 2018, this convergence market for HPC-derived big data tools will reach \$2.6 billion in server spending (23.5% CAGR) and another \$1.6 billion in external storage (26.5% CAGR).

Tellingly, the Cray Urika-XA (extreme analytics) system debuted at the Hadoop World New York 2014 conference held October 15–17 — not a big hangout for the traditional supercomputing crowd. The system aims to address unmet/underserved big data analytics needs by tightly integrating Hadoop, Spark, and other popular tools with the firm's proven Cray CS400 cluster supercomputer platform and software stack. A major targeted benefit is shrinking the analytics pipeline and attendant costs by having one multipurpose server system replace several single-purpose analytics servers that may be used today for ETL, stream processing, data mining, and interactive queries.

If you think entering the commercial analytics market makes Cray a stranger in a strange land, think again. HPC was the original home of big data, and Cray has been there from the beginning. When financial services companies started converting particle physicists into back-office "quants" in the late 1980s, a fair number of the supercomputers they used for pricing exotics, optimizing portfolios, and performing global risk assessment wore the Cray badge. The Cray Urika-XA system integrates the company's long experience into a forward-looking, open platform aimed squarely at the convergence between data-intensive HPC and commercial big data analytics.

Subscriptions Covered:

[High-Performance Data Analysis](#), [HPC User Forum](#), [Technical Computing](#)

Please contact the IDC Hotline at 800.343.4952, ext.7988 (or +1.508.988.7988) or sales@idc.com for information on applying the price of this document toward the purchase of an IDC or Industry Insights service or for information on additional copies or Web rights. Visit us on the Web at www.idc.com. To view a list of IDC offices worldwide, visit www.idc.com/offices. Copyright 2014 IDC. Reproduction is forbidden unless authorized. All rights reserved.