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# SPARCstation

The **SPARCstation**, **SPARCserver** and **SPARCcenter** product lines were a series of SPARC-based computer workstations and servers in desktop, desk side (pedestal) and rack-based form factor configurations, developed and sold by Sun Microsystems.

The first SPARCstation was the SPARCstation 1 (also known as the Sun 4/60), introduced in 1989. The series was very popular and introduced the Sun-4c architecture, a variant of the Sun-4 architecture previously introduced in the Sun 4/260. Thanks in part to the delay in the development of more modern processors from Motorola, the SPARCstation series was very successful across the entire industry. The last model bearing the SPARCstation name was the SPARCstation 20. The workstation series was replaced by the Sun Ultra series in 1995; the next Sun server generation was the Sun Enterprise line introduced in 1996.

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## Models

Desktop and deskside SPARCstations and SPARCservers of the same model number were essentially identical systems, the only difference being that systems designated as servers were usually "headless" (that is, configured without a graphics card and monitor), and were sold with a "server" rather than a "desktop" OS license. For example, the SPARCstation 20 and SPARCserver 20 were almost identical in motherboard, CPU, case design and most other hardware specifications.

Most desktop SPARCstations and SPARCservers shipped in either "pizzabox" or "lunchbox" enclosures, a significant departure from earlier Sun and competing systems of the time. The SPARCstation 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 20 were "pizzabox" machines. The SPARCstation SLC and ELC were integrated into Sun monochrome monitor enclosures, and the SPARCstation IPC, IPX, SPARCclassic, SPARCclassic X and SPARCstation LX were "lunchbox" machines.

SPARCserver models ending in "30" or "70" were housed in deskside pedestal enclosures (respectively 5-slot and 12-slot VMEbus chassis); models ending in "90" and the SPARCcenter 2000 came in rackmount cabinet enclosures. The SPARCserver 1000's design was a large rack-mountable desktop unit.

Later versions of the SPARCstation series, such as the SPARCstation 10 and 20, could be configured as multiprocessor systems as they were based on the MBus high-speed bus. These systems could accept one or two single or dual central processing units packaged in MBus modules.

Until the launch of the SPARCserver 600MP series, all SPARCstation/server models were also assigned Sun 4-series model numbers. Later models received S-prefix model numbers.

Models are listed within their category in approximately chronological order.

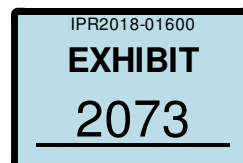


Sun SPARCstation 1+ "pizzabox", 25 MHz SPARC processor, early 1990s



SPARCstation Voyager

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SPARCstation#Sun\\_timeline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SPARCstation#Sun_timeline)



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**"Pizzabox" systems**

SPARCserver 1000 and SPARC Storage Array disk array

Name	Model	Codename	Platform	CPU	CPU MHz	RAM (max)	Announced	End of Sales	End of Support
<u>SPARCstation 1</u>	4/60	Campus	sun4c	Fujitsu MB86901A or LSI L64801	20 MHz	64 MB	April 1989		May 1999
<u>SPARCstation 1+</u>	4/65	Campus B	sun4c	LSI L64801	25 MHz	64 MB	1989		May 1999
<u>SPARCstation 2</u>	4/75	Calvin	sun4c	Cypress CY7C601 or Weitek SPARC POWER $\mu$ P WTL 8601	40, 80 MHz	128 MB	November 5, 1990		Dec 1999
<u>SPARCstation 10</u>	S10	Campus-2	sun4m	SuperSPARC I/II or hyperSPARC	33, 36, 40, 50, 60, 75, 80, 90, 100, 125, 150, 180, 200 MHz	512 MB	May 1992	Oct 1994	Oct 1999
<u>SPARCstation 5</u>	S5	Aurora	sun4m	microSPARC II or TurboSPARC	70, 85, 110, 170 MHz	256 MB	1994		Dec 1998
<u>SPARCstation 20</u>	S20	Kodiak	sun4m	SuperSPARC I/II or hyperSPARC	50, 60, 75, 90, 100, 125, 150, 180, 200 MHz	512 MB	1994		Sep 1997
<u>SPARCstation 4</u>	S4	Perigee	sun4m	microSPARC II	70, 85, 110 MHz	160 MB	1995		Jul 1997
<u>SPARC Xterminal 1</u> [Note 1]	S114	Perigee	sun4m	microSPARC	50 MHz	128 MB	March 1995		

1. The SPARC Xterminal 1 was an **X terminal**, using the same enclosure as the SPARCstation 4, but a different motherboard. A board-swap upgrade to a SPARCstation 4 was also sold.

**"Lunchbox" systems**

Name	Model	Codename	Platform	CPU	CPU MHz	RAM (max)	Announced	End of Sales	End of Support
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation IPC</a></u>	4/40	Phoenix	sun4c	Fujitsu MB86901A or LSI L64801	25 MHz	48 MB	1990		Dec 1999
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation IPX</a></u>	4/50	Hobbes	sun4c	Fujitsu MB86903, Weitek W8701, or Weitek SPARC POWER $\mu$ P WTL 8601	40, 80 MHz	64 MB	1991		May 2000
<u><a href="#">SPARCclassic</a></u> <small>[Note 1]</small>	4/15	Sunergy	sun4m	microSPARC	50 MHz	128 MB	Nov 1992	May 1995	May 2000
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation LX</a></u>	4/30	Sunergy	sun4m	microSPARC	50 MHz	128 MB	Nov 1992 / Aug 1993	Jul 1994	Jul 1999
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation ZX</a></u>	4/30	Sunergy	sun4m	microSPARC	50 MHz	96 MB	Aug 1993		March 1994
<u><a href="#">SPARCclassic X</a></u> <small>[Note 2]</small>	4/10	Hamlet	sun4m	microSPARC	50 MHz	96 MB	Jul 1993	May 1995	May 2000

1. The SPARCclassic was originally to be called the SPARCstation LC but was renamed shortly before launch to avoid confusion with the SPARCstation ELC.
2. The SPARCclassic X was a stripped-down SPARCclassic (no hard drive or diskette drive, and only 4 or 8 MB of memory) sold as an X terminal. Kits were sold to upgrade it to a SPARCclassic.

### Integrated monitor/portable systems

Name	Model	Codename	Platform	CPU	CPU MHz	RAM (max)	Announced	End of Sales	End of Support
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation SLC</a></u>	4/20	Off-Campus	sun4c	Fujitsu MB86901A, LSI L64801 or LSI LSIS1C0007	20 MHz	16 MB			Nov 1996
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation ELC</a></u>	4/25	Node Warrior	sun4c	Fujitsu MB86903 or Weitek W8701	33 MHz	64 MB			Oct 1998
<u><a href="#">SPARCstation Voyager</a></u>	S240	Gypsy	sun4m	microSPARC II	60 MHz	80 MB	Mar 1994	Dec 1995	Dec 2000

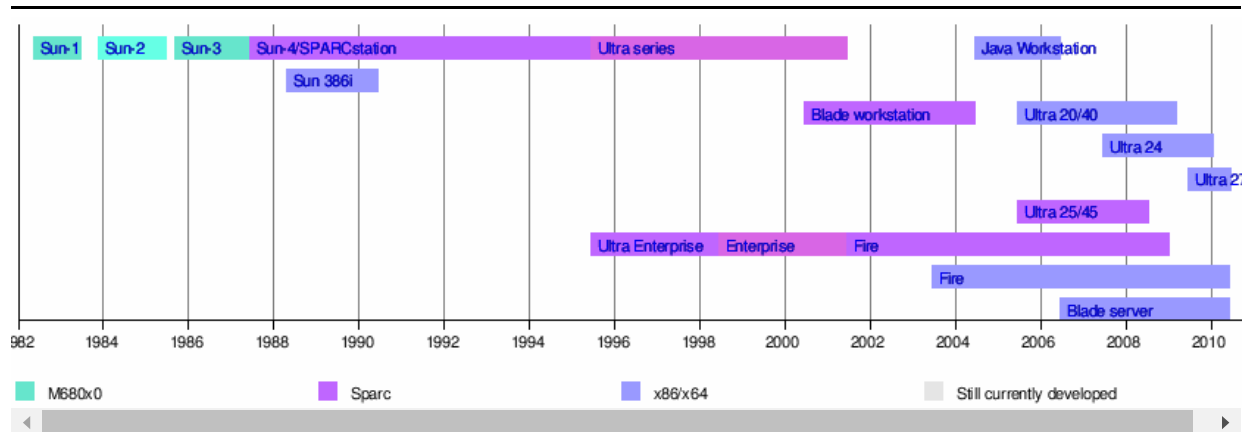
### Server systems

Name	Model	Codename	Platform	CPU	CPU bus	CPU MHz	RAM (max)
<a href="#">SPARCserver 330</a>	4/330	Stingray	sun4	Cypress CY7C601	—	25 MHz	72 MB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 370</a>	4/370	Stingray	sun4	Cypress CY7C601	—	25 MHz	72 MB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 390</a>	4/390	Stingray	sun4	Cypress CY7C601	—	25 MHz	72 MB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 470</a>	4/470	Sunray	sun4	Cypress CY7C601	—	33 MHz	96 MB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 490</a>	4/490	Sunray	sun4	Cypress CY7C601	—	33 MHz	96 MB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 630MP</a>	S630	Galaxy	sun4m	Up to four Cypress CY7C601 or SuperSPARC I	Mbus	40, 50, 60 MHz	1 GB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 670MP</a>	S670	Galaxy	sun4m	Up to four Cypress CY7C601 or SuperSPARC I	Mbus	40, 50, 60 MHz	2.5 GB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 690MP</a>	S690	Galaxy	sun4m	Up to four Cypress CY7C601 or SuperSPARC I	Mbus	40, 50, 60 MHz	3.5 GB
<a href="#">SPARCserver 1000/1000E</a>	S1000	Scorpion	sun4d	Up to eight SuperSPARC I/II	XDBus x1	40, 50, 60, 85 MHz	2 GB
<a href="#">SPARCcenter 2000/2000E</a>	S2000	Dragon	sun4d	Up to 20 SuperSPARC I/II	XDBus x2	40, 50, 60, 85 MHz	5 GB
<a href="#">Cray Superserver CS6400</a>	CS6400	SuperDragon	sun4d	Up to 64 SuperSPARC I/II	XDBus x4	60, 85 MHz	16 GB

Note that the above configurations were those supported by Sun Microsystems. Various third-party processor upgrades were available for SPARCstation/server systems, for instance the 80 MHz [Weitek POWER](#)  $\mu$ P for the SPARCstation 2 or IPX, or the [Ross hyperSPARC](#) Mbus modules rated at clock speeds up to 200 MHz. As mentioned above, some models listed as SPARCstations were also available in SPARCserver configuration and vice versa.

The CS6400 was developed by an outside group working cooperatively with, rather than competitively against, [Sun Microsystems](#),<sup>[1][2]</sup> as a result, although sold by [Cray Research](#) as the "Cray Superserver 6400", all of its components had Sun OEM part numbers and the machine was documented in Sun's System Handbook.<sup>[3]</sup> In 1996, when Cray Research was bought by [Silicon Graphics](#), the CS6400 development group was sold to Sun, and released the 64-processor [Sun Ultra Enterprise 10000 "Starfire"](#) the following year.

## Sun timeline



## See also

- [Cray CS6400](#)

## References

1. How the Sun Enterprise 10000 Was Born (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150924012730/http://www.filibeto.org/~aduritz/truetrue/e10000/how-e10k-wasborn.html>)
2. "Scaling Solaris for Enterprise Computing", Cray Users Group 1995 Spring *Proceedings* ([https://cug.org/5-publications/proceedings\\_attende\\_lists/1997CD/S95PROC/172\\_181.PDF](https://cug.org/5-publications/proceedings_attende_lists/1997CD/S95PROC/172_181.PDF))
3. Sun System Handbook v2.1, 2003 March ([https://web.ivy.net/~carton/sun-feh-2\\_1/Systems/4d-System/4dSYSTEM\\_Cray\\_Supersvr\\_6400.html](https://web.ivy.net/~carton/sun-feh-2_1/Systems/4d-System/4dSYSTEM_Cray_Supersvr_6400.html))

## External links

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- Sun Microsystems (<http://www.sun.com/>)
  - The Sun Hardware Reference, Part 1 (<http://www.sunhelp.org/faq/sunref1.html>)
  - Benchmarks for various Sun systems (<http://sunstuff.org/hardware/performance/>)
  - Obsolyte! - Fan site for old Unix Workstations, including Sun machines (<http://www.obsolyte.com/>)
  - Sun Field Engineer Handbook, 20th edition (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070715111911/http://www.sunshack.org/data/feh/1.5/wcd00094/wcd09466.htm>)
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