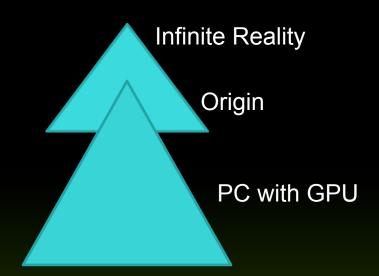
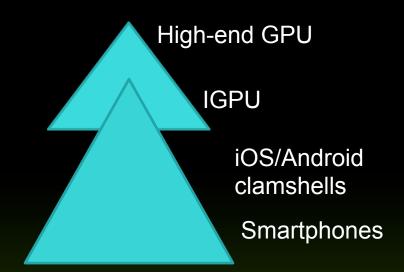


Mobile vs. PC graphics revolutions – is history repeating itself?

PC revolution (1997-2000)



Mobile revolution (2011-?):



Similarities

- Expensive incumbent undercut by ubiquitous, lower-cost competitor
- New platform offers new capabilities
 - PC: personal graphics experience, consumer networking
 - Mobile: location-aware, wireless networking
- Huge developer support for new platform

Differences

- Performance equality:
 - PC revolution brought economies of massive scale was able to equal and eventually beat workstation perf
 - PCs/consoles are already at massive scale.
 - Mobile revolution has 1-2 order-of-magnitude power disadvantage
- User-interaction
 - PCs and workstations used same displays and user interface
 - Mobile devices have smaller screens and new types of user interaction

Predictions

- Mobile devices can't replace desktop devices for two reasons:
 - Immersive environment (unless eye-glass or head-mounted displays greatly improve)
 - Power disadvantage (but eventually mobile devices will be "good enough")
- Both platforms will continue for the foreseeable future
 - Mobile will be broad and PCs will increasingly become niche
 - Much sharing of technology across platforms

Some notes about content

- Content determines the success of a platform as much as the platform's raw capability
- 3D console apps (XBox360/PS3)
 - Lots of great content
 - At brink of being supportable on mobile
 - But may require UI and LOD tweaks)
- Mobile apps
 - Most current mobile games are casual games, social, or strategyoriented (only modest 3D)
 - Lots of developer traction and enthusiasm
 - Will thrive as hardware capability improves and APIs standardize
- Different breeds as long as user-interfaces differ