Intel® Scalable I/O Virtualization

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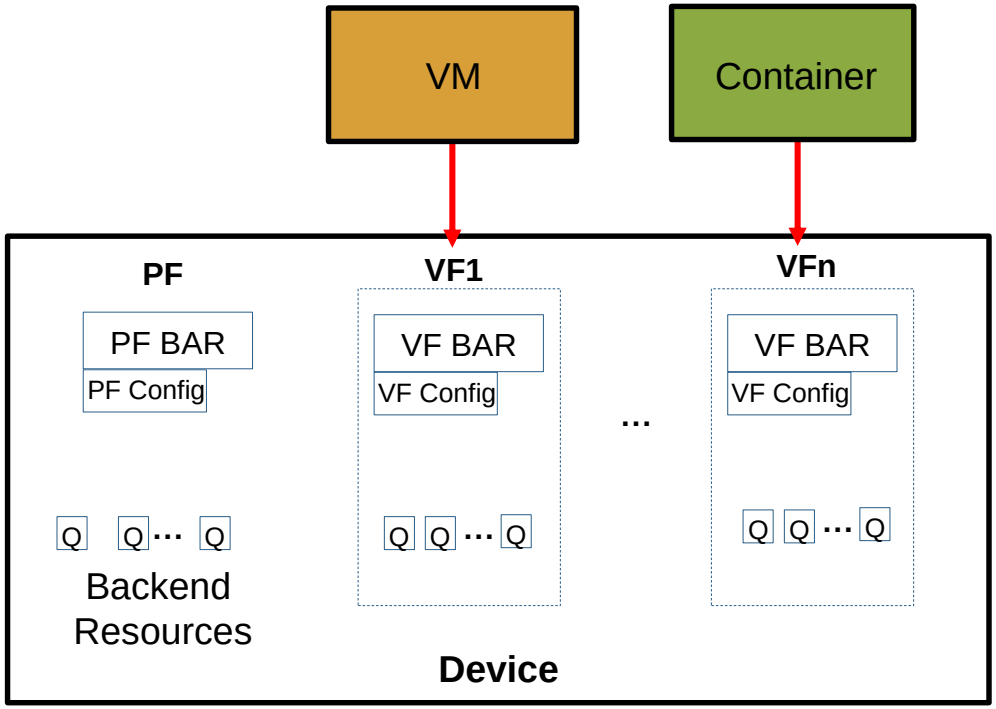
Hardware-Assisted I/O Virtualization

- Pursued for two classes of devices
  - High-performance devices where SW method imposes large overhead
    - E.g. NICs, RDMA devices, NVMe, etc.
  - Complex devices where virtualizing the device entirely in software is not practical
    - E.g. GPU, FPGA, etc.
- Today SR-IOV is the standard framework for PCI Express® devices

PCI Express® SR-IOV



- PCIe® Single Root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV)
  - ✓ Physical Function (PF)
  - ✓ Virtual Function (VF)
- VF directly assignable to
  - ✓ Traditional Virtual Machine (VM)
  - ✓ Bare metal container/process
  - ✓ VM container

New Requirements

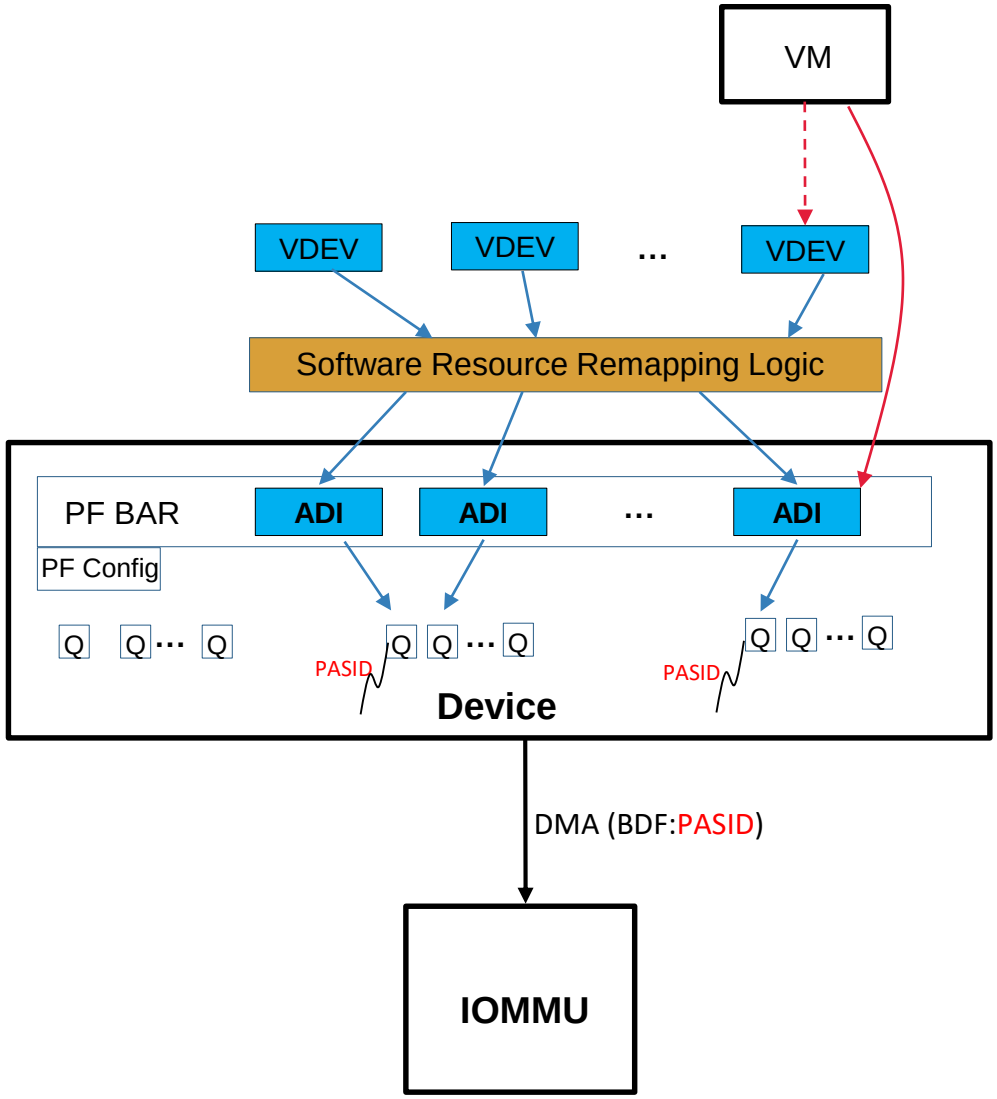
- Hyper-scale environment
  - Scale to 1000+ VMs/containers
- Dynamic resource management
  - User-defined sharing granularity, over-provisioning, etc.
- Composability
  - VM live migration, snapshot, generational compatibility, etc.

Observed major limitations on SR-IOV!

Intel® Scalable I/O Virtualization (Intel® Scalable IOV)

- A hardware-assisted mediated pass-through architecture
  - Slow-path operations emulated by software
  - Fast-path resources dynamically provisioned for direct access
  - Hardware-enforced DMA isolation between fast-path resources
- Finer-grained device sharing than SR-IOV
  - Think about each TX/RX queue pair is now assignable
- Utilizes existing PCIe® capabilities
  - e.g. Process Address Space ID (PASID)
- Supports any type of devices
  - e.g. NIC, storage, GPU, accelerators, … (integrated or discrete)
- Supports both VM and bare-metal usages

Intel® Scalable IOV Concept



■Device: Assignable Device Interfaces (ADI)

- ✓ Queues, queue pairs, contexts
- ✓ Meet isolation criteria to be 'assignable'
- ✓ Tagged with unique PASID

■Platform: PASID-granular DMA isolation

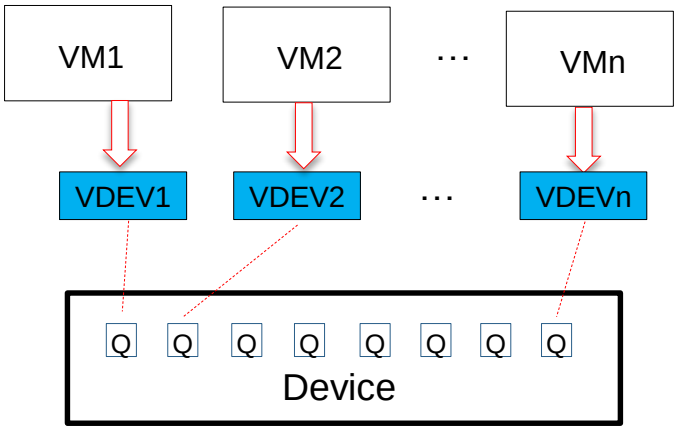
- ✓ Through Intel® VT-d extensions

■Software: Compose ADIs into Virtual Device (VDEV)

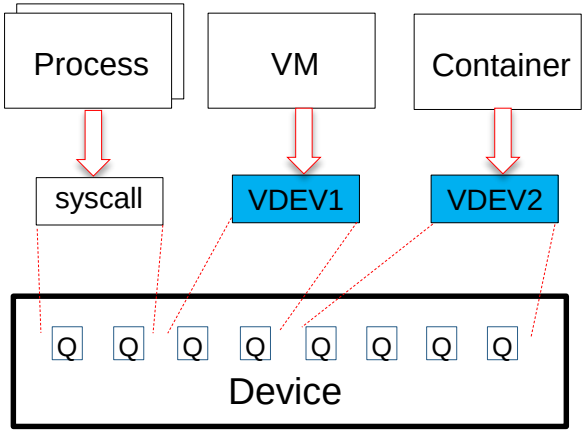
- ✓ Software managed resource remapping between VDEV and ADI
- ✓ Slow-path emulation & fast-path pass-through

Benefits

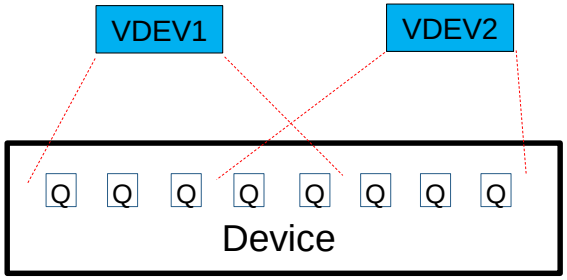
Scalability



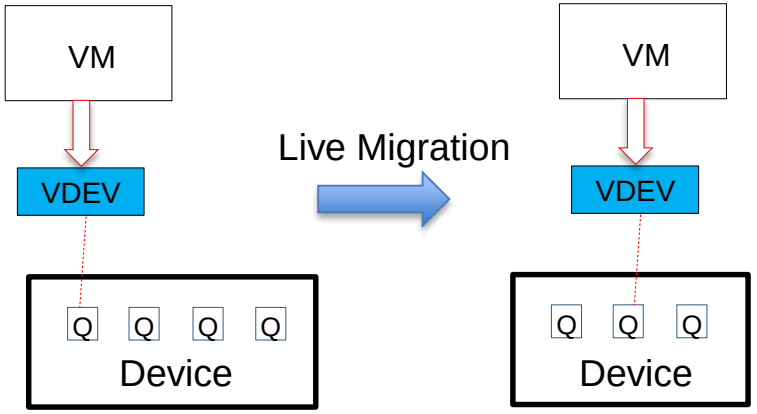
Flexibility



Over-provisioning



Composability



Assignable Device Interfaces (ADIs)

- Smallest granularity of sharing a device
  - No PCI config space register, share common BDF
  - Identified by PASID
- For ADI to be ‘assignable’
  - Functional isolation between ADIs
  - ADI MMIO registers in separate system page size regions
  - All DMAs tagged with PASID
  - Independently resettable
  - Scalable Interrupt Message Storage (IMS)
  - …

Enumeration of Intel® Scalable IOV Capability

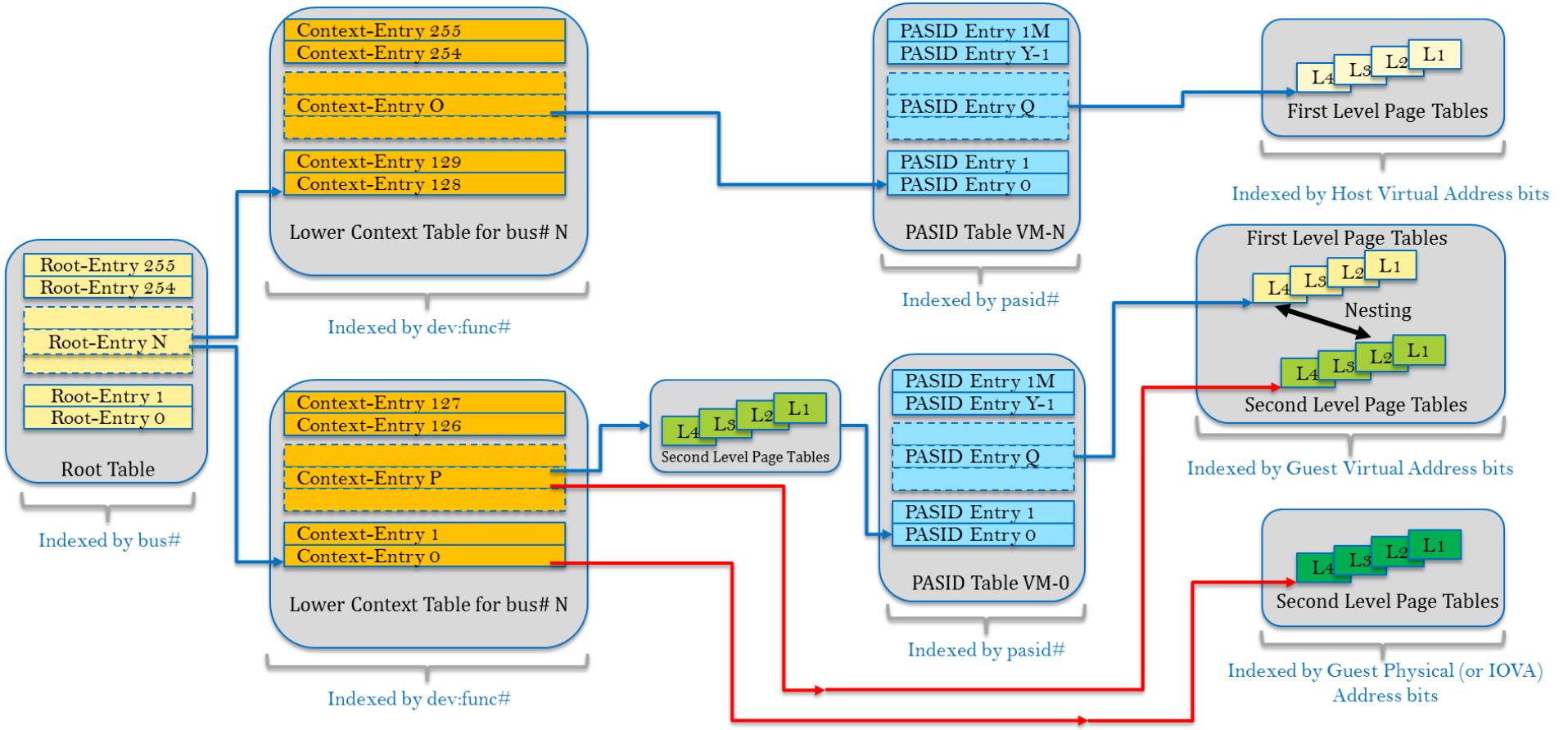
- Designated Vendor Specific Extended Capability (DVSEC) to discover Intel® Scalable IOV capability
  - A simplified subset of SR-IOV capability

31 24	23 20	19 16	15 0	Byte Offset
Next Capability Offset		Cap Version	PCI Express Extended Capability ID = 0x23	00h
DVSEC Length = 0x18		DVSEC rev = 0	DVSEC Vendor ID = 8086	04h
Flags (RO)	Function Dependency Link (RO)		DVSEC ID for Scalable IOV = XXX	08h
Supported Page Sizes (RO)				0Ch
System Page Size (RW)				10h
Capabilities (RO)				14h

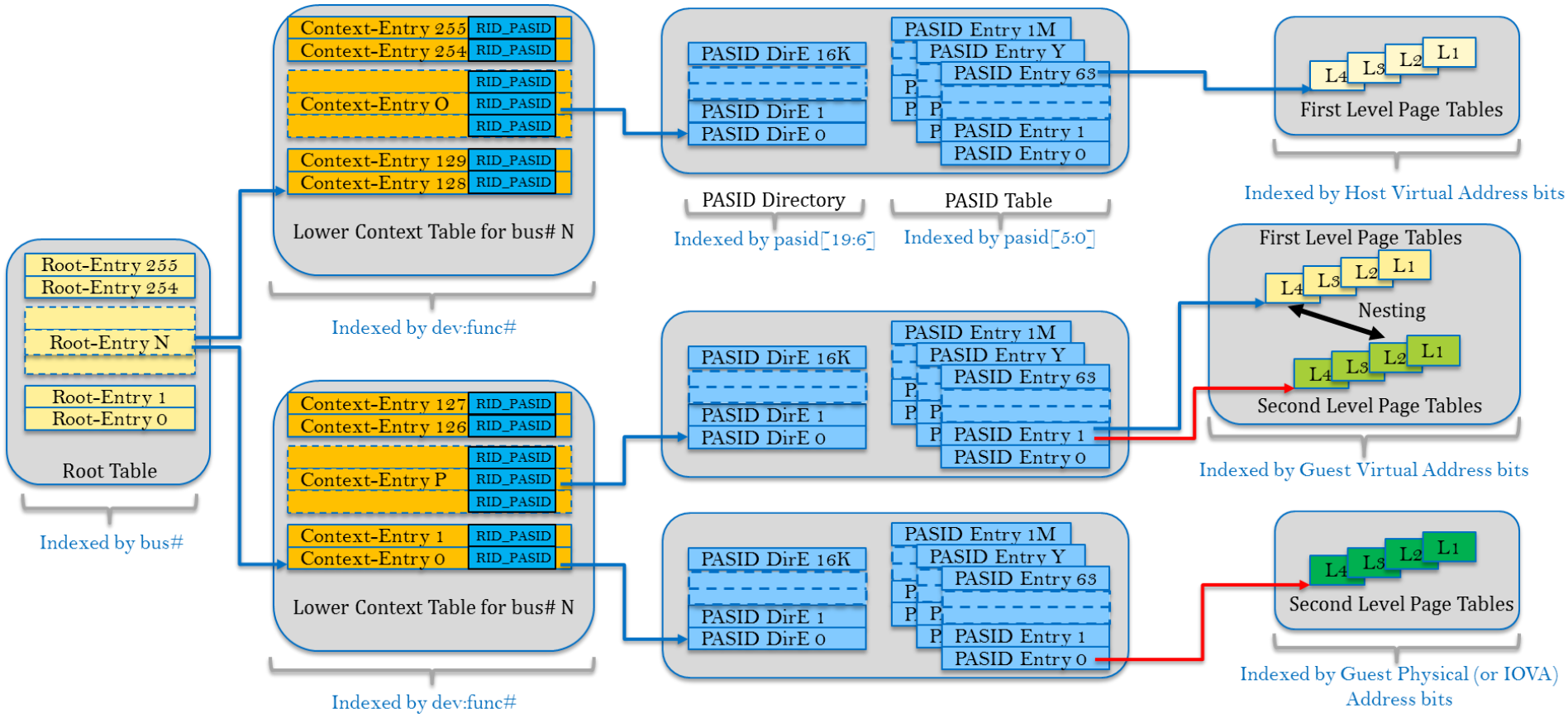
Intel® VT-d Enhancement

- Scalable mode DMA remapping
  - PASID granule 1st-level, 2nd-level, nested and pass-through
  - PASID table now two-level structure
  - Cover both Scalable IOV and SVM usages
    - Extended Context (ECS) is deprecated
- Access/Dirty (A/D) bits in 2nd-level
  - Assist dirty memory tracking in live migration

Extended Context Mode (Deprecated)



Scalable Mode (New)

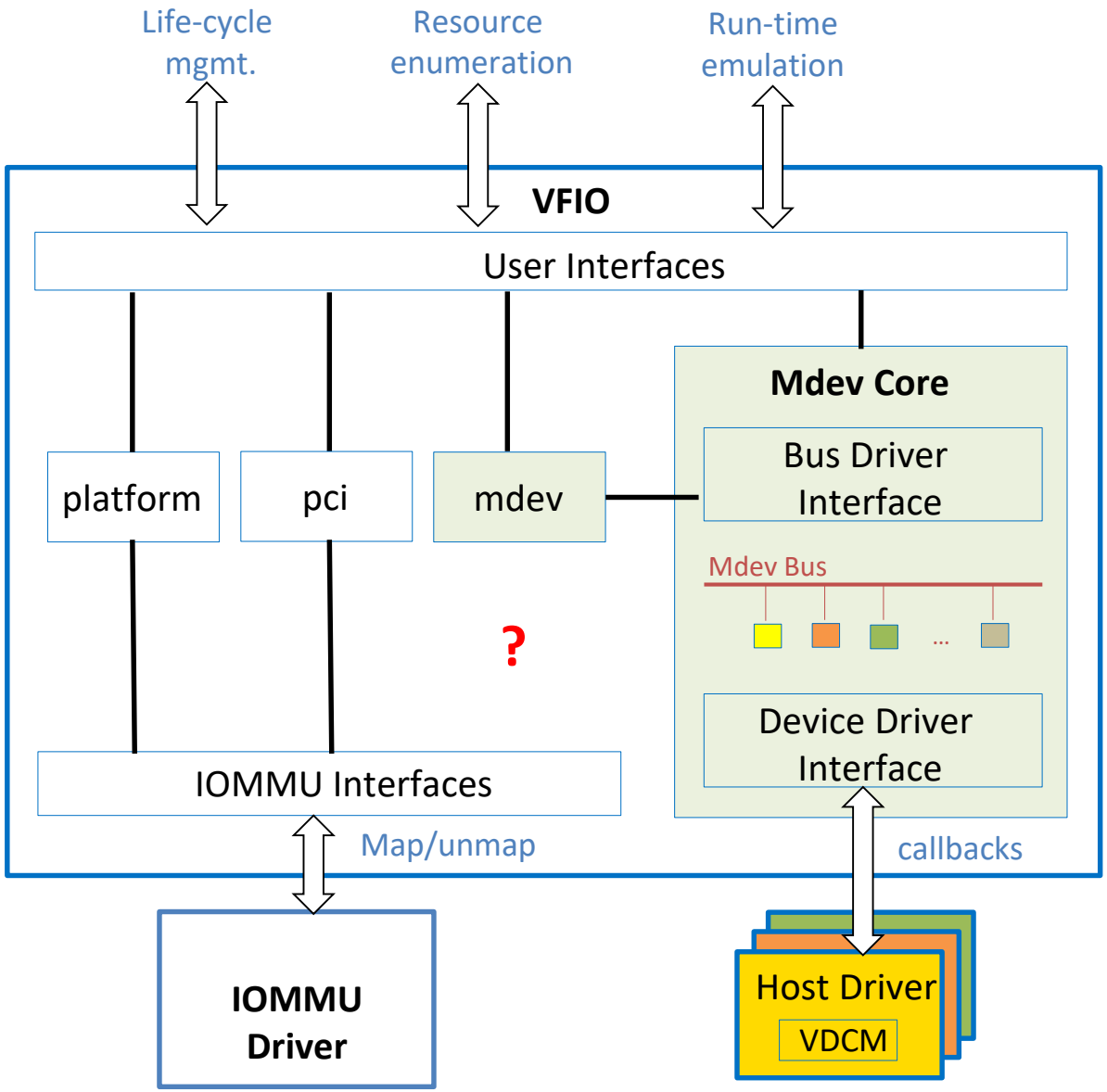


Key Difference: PASID is a global ID space shared by all VMs.
ALL page-table pointers moved to PASID Granular table

Software Composition

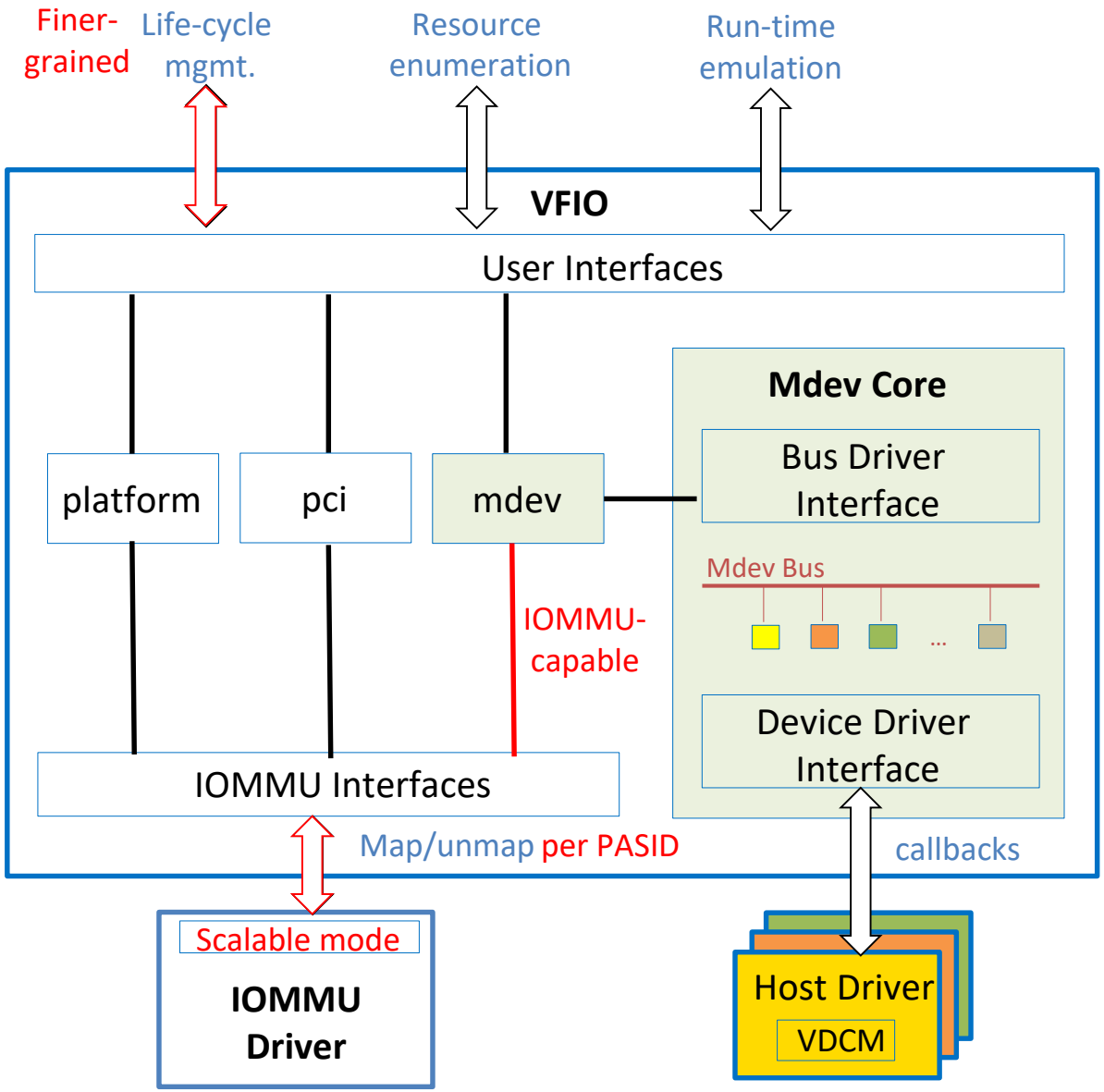
- Virtual Device Composition Module (VDCM)
  - Compose ADIs into Virtual Device (VDEV)
  - Emulate slow-path operations
- Need a framework to connect VDCM for
  - Managing VDEV life-cycle
  - Setting up access policy on VDEV resources
  - Serving slow-path operations from guest
- In Linux it's VFIO mediated device framework!
  - "mdev" == "VDEV" in concept

VFIO Mediated Device Framework



- Mdev core
  - ✓ Connect VFIO and VDCM
- User interfaces
  - ✓ Used by libvirt, qemu, etc.
- IOMMU map/unmap
- DMA isolation for mdev
  - ✓ Purely in software, or
  - ✓ In vendor specific way

Extensions for Intel® Scalable IOV



■IOMMU-capable mdev

- ✓ Link to iommu_domain (tagged by PASID)
- ✓ Allow PASID-granular iommu map/unmap
- ✓ Opt-in by VDCM

■Finer-grained resource management

- ✓ Specify any number of ADIs to compose a mdev

■Unified framework for VM and bare metal usages

- ✓ Mdev composition can be usage specific, e.g. no PCI emulation in bare metal usage

Main Linux Enabling Tasks

- To enable basic ADI assignment
  - Support new scalable mode
  - Need system-wide PASID space
  - Introduce iommu-capable mdev
  - Device specific VDCM in host driver
- To support vIOMMU/vSVM with ADI
  - Emulate new scalable mode on vIOMMU
  - Enlightened PASID management scheme
  - Maintain compatible APIs between PF/VF and ADI

Summary of Architecture Changes

Device Support

- Support Assignable Device Interfaces (ADIs)
- Support direct fast-path access from VMs

Platform Support

- Extend Intel® VT-d to use PASID/BDF to identify DMA upstream accesses

Software Support

- Move infrequent (slow-path) accesses from the device to software without affecting perf

Documentation

- Intel® VT-d specification update (Rev 3.0)
  - Documents Intel® VT-d (IOMMU) support for PASID granular address translation
- Intel® Scalable I/O Virtualization Technical Specification (Rev 1.0)
  - Documents the Scalable IOV architecture blueprint and operation, including DVSEC
  - Addresses architecture requirements for devices and drivers
  - Agnostic of type of device or specific implementation
  - Openly published to enable broad device and software ecosystem
- https://software.intel.com/en-us/articles/intel-sdm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