

Intel Bets Further on Wearables

Written by Marco Attard
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Intel's CES 2015 is all about wearables, as the company shows off Curie, a low-power button-size module designed for wearables-- meaning clothing with built-in computing smarts, as well as devices such as fitness trackers and smartwatches.



"With this [vendors] can deliver wearables in a range of form factors," CEO Brian Krzanich says at the Intel CES keynote. "Rings, bags, bracelets, pendants, and yes, even the buttons on our jackets."

The Curie module consists of a low-power 32-bit Quark microcontroller, 384kB of flash memory, motion sensors, Bluetooth LE radio and battery-charging capabilities. Meant for always-on applications, it should be suitable for devices either forwarding notifications or tracking user activity. Chipzilla will also provide Viper, a real-time open-source software solution for developers wanting to take advantage of the Curie platform.

To further push such ambitions Intel announced a "strategic wearables collaboration" with sunglasses maker Oakley, one set to "fuse premium, luxury and sports eyewear with smart technology." How so? According to Oakley the first such product will be a means to track and enhance athlete performance.

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