

# TEMU

## ***Generic Cache Device Model Manual***

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*Table 1. Record of Changes*

Rev	Date	Author	Note
1.1	2016-09-16	MH	General improvements.
1.0	2015-09-18	MH	Initial version.

# 1. Introduction

TEMU supports the use of cache models. However, cache models, at least when they are non-statistical have a significant impact on performance, and therefor, normally cache models are not used when running the emulator.

For the cases where a cache model is needed, the generic cache model is likely to be useful (see limitations for when it is less useful). It is a highly configurable cache model and supports being used, both as Harward style caches (separate I- and D-caches) and as a unified cache.

CAUTION : When connecting the generic cache model in the memory hierarchy, it will intercept every memory transaction, and disable the ATC for any fetched, read or written data. This means that performance is significantly impacted firstly due to the need to visit the memory system for every fetch, read and write, but also and especially in a system with an enabled MMU, in these systems, the CPU will need to do a VM table walk for every memory access, which is very costly in terms of performance. Note that these table walks may be optimised in the future.

The cache model will handle memory accesses with the TEMU\_MT\_CACHEABLE flag set. This flag can be set when mapping in a device (e.g. RAM or ROM).

# 2. Configuration === Arguments

## **size**

Unified cache size in bytes.

## **instrSize**

Instruction cache size in bytes.

## **dataSize**

Data cache size in bytes.

## **ways**

Number of ways in a unified cache (must be power of 2)

## **instrWays**

Number of ways in instruction cache (must be power of 2)

## **dataWays**

Number of ways in data cache (must be power of 2)

### **lineSize**

Line size for unified cache

### **dataLineSize**

Line size for data cache

### **instrLineSize**

Line size for instruction cache

### **wordSize**

Size of a word in bytes (defaults to 4)

### **separate**

Set to 1 to turn the cache model to separate I- and D-caches. Set to 0 to make the cache a unified cache. This option affects the interpretation of the size, ways and lineSize arguments (see above).

## **2.1. Interfaces**

The following interfaces can be used to connect the generic cache model:

### **PreAccessIface**

A MemAccessIface that receives memory access events before they reach the target device.

### **PostAccessIface**

A MemAccessIface that handles memory access events after they reach the target device.

## **2.2. Properties**

The following properties are used for configuring the cache model and to connect the model in the object graph.

### **preTransaction**

Memory access interface reference for next pre-access handler.

### **postTransaction**

Memory access interface reference for next post-access handler.

### **icacheCtrl**

Optional interface reference for a instruction cache controller object.

### **dcacheCtrl**

Optional interface reference for a data cache controller object.

### **instr.replacementPolicy**

Replacement policy used when fetching instructions. Set to 0 = NONE (or directly mapped / 1-way set associative cache). 1 = LRU, 2 = LRR and 3 = RND. Automatically set to 0 when ways is set

to 1.

### **data.replacementPolicy**

Replacement policy used when accessing data. Set to 0 = NONE (or directly mapped / 1-way set associative cache). 1 = LRU, 2 = LRR and 3 = RND. Automatically set to 0 when ways is set to 1.

### **isSplitCache**

Cache is split and has separate instruction and data caches.

### **isWriteBack**

Cache is write-back cache, not supported at the moment.

### **isWriteAllocate**

Set to non-zero to have the cache allocate a line in case of a write miss. Set to zero to avoid line allocation.

### **fetchPenalty**

Cost for fetching from a cached line.

### **readPenalty**

Cost for reading from a cached line.

### **writePenalty**

Cost for writing to a cached line.

### **wordSize**

Word size for cache (defaults to 4, do not modify unless connecting to 64-bit processor architectures).

### **instr.sets**

Number of sets in the instruction cache.

### **instr.ways**

Number of ways in the instruction cache.

### **instr.lineSize**

Instruction line size in bytes.

### **data.sets**

Number of sets in the data cache.

### **data.ways**

Number of ways in the data cache.

### **data.lineSize**

Data line size in bytes.

## 3. Properties

The generic cache model contains the following counters that can be inspected to get an idea of hit and miss-rates.

### **fetchHits**

Number of cache hits when fetching instructions.

### **fetchMisses**

Number of cache misses when fetching instructions.

### **readHits**

Number of cache hits when reading data.

### **readMisses**

Number of cache misses when reading data.

### **writeHits**

Number of cache hits when writing data.

### **writeMisses**

Number of cache misses when writing data.

## 4. Limitations

- The cache does not emulate write-back penalties for write-back caches at present. This means that the evict functions will behave as the invalidate functions.
- Number of ways must be a power of 2. That means that 1- 2- and 4- way set associative caches are fine, but 3-way set associative caches are not emulated by the generic cache model.