Beefing Up Laptop Graphics With Wolfe

Written by Marco Attard 31 August 2016

A Kickstarter project proposes a portable means to "supercharge" laptop graphics-- the Wolfe, a portable box packing an Nvidia desktop-class graphics card one can connect to PCs or Macs via Thunderbolt 2 (or Thunderbolt 3, possibly).



The Wolfe comes in two versions. The first is packs an Nvidia GTX 950 GPU for performance reaching 1.57 teraflops, while a Pro version carries a GTX 970 GPU for 3.49 teraflops of performance. The result, the makers claim, can boost laptop performance by up to 500% with the regular box or up to 1000% with the Pro.

Created by a team of Harvard computer science graduates, the Wolfe aims to turn MacBooks into "performance powerhouses," as well as "stop big companies from charging outrageous prices for miniscule upgrades." It carries a 220W PSU, x3 DisplayPort 1.2 connections, x1 HDMI 2.0 and x1 DVI-I port. Thunderbolt connectivity also allows the connection of multiple Wolfe units to a single laptop, allowing users to build a render farm or a multi-monitor setup.

As one might expect the Wolfe is also compatible with VR headsets, meaning it should allow MacBook users to run Oculus Rift and other such hardware.

Once the crowdfunding campaign is complete the Wolfe should ship sometime on February 2017. Potential customers also get the choice of a DIY version allowing one to slot in an own choice of GPU.

Go The Wolfe