

# **The Cisco Quantum Flow Processor: Software Genius or Hardware Folly?**

**version 1.0**

**Internet Research Group  
May 2008**

## **About The Internet Research Group**

[www.irg-intl.com](http://www.irg-intl.com)

The Internet Research Group (IRG) provides market research and market strategy services to product and service vendors. IRG services combine the formidable and unique experience and perspective of the two principals: John Katsaros and Peter Christy, each an experienced industry veteran. The overarching mission of IRG is to help clients make faster and better decisions about product strategy, market entry, and market development. Katsaros and Christy recently published a book on high tech business strategy *Getting It Right the First Time* – Praeger, 2005 [www.gettingitrightthefirsttime.com](http://www.gettingitrightthefirsttime.com).

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. The What and Why of Multicore CPU's .....	2
3. In this Context: QFP and Its Use by Cisco.....	2
4. The Benefits of High-Level "C" Language Coding .....	3
5. The Challenges of Making this Work .....	4
6. The Economics of Full Custom Semiconductor Manufacturing.....	5
7. Why the MIPS processor? .....	5
8. Implications for Other Communications Vendors.....	5
9. Summary Conclusion.....	7