

At a Glance

Alpha Maintains Performance Lead in 1993	1
A look back at the major RISC chips over the past year shows that Digital's Alpha leads in performance while PowerPC has made an impressive debut. Several new MIPS processors appeared, but Sun and HP are struggling to adopt their strategy to new markets.	
Editorial: The Fourth Wave of PCs	3
By 1995, a new wave of personal computers should be available that finally breaks away from the DOS-required baggage of today's PCs; these systems will be more powerful and easier to use.	
Most Significant Bits	4
HP describes plan to regain performance lead; Cyrix deploys 386SX upgrade chip; NEC puts R4400 in multichip module; Taiwanese vendors back PowerPC; Cirrus gains ARM license; PCI license issue resolved.	
Cyrix and TI Exchange Lawsuits	11
Texas Instruments and Cyrix have sued each other to resolve long-standing differences regarding their contract to develop and manufacture x86 chips. An adverse court ruling could restrict or even remove TI from the x86 market.	
High-End Embedded Processors Evolve in 1993	12
Although the i960 stood pat in 1993, several new processors from other families were announced. Several architectures appeared in the embedded space for the first time, including Alpha and PA-RISC, while NEC and Hitachi unveiled totally new architectures for consumer products.	
Prep Standardizes PowerPC Systems	17
The PowerPC Reference Platform (Prep) specification describes low-cost PCI-based systems, running Windows NT and other operating systems, that IBM and possibly other vendors will begin shipping in 1994.	
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