

At a Glance

PC Market Centers On Growing 486 Family1

Over the past year, the 486 has become the dominant processor for desktop systems, eclipsing the 386. Competition among a number of vendors has resulted in lower prices for mainstream processors as well as a large variety of chips to meet nearly every need. This year, Pentium will ramp up, but the 486 will remain king of the hill.

Editorial: Desktop Market Will Open—Slowly3

PowerPC and other RISC processors eventually will make inroads into the desktop market, but portable software must mature first, delaying any significant gains until later this decade.

Most Significant Bits4

Hewlett-Packard joins Taligent; T9000 troubles continue; PA-RISC, i960 continue to lead RISC market; PCI system logic available for Alpha; Digital, Sun expand chip sales channels; AT&T demonstrates first MPEG-2 decoder; Texas Instruments dumps Mwave, backs Spox.

General Magic Unveils Magic Cap OS14

Well-funded startup General Magic revealed its Magic Cap and Telescript software for PDAs; shipments are expected in 2H94, once 68349-based systems are available from Motorola and others.

New PA-RISC Processor Decodes MPEG Video16

HP's PA-7100LC includes architectural enhancements to calculate four 16-bit values per cycle, enabling it to display MPEG-1 video at up to 30 frames per second without a separate video processor.

PDAs Begin Shipping in 199318

Personal digital assistants became a reality in 1993 with shipments of Newton, Zoomer, and Eo devices. Many processor vendors are targeting this small but growing market, which requires a unique combination of low cost, low power, and high performance. The coming year will see several new CPUs and systems debut.

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MICROPROCESSOR REPORT

THE INSIDERS' GUIDE TO MICROPROCESSOR HARDWARE

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Microprocessor Report is published every three weeks, 17 issues per year. Rates are: *N. America:* \$445 per year, \$795 for two years. *Europe:* £345 per year, £595 for two years. *Elsewhere:* \$575 per year, \$995 for two years. Additional copies in the same envelope: \$145 per year in North America, \$195 elsewhere. Back issues are available.

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Published by

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