

AT A GLANCE

Samsung Launches Media Processor 1
 In an ambitious move to leverage its huge manufacturing capacity into the high-volume PC logic market, Samsung has developed a high-performance processor capable of handling audio, video, and 3D graphics. The initial version of the MSP will be too expensive for mainstream PCs, but the second version, due in 1998, is likely to be popular, particularly for Microsoft's new Talisman cards.

Editorial: The Race for Third Place 3
 Early next decade, we expect x86 and Intel's forthcoming IA-64 architecture to be the two most popular for PCs. Alpha and PowerPC are the most likely candidates for the third and potentially last spot.

Most Significant Bits 4
 P55C slips into 1997; VLSI acquires Hitachi SuperH CPU core; Motorola establishes PowerPC 801 at low end; New 3D-RAM adds OpenGL blending support; NEC casts its lot with Diba.

Talisman Redefines 3D Rendering 5
 Microsoft has made an unusual investment in hardware design, developing a 3D graphics architecture that reduces local storage and bandwidth requirements by 10x or more. These reductions will enable low-cost, high-performance 3D cards by 1998.

PowerPC Team Outlines Future Plans 12
 IBM and Motorola have increased staffing and are developing three generations of future PowerPC chips in parallel. G3, due next year, will be a slight improvement over the current designs, while G4 will be a completely new core. Project 2K, not due until 2001, may implement a radical new architecture, attempting to match Intel's Merced.

IBM Crams Power2 onto Single Chip 14
 The new P2SC is the most complex single-chip processor yet announced, housing 15 million transistors and 160K of on-chip cache in a 1,088-lead package. With 2.2 Gbytes/s of memory bandwidth, performance on large floating-point data sets is phenomenal.

Viewpoint: WebTV Tide Could Slow PC Growth 17
 MDR president Peter Christy explains how the work of a small information-appliance company could ultimately upset the entire business model of the largest microprocessor vendor.

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Microprocessor Report is published every three weeks, 17 issues per year. Rates are: N. America: \$495 per year, \$895 for two years. Europe: £375 per year, £645 for two years. Elsewhere: \$595 per year, \$1,095 for two years. Additional copies in the same envelope: \$175 per year in North America, \$225 elsewhere. Back issues are available.

Published by

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Winner, Computer Press Award, 1993, 1994



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.