

At A Glance

AT&T Sampling Low-Power "Hobbit" Processor	1
AT&T has been quietly marketing an enhanced version of its "CRISP" microprocessor for pen-based applications. Among its unusual architectural features are a memory-to-memory architecture, a stack cache, and a predecoded instruction cache.	
Computer Makers Lead in High-End Processors	3
The fastest microprocessor-based systems currently are based on processors developed by computer vendors, not by microprocessor suppliers. The key reason is the semiconductor companies' need to focus on high-volume markets, since their profit per system is relatively low.	
Most Significant Bits	4
AMD announces 486 plans; 386 battle advances; Intel counters with SL; Intel and Microsoft release APM spec; GEC Plessey licenses ARM processors; Erratum.	
Wave of High-End Processors Due	9
High-end microprocessors are poised to take another leap in performance as next-generation implementations of every major architecture begin shipping in 1992. While Intel's P5 will be the last of the generation to be shipped, the x86 architecture will nevertheless retain its grip on the business desktop computer market.	
The Intel System Management Mode	16
System Management Mode in Am386 Microprocessors	17
SuperState: Beyond Hardware Solutions	18
All three vendors of 386-architecture microprocessors now offer special operating modes to support power-management and other system-enhancement software. We invited each vendor to describe how their mode works and how it differs from its competitors.	
Silicon and the Silver Screen	20
The film industry is an important barometer of changing attitudes toward technology. And from the perspective of film, the computer industry just passed a series of major milestones.	
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