

At A Glance

Judge Rules SGS-Thomson License Protects Cyrix	1
Cyrix has prevailed in its attempt to deflect Intel's patent infringement suit by claiming protection from its foundry's patent cross-license agreement with Intel. While the issue isn't likely to be settled until it is heard by the Supreme Court, it appears that a loophole has been established that will give cloners access to Intel's patents.	
Benchmark Abuse	3
With new microprocessor implementations using small on-chip caches, common PC benchmarks give misleading results—a fact that unscrupulous PC vendors have been quick to exploit.	
Most Significant Bits	4
C&T cancels 386SX, 486 programs; Intel slashes 386SL prices; Intel announces 66-MHz 486DX2; NexGen developing two-chip P5 competitor; IBM selling 386SLC processor modules; LSI ships updated SPARC chip set, IU/FPU; HP licenses PA-RISC to Winbond.	
Windows NT Establishes New PC Platforms	8
In addition to allowing MIPS and Alpha systems to compete in the PC market, Windows NT will free x86 systems from the tyranny of the decade-old PC hardware architecture and enable widespread use of multiprocessor systems.	
Write Buffers Enhance 486 Performance	10
Several vendors now offer write buffers for 486 systems. Supplementing the 486's on-chip write buffers, external write buffers are especially valuable in DX2-based systems.	
Why RISC Is Doomed	14
They came, they saw, and they tried real hard to conquer. But the technical advantages claimed for RISC just ain't what they used to be. Could it be that RISC is an idea whose time has now gone?	
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