

At a Glance

PPC 604 Powers Past Pentium1

The PowerPC 604, from Motorola and IBM, can issue up to four instructions per cycle at 100 MHz, yielding 160 SPECint92. The chip, due in Apple and IBM systems around the end of this year, will be more powerful than any existing or planned Pentium processor.

Editorial: Microprocessors Meet Madison Avenue3

As the battle between PowerPC and Intel escalates, both sides are indulging in advertisements that overstate benefits and distort the facts.

Most Significant Bits4

HP grabs performance lead with PA-7150; Intel offers \$250 upgrade chip; Cyrix gets aggressive with 486DX; VLSI spins 45-MHz ARM6 core; NEC's Rabbit eases MIPS system design; IBM picks up C&T's x86 code; NEC introduces first 16M Rambus DRAM; IR communications compatibility in sight.

Motorola Introduces Heir to 68000 Line.....10

Motorola's superscalar 68060 becomes its new high-end embedded processor, doubling performance from the 68040. Unlike its predecessors, the '060 will not see much action in desktop systems.

WaveMeter Chip Provides Digital Money14

A new PC peripheral allows users to store digital money in their systems and use it to purchase encrypted information. These usage fees eventually reimburse the information provider.

CPU Vendors Deploy Half-Micron Processes.....16

Each CPU vendor uses different techniques to improve its IC manufacturing processes. Most vendors must choose to optimize for cost or performance, while Intel aims for maximum capacity. The MIPS vendors lead the way in shrinking transistor size.

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