

At a Glance

Universal Serial Bus to Simplify PC I/O.....1

Several major PC players have joined to promote the new Universal Serial Bus as a way of simplifying the task of connecting peripherals to a PC. Running at up to 12 Mbps, the high-speed serial connection is suitable for keyboards, modems, printers, and even audio and some video devices.

Editorial: AMD's Quandary—Lead or Follow?.....3

With its K5 processor, AMD is now competing with Intel using independent designs, but tracking Intel's advances is difficult at best.

Most Significant Bits4

Compaq to buy NexGen parts; Digital deploys first 21164 systems; PA-7200 appears but is slower than expected; AMD, Cyrix unite on MP architecture; Intel processors to move to 2.5 V; Intel finds more Pentium bugs; Motorola extends 68302 line; AMD expands 29000 line with printer CPU; Hyundai enters multimedia market; Erratum: NexGen to sell PCI chip set.

Synchronous Cache Popularity Increases.....10

Synchronous SRAMs, which include registers on the inputs and sometimes the outputs as well, are becoming popular for PC caches, offering a 10% boost in application performance. Synchronous cache designs could surpass asynchronous designs within two years.

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Columnist John Wharton shows that more than computers can benefit from the pronouncements of Computer Science.

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This new feature, which will appear in each issue, describes recently issued U.S. patents related to microprocessors.

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