

At a Glance

Delayed Pentium Challenge to Hit in '961

Despite aggressive efforts by AMD, Cyrix, and NexGen, Intel kept the high end of the x86 market to itself until the very end of 1995. Cyrix delivered the industry's first Pentium-pin-compatible CPU, and NexGen became part of AMD, setting the stage for a battle in 1996. By closing the gap, the competitors will put new pressure on Intel to keep cutting prices and increasing performance.

Editorial: Emulation Could Unburden CPU Designers3

With Digital and other major vendors all supporting instruction-set emulation, it may be just a matter of time before native machine-level instruction sets become an irrelevant curiosity.

Most Significant Bits4

ARM addresses midrange with ARM8 core; Exponential confirms PowerPC plan; SGS-Thomson ups speed of DX4 to 120 MHz; Digital does MPEG-1 encoder/decoder; Toshiba shows MPEG-2 decoder; Erratum: Nx586-133 performance.

Embedded CPUs Shift to Consumer Usage13

A plethora of new embedded CPUs rolled out in 1995, mostly for upcoming handheld and consumer-electronics items. In addition to stressing power consumption and boosting performance, new CPUs in the years to come will start to diverge and specialize, looking less and less like the general-purpose microprocessors popular today.

MoSys Reveals MDRAM Architecture.....17

After months of rumor and delay, MoSys has revealed the details of its radical design approach to video RAM that promises to dramatically increase bandwidth and provide the memory capacities needed for new graphics, video, and multimedia systems.

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