

Advanced 3D Chips Show Promise 1
 3Dlabs' Glint accelerator stands out as the best performer among high-end 3D chips for PCs. Other 3D chips—including new versions of Rendition's Vérité, RSSI's PixelSquirt, and VideoLogic's PowerVR chips—are using innovative architectures in an attempt to catch up with 3Dlabs. We expect these radical new architectures, as well as Microsoft's Talisman, will ultimately achieve performance leadership once conventional 3D architectures approach their limits.

Editorial: Commodity Microprocessor Is a Myth 3
 Although Intel's competitors may think all x86 processors are the same, Intel's chips are less likely to have compatibility problems or unexpected performance shortfalls, factors that justify a premium price. PC buyers must decide whether the prices offered by Intel's competitors are low enough to overcome these potential issues.

Most Significant Bits 4
 SGS-Thomson raises Metaflow stake; Motorola extends 860 line at top, bottom; LSI Logic develops digital-camera chip; Trident, Neo-Magic combine graphics, DRAM; 250-MHz 604e chips trickle into market; Windows CE running on NEC's R4300; Erratum: ATI perspective correction.

Embedded Pentium Comes on Board 10
 Several vendors have released Pentium modules aimed at embedded applications. Products from Fujitsu, Intel, MicroModule, and Radisys all combine Pentium processors with L2 cache and "north bridge" system logic, eliminating the need to deal with Pentium's relatively complex system bus and providing a simple solution for designers embedding a Pentium CPU.

Future Will See More WebTVs, Java 13
 Leading PC industry analysts see room in the market for new platforms such as WebTVs and network computers. They are even bullish on Java, although not in the same way Sun is. But they see these new platforms as adding to the market, not replacing the traditional Wintel PC. Living-room PCs, another hot topic, didn't go over well with our panel of experts at last month's PC Tech Forum.

The Slater Perspective: User Interfaces—Beyond Keyboards 15
 Even today's microprocessors offer the power to support much-improved user interfaces, incorporating handwriting and speech recognition as well as more automation of users' needs. Continued improvement in user interfaces will spur demand for even faster microprocessors.

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