■ Don't Blow It; Read Piccolo Notes First-Hand The DSP aficionados at Berkeley Design Technology have completed a lengthy evaluation of ARM's DSP coprocessor, Piccolo. The results of their earnest endeavor are available in a 180-page report full of charts, graphs, and tables that will help designers understand the performance capabilities of Piccolo-based chips. It includes clock-by-clock benchmark analyses and comparisons with SH-DSP, ADSP-21xx, 'C54x, and Oak DSP cores.

First copies of the report sell for \$950, with a discount for additional copies. For more information, or to order, contact BDTI (Berkeley, Calif.) at 510.665.1600 or visit *www.bdti.com*.

Get Balmy With Other Intel Developers

The annual Intel Developers' Forum will be held in balmy Palm Springs (Calif.) September 15–17. The Intel-run conference is organized into four tracks that emphasize consumer, business, server, and mobile platforms. Several optional labs cover electrical-design issues, analysis tools, power measurement, storage, thermal design, and system management. Craig Barrett and other Intel luminaries will be among the speakers.

Early registration (before 8/13) runs \$795 for all three days; late registration adds \$200. An extra \$75 grants blanket access to all the labs. For more information, or to register, contact IDF (Seattle) at 206.695.7886, or point your browser to developer.intel.com/idf.

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■ Project Behind Schedule? Take Off to Chicago

Embedded-systems designers, programmers, and project managers might learn a thing or two from Jack Ganssle's seminar, *The Best Ideas for Developing Better Firmware Faster*. The course will be held in Chicago September 16 and covers hardware/software codesign, writing peripheral drivers, eliminating bugs, and managing deadlines while avoiding creeping featureism.

The one-day course costs \$595, with discounts for groups of five or more. For more information, call the Ganssle Group (Columbia, Md.) at 410.675.1481, or direct your browser toward www.ganssle.com/course/bestidea.html.

More Engineering, Management Training

System Technology Institute will be taking seven technical courses on the road starting in August. The 3- and 4-day courses cover software engineering, quality assurance, configuration management, project planning, testing, and risk analysis.

For information and a course schedule, call STI (Malibu, Calif.) at 888.299.9071, or send e-mail to *STIclass@aol.com*.

Five Years of Online Games

That's the promise of **Jupiter Communications**' study of Internet gaming. Technology, marketing, software, and consoles are covered in the \$1,895 report. For more information, contact Jupiter (New York) at 212.780.6060, extension 103.

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