

At A Glance

Multivendor 386/486 Market Burgeoning.....1

Over the past year, the x86 market has become truly competitive, as Intel has been joined by AMD, Cyrix, TI, and IBM. This competition has spurred vendors not only to cut prices, but also to offer a wider range of products filling every conceivable price/performance point. Somehow, Intel continues to thrive in this new environment.

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Starting with this issue, senior editor Linley Gwennap will share the EDITORS' VIEW column with editor-in-chief Michael Slater. (Note the small but significant relocation of the apostrophe to the right of the "S.") In this column, Linley describes how most microprocessor vendors have been driven to discussing their product plans years in advance.

Most Significant Bits4

Pentium has pins—and now we know how many; ARM wins bid for 3DO interactive video; Digital adds new Alpha services; Avance scales back GUI-Ultra plans.

What to Expect from RISC Vendors in 19935

Several new high-end SPARC chips will debut in 1993, along with fast new chips from other RISC vendors. For a change, these vendors are also developing low-cost chips that will compete with Pentium and other x86 CPUs.

PCMCIA Chips Follow Intel's Lead15

Several vendors are now offering chips that interface PCMCIA cards to an ISA bus. Intel's 82365 sets the standard, while Cirrus and Vadem offer register-compatible chips with some extensions. Databook, on the other hand, takes a different approach.

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All technologies eventually reach fundamentals limits, and silicon chips will approach that point around the end of this decade. Techniques such as cryogenic CMOS, ballistic transistors, quantum devices, and diamond circuits may yield further improvements.

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