

**WinChip 2: Low-Price Leader** . . . . . 1  
 Late but otherwise on target, IDT has begun volume shipments of its Centaur-designed WinChip 2 processor. Improved over the original WinChip (C6) with a new floating-point unit, dual-issue MMX, 3DNow, and a 100-MHz bus, the \$38 WinChip 2-300 (a 250-MHz part) matches the performance of Cyrix's 300-rated processors but falls short of Intel's and AMD's true 300-MHz CPUs.

**Editorial: Intel Dodges Bullet** . . . . . 3  
 By agreeing not to treat customers unfairly in the future, as it did Compaq, Digital, and Intergraph, Intel dodges punishment for its past transgressions and, more important, avoids monopoly status.

**Most Significant Bits** . . . . . 4  
 AMD stakes claim to fastest mobile micro; Celeron accelerates to 433 MHz; PA-8600 due in early 2000; Metaflow decimated; Somerset fuels Intel's x86 efforts.

**Intel Pushes Xeon to 550 MHz** . . . . . 8  
 Hot on the heels of its 500-MHz Pentium III announcement, Intel has migrated the Katmai silicon into its high-end Xeon line, with a 10% frequency kicker. But at \$1,049 with 512K of cache, it's not cheap.

**Embedded News** . . . . . 9  
 Pentium/MMX goes high temperature; Lucent releases two-headed DSP16410; TI does floating-point DSP on the cheap; MediaQ debuts with embedded graphics chip.

**Sun's Jini: Science, Not Magic** . . . . . 10  
 Sun, in pursuit of a utopian world where devices just plug into the network and work, has introduced Jini. With dynamic reconfiguration capability, Jini is an alternative to Microsoft's Universal Plug and Play, setting the stage for yet another battle between the two rivals.

**Intel Forum Raises Standards Conflicts** . . . . . 14  
 Intel's semiannual developer forum reminds us, once again, of the company's intention to control all aspects of the PC platform. USB 2.0, ATA-66, NGIO, EFI, and DRDRAM are in; SCSI, PCI, PCI-X, 1394, Fibre Channel, Future I/O, OpenBoot, and SDRAM are out.

**MPEG-4: Way Beyond Video** . . . . . 18  
 A standard with truly awesome scope, MPEG-4 seeks to specify every aspect of audio and video for all manner of multimedia presentations. Its comprehensiveness, however, puts it into direct competition with proprietary standards like ActiveMovie and QuickTime.

**The Slater Perspective: Apple Stronger, Not Out of the Woods** . . . 22  
 Things look much brighter for Apple. Or do they, really? Sure iMac was a hit, but it hasn't helped Apple's market share much, and the Mac's long-term problems persist.

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