

# At a Glance

<b>Nx686 Goes Toe-to-Toe with Pentium Pro</b> .....	<b>1</b>
NexGen's newest processor is the first competitor to Intel's Pentium Pro, with comparable performance on 32-bit code and better performance on 16-bit code and multimedia applications, according to NexGen. The chip, due in mid-1996, could also sell for much less than Intel's device, although it is not pin-compatible.	
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Apple's biggest problem is not its inability to deliver machines but the widespread perception that the company is in decline.	
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Cyrix 6x86 challenges Pentium; Alpha extends performance lead with 21164A; Enhanced PowerPC 604 debuts; AMD SSA5 really is K5; Mobile Pentium jumps to 120 MHz; Gassée's firm debuts BeBox.	
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The secretive startup revealed its 1-GHz MediaProcessor, which has impressive performance capabilities for signal processing and other multimedia applications. The chip, built in the company's own BiCMOS fab, dissipates an astounding 85 W.	
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The 5x86 combines a 5x86 CPU with a DRAM controller, graphics accelerator, and PCI interface to greatly reduce the cost of a low-end PC. The chip also includes new instruction-set extensions that allow emulation of audio and other multimedia devices.	
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Another multimedia startup revealed its first product, the Mpack processor, due in mid-1996. This single chip performs audio, graphics, video, and modem functions, including MPEG decoding and encoding, reducing the cost of a full-function multimedia PC.	
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