

■ It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a Supercomputer!

Learn the latest about the muscle cars of the computer world at **SC99**, the supercomputer conference. Held in Portland, Ore., on November 13–19, the show includes 66 technical papers describing the latest research in high-performance networking and computing. An additional 20 full- and half-day tutorials delve deeper into subjects such as superclusters, performance analysis, and data visualization.

Early (before 10/9) registration for the technical program costs \$470; two days of seminars are an additional \$690. Discounts are provided for ACM/IEEE members and students. For more information, check out www.sc99.org.

■ Back to Basics: Digital Design

Our own John Wakerly, whose real jobs are at Cisco Systems and Stanford University, has just completed the third edition of his textbook, ***Digital Design: Principles and Practices***. A key reference for any digital designer, the newly revised book blends academic precision and practical experience in an authoritative introduction to basic principles of digital design and practical requirements in both board-level and VLSI systems. The book, published by Prentice Hall, covers the most widespread logic design practices while building a solid foundation of theoretical and engineering principles. For more information on the book (ISBN 0-13-769191-2), access www.prenhall.com.

■ SPEC Updates Web Benchmark

The Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC) has updated its popular Web-performance benchmark to produce **SPECweb99**. The new benchmark, which replaces SPECweb96, models real-world accesses to a Web service provider, where the server supports multiple home pages, each of which contains a variety of small and large files. The performance results provide valuable feedback to designers of server hardware and software.

SPECweb99 is now available on CD-ROM for \$800. For more information, call SPEC (Manassas, Va.) at 703.331.0180, or access the Web at www.spec.org/osg/web99.

■ Is There a Mega in Millennium?

The global semiconductor industry, fed by explosive growth in communications and embedded applications, is the subject of **Semiconductors '99—Megatrends for the Millennium**, held on November 1–3 in Palm Springs, Calif. Sponsored by Gartner Group's Dataquest, the conference provides a high-level look at chip manufacturing, information appliances, intellectual property, and software issues for semiconductor executives in marketing, planning, and operations.

Registration for the conference is priced at \$1,695, with discounts for Gartner clients. For more information or to register, call 1.800.778.1997 or 203.316.6757, or point your browser to www.gartner.com/semicon/usa.