

At a Glance

PowerPC Gains NT and PCI Support	1
IBM, attempting to establish a new platform for personal computing, announced a PowerPC reference specification, which describes systems that can run operating systems such as AIX, OS/2, Solaris, and Taligent. Microsoft announced Windows NT support for the new platform, and IBM will supply a PCI chip set for PowerPC.	
Editorial: Stupid Compiler Tricks	3
Although legal under SPEC rules, excessive compiler tuning makes it nearly impossible for users to achieve the performance quoted by vendors. SPEC needs to change its rules for SPEC94.	
Most Significant Bits	4
Alpha makes big splash at Comdex; MIPS NT systems debut; Windows NT benchmark wars; Hot CPUs seen, but not announced; x86 vendors unveil new slogans, not chips; Next ports to SPARC.	
SHARC: A Bold New DSP Thrust by Analog	10
Analog Devices announces the ADSP-21060, the newest member of its floating-point family. It has a huge 4M on-chip SRAM and a 10-channel I/O processor, and includes multiprocessor support.	
QuickRing Delivers High Bandwidth	13
National has combined a number of innovative techniques to create QuickRing, embodied in its QR0001 interface chip. The new interconnect scheme can deliver high bandwidth at a moderate cost and is being adopted by a number of system vendors.	
Visionaries See Beyond Superscalar	18
After the next few generations of superscalar processors, new techniques, such as VLIW designs, multiprocessors on a chip, or SIMD systems, may be required to continue advancing performance.	
Portable Software Threatens x86 Hegemony	20
Sparks flew at the recent Microprocessor Forum when two computer architects discussed whether the emergence of portable software, such as Windows NT, will reduce the x86's near-monopoly.	
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