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## PRINTER REPORT

## New Line Printer Knows No Limits

Delivery of evaluation units is underway for Tally's new 600 line per minute multi-function line printer that drew rave responses at the ' 82 NCC. The Tally MT 660 offers features previously unavailable on line printers.

The technically advanced printer takes full advantage of the inherent flexibility of matrix printing to serve a wide spectrum of applications. Capable of multi-mode operation, the unit can produce letter quality text for high volume word processing printing, computer graphics with high resolution, label characters including bar code and OCR for material handling plus all types of special characters and symbols. A bonus feature is the resident host defined symbol generator that


Tally MT 660 line printer
allows the user to call up on demand customized characters of his design.

Designed to provide numerous operator conveniences and features, the futuristic MT 660 offers whisper quiet office operation, an easy-change cartridge ribbon system, front panel forms set-up, self-diagnostics and status display feedback. Targeted towards professionals that demand high performance precision printing, the MT

660 delivers $100 \%$ duty cycle operation at 600 lines per minute without preventive maintenance. The printer emphasizes modular construction throughout its design for low cost of repair and parts replacement. With the unit's selfdiagnostics, a service technician can quickly test each module in the machine to isolate the fault. The unit is priced under $\$ 10,000$. Production delivery is scheduled to begin in March.


MT 660 print samples

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## UP FRONT

## Latest major entries impact personal computer market

Texas Instruments has entered the personal computer race with its "TI Professional Computer." An upgradable basic system consisting of monochrome display, keyboard, system unit with 64 K bytes of RAM, and an integral 320 k -byte floppy disk drive, the computer sells for $\$ 2595$. MS-DOS, CP/M, Concurrent CP/M-86, and UCSD p-System operating systems are supported. A number of software application packages and communications options are available on the 16 -bit system.
Apple Computer's entry, Lisa, is a personal computer for the office. A 32/16-bit MC68000 microprocessor handles software, display keyboard, mouse, and peripherals, while three other microprocessors control I/O functions. The system includes 1 M byte of main memory and 1.7 M bytes (formatted) of mass storage on built-in $51 / 4$ " floppy disk drives. Announced system price is "under $\$ 10,000$." Software application packages are geared to the office professional. Lisa runs high level BASIC, Pascal, and COBOL languages and will support other major operating systems.
NCR also entered the market with its Decision Mate V series, plus the Decision Net local area network. The Decision Net LAN links as many as 63 NCR and other manufacturers' personal computers. NCR computers are based on Z80A 8 -bit and 8088 16-bit microprocessors and provide from 64 K to 512 K bytes of RAM. Both monochrome and color displays are available as are two integrated $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ Winchester disk drives. Operating systems include CP/M-80 and -86, and MS-DOS.

## And still more LANs

A joint venture of Cameo Electronics and The Fedder Software Group has produced Ultranet. This high speed transaction oriented local area network supports computers operating under CP/M, CP/M-86, and MS-DOS, as well as the IBM PC, Apple, and Radio Shack computers. Gateways will be provided for SNA, HDLC, X. 25 , Ethernet, Wangnet, and DECnet.

LANmark, a 512M-bps network from InteCom Inc, simultaneously handles both voice and data transmission and integrates local area networking into the company's IBX communication switch. Star architecture allows LAN functions to be performed internally. A single cable plant provides circuit and network packet switching. An Ethernet application is now available; a coax elimination for IBM 3270 workstations will follow.

## Among the many cross-licensing agreements

Recent announcements for technology cross licenses and second source agreements include one between Nippon Electric Co and Standard Microsystems Corp. Still to be approved by the Japanese government, the tentative agreement involves exchanges of technology and cross licensing of semiconductor related patents.
Intel and Zymos have announced an agreement to provide Zymos's Zyp CAD system to Intel in return for Intel's CHMOS process. Both companies will maintain common CHMOS processing capabilities including a jointly developed standard cell library. Both will operate as second sources for customer designed VLSI.
A fully automated gate array IC design system, from schematic capture through finished masks, has been created by an agreement between Mentor Graphics Corp and California Automated Design, Inc. Under the agreement, Mentor will exclusively market CADI's placement, routing, and graphics software in conjunction with its own computer aided engineering design tools.

An Ethernet frontend processor on a single Multibus board from Excelan allows OEMs and system integrators to incorporate LAN technology. The Exos/101 has an 8088 CPU, EPROM firmware, and up to 128 K bytes of RAM. It implements Ethernet Version 1.0 and is compatible with Version 2.0.
Software and hardware interconnection between a variety of host computers, between hosts and workstations, and between stations is provided by Tri-Data's Netway family of interface processors. Extensive protocol conversion allows easy communication between diverse systems.
A microprocessor with an 8-bit data bus and 32-bit internal architecture provides simultaneous high performance and memory savings. National Semiconductor's NS16008 has a 24-bit address bus and is designed to ease high level language implementation.
Mainframe performance in a desktop computer system and at small-computer price is offered in the DN300 computational node from Apollo Computer. Performance is comparable to mid-range 32 -bit superminicomputers. Included are a virtual memory CPU with 0.5 M bytes of main memory and an interface to the Domain local area network.
Choice of the $3^{11 / 4}$ " flexible disk package in a soft vinyl jacket has been announced by Tabor Corp for its TC 500 Drivette. The single-sided drive has 500 k -byte capacity.
A microprogrammed bipolar bit-slice CPU and onboard cache memory on Data General's 16-bit S/280 processor provide a performance level that overlaps the company's 32 -bit MU/4000 and is twice that of its $\mathrm{S} / 140$ predecessor.
DMA and link list processing on a text coprocessor chip provide the capability to display publication quality text onscreen. Intel's 82730 chip can display proportional spacing with simultaneous superscripts and subscripts and can maintain linked lists of text blocks for rapid manipulation and formatting of text files.
A compact drive featuring a $4^{\prime \prime}$ hard jacket removable diskette has been announced by IBM for OEM applications. Features include a manganese-zinc recording head, LSI circuitry, FM encoding, and storage capacity of 358 k characters of unformatted information on one side.
Applying the CP/M operating system to a wide range of 16-bit microprocessors is being eased through use of the C programming language. Digital Research's OS will also allow software authors to write programs that are compatible with both CP/M and UNIX.
An electronic engineering workstation from Kontron Electronics that allows an engineer to develop software also enables in-circuit emulation and logic analysis.

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# COMPUTER DESIGN 

## System technology



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127 Integrated circuits: Crunch BCD numbers with bit-slice chips by Michael J. Miller-Cascaded bit-slice processors improve computational accuracy when it is necessary to use the binary coded decimal number system.

143 Microprocessors/microcomputers: Improving computational throughput by Cedar Yoram and Meir Ben-Nun-By tying several 8087 numerical data processing chips to a single 8086 CPU , parallel instruction execution can be accomplished with resulting increases in operational speed.

Electro/83 Mini/Micro-Northeast


87 Come April 19, Electro/83 and Mini/Micro-Northeast will witness the products and technology behind today's electronic components and small computers. Organized separately though held conjointly, the two conferences give regional OEMS and system integrators a chance to size up the reaches of "Tomorrow's Technology Today."

# Special report on data communications systems design 

## 155 The proliferation of data

 communications products and subsystems has in some cases been detrimental to would-be designers of the overall systems. Because there are so many varied systems, designers are always deeply concerned about compatibility and incorporating the best available products in their systems. In particular, this is the case for local area networks (LANs). Almost every day another LAN is announced-sometimes new but often an already existing one new in name only. This month's "Design Frontier" report includes a review of current LAN technology and network suppliers, complemented by articles from actual designers and users.

This month's cover, entitled '"The World of Data Communications, " was created by Mark Lindquist and Joe Pasquale.

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Arthur H. Seidman
Ralph Preiss
Dennis Allison

For the price of a single plug-in, you can now convert your Tek 7000 Series scope to powerful digital storage. Or take advantage of this new productive digital dimension to invest in the high-performance 7000 Series scopes for the first time. The 7D20 is the latest and most rewarding dividend to the 7000 Series plug-in concept -a concept that keeps your scope current not only with each new application, but with new scope technology as well

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## A convenient self-

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## IEEE-488 interface

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## The Answer <br> By Any Measure

## Bridging the communications gap

Swiftly growing and approaching maturity, data communications is one of the most influential sectors in system technology today. However, our editors will be the first to point out that, like any adolescent, it is not without its growing pains. Ironically, the most evident shortcoming in the data communications market is a lack of communication-among manufacturers, system integrators, and end users.
With a lack of universally accepted standards-along with a proliferation of communication media, network configurations, and protocols-we need to pause long enough to weigh the tradeoffs of various emerging standards. Instead, we continue to expand our universe before establishing a firm base on which to build.
To guide travelers in this data communications market, the editorial staff has stopped in its track and dug in its heels in an attempt to find some reliable paths through the communications maze. The result, in this month's Special Report, is a close look at recent innovations in local area networks, chip technology, and new architecture, just to mention a few key areas.
The influence of data communications on the computer industry is so pervasive, it has spread to specialized application niches including factory automation. Thus, in Computer Design's April Premier Edition on automation and control, the editors again pause in their exploration to look at the impact of local area networks along with other important technologies in factory automation. Be sure to catch that extra April issue for an in-depth view of yet another beneficiary of the emerging data communications industry.


Ronald W. Evans Publisher

## APRIL PREVIEWS-A DOUBLE HEADER

## April 6: Special Report on Development and Testing

One of the design engineer's most commonly used development tools is now the logic analyzer. In an examination of this workhorse instrument, a staff editor will illustrate its impact on the design of powerful microprocessor based systems and will describe some presently available analyzers. Supporting articles include a manufacturer's viewpoint on logic analyzers, protocol simulation testing, and a designer's management information system for system development.

## April 21: Premier Edition on Automation and Control

Many of the greatest advances in the design and application of computer based systems are surfacing for use in the automation and control of manufacturing processes. Thanks to the microprocessor, such systems are proliferating. Beginning with staff written reviews of single-board analog/digital I/O systems and microcomputers, this Premier Edition will contain articles from industry experts on artificial intelligence (expert systems), machine vision, I/O boards for personal computers, distributed control, and several phases of software.


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## OUR MAGAZINE GROWS WITH THE INDUSTRY IT SERVES

Next month will mark another first in Computer Design's continuing efforts to keep pace with both the computer industry and your individual information needs. In April, you will be receiving two separate issues of Computer Design. One will be our regular monthly issue, while the second will be dedicated to the field of automation and control.

Over the past several years, the computer systems business has been evolving into a number of specialized, vertically oriented markets. Tracking this growth, we have organized each month's editorial coverage into a number of subcategories that address pertinent market areas. However, as the industry expands, information content in some fields snowballs until it becomes impossible to do it justice in a small subsection of a regular
 monthly issue.

Our solution to that problem, therefore, will be to devote extra issues of the magazine to rapidly growing vertical industry segments. Thus, in April we will publish a Premier Edition of Computer Design that is entirely dedicated to computer systems technology in automation and control-from machine vision to process control. Within that field, as always, we will strike a balance among the various subdisciplines: computers, peripherals, software, and system design.

We hope that you will share our excitement about this extra edition of Computer Design, which the staff is busily putting together at this moment. Beyond that, our editors are looking ahead to NCC and other important upcoming events in this dynamic industry.


Saul B. Dinman<br>Editor in Chief

[^2]
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## Finding fault

Regarding John H. Wensley's article, "Fault tolerant systems can prevent timing problems" (Nov 1982, p 211), I am concerned that some important issues appear to have been overlooked, certainly in his article, and possibly in the design of the Series 300 computer.
The operating system is not detailed. Does it provide for self-restart on faults? Does it operate any memory protection schemes? Indeed, there is no real detail about software fault tolerance, except voting and synchronization. Does the software use stacks (not usually recommended in fault tolerant systems)? Are there hardware diagnostic routines included? Is data integrity checked internally (eg, by the use of checksums or access flags)?

Mr Wensley's description of the interprocessor communication for the purpose of voting particularly worries me. The implication is that communication is achieved by use of some shared memory resource or similar scheme. This approach has its own special problems. Any hardware that can be accessed by two or more processors can be vulnerable to what I shall call "resource locking." Resource locking is applicable to such resources as memory, buses, I/O ports, etc. A hardware or software failure in one processor, while it is accessing such a shared resource, can effectively lock other processors out of this resource unless there is some independent means of override such as a timeout in the bus arbitration scheme or the ability of the other processors to force disconnection of the faulty unit (this latter method includes its own added risks). If access to the locked resource is essential to the correct functioning of the remaining processors, then the system will fail.

Mr Wensley gives no account of precautions against resource locking, although it can disastrously affect the interprocessor communications-the mainstay of his redundancy scheme. Failure to take such precautions can lead to the complete nullification of the system redundancy; a single fault is able to wreck the whole system. If precautions were taken, they are important enough to be included in the article; if they were not, the design must be considered flawed!
D. Fosberry

TechScicon Ltd
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Albion Rd
Kent, England

## Asking for tolerance

Mr Fosberry raises several issues that can properly be regarded as central to the design of a fault tolerant computer. Unfortunately, it is not possible in a single paper, and even more so in this letter, to cover all such issues. The Series 300 design addresses all these points, many of which have been covered in other articles and with its conceptual predecessor, the SIFT computer.

The first major points concern the operating system. It includes a full complement of routines for error detection, error correction, diagnosis, and reconfiguration. Voting assures data integrity between the three processing channels. In addition, where large blocks of data are manipulated (eg, in disk transfers or communication channels), then checksums and other coding techniques are used to ensure data integrity.

Questions were raised about interprocessor communication and resource sharing-a particular aspect of ensuring 'fault isolation.' In the Series 300 , this is assured not by using a bus system, but by providing point to point communication links designed so that the maximum disturbance that a faulty unit can produce on another unit is a delay of a few microseconds. I agree with Mr Fosberry that shared bus systems in general present problems in providing adequate fault isolation.

Finally, resource locking is important. The design avoids this problem by not using any shared resources. Each processor has its own memory and its own input/output bus structure. The only connection between them is the communication link that, as mentioned above, can produce at most a delay of a few microseconds in one channel in the event of a fault.

I would like to thank Mr Fosberry for raising these issues.

John H. Wensley
August Systems, Inc
18277 SW Boones Ferry Rd
Tigard, OR 97223

## Welcome to Sparta

I began reading the editorial "Technical Creativity and the Edifice Complex" (Nov 1982, p 11) with great expectations. I was eager to read about comparisons of management styles on R \& D. Instead, it turns out the only real difference between the mind set of typical American Big Business and the High

Tech Exec is clothing. One prefers threepiece suits, the other, designer jeans and fashion tops (both cost about the same).

A most intriguing comment implied that Spartan environments, a "sea of cubicles made from movable partitions," do not affect creativity. Somehow the image of a huge office, lined with rows and rows of identical cubicles reeks of 1984 with all of its standardization, mass production, and numbers instead of names. I don't think creativity is enhanced in Orwellian environments.

## Kirk Ireland <br> National Semiconductor Corp <br> 2900 Semiconductor Dr <br> Santa Clara, CA 95050

## Countdown... 1984

I didn't say that I agreed with the observations, I was simply reporting them. I concur with your views on creativity and an Orwellian environment. In my opinion, we're already close to 1984, both temporally and philosophically. The problem with putting complex technology (eg, database management) in the hands of anyone (eg, a bureaucrat) is that it doesn't take a genius to translate the power of such a technology, once readily accessible, into personal or political power. We live in an era of roulette-like power politics based on the fear of total destruction-all this brought about by the reduction of a complex technology to a 38-cent red button.
-S. B. D.

## Museum seeks support

I am very honored to be included in the Computer Design Pioneers (Dec 1982). And I am particularly pleased that Computer Design is taking this historic approach. Both Ken Olsen and I have a special hobby of preserving the history of this industry. Last year, we began to realize our dream with the opening of The Computer Museum as a public nonprofit charitable foundation. But to really work, it must have the support of the entire industry.
Individuals are invited to join such pioneers as Gene Amdahl, Ed DeCastro, Jack Kilby, Ivan Sutherland, Gordon Moore, Bob Noyce, Ken Olsen, and Al
(continued on page 24)

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(continued from page 22)

Shugart, and become individual Founders of the Museum by sending in a personal, tax deductible check for $\$ 250$ or more.

In addition to individual support, we are also gathering support from across the industry for The Computer

Museum. Again, we have established a Founder's program for corporations for $\$ 2500$. You might be interested to know that Data General, ComputerWorld, The British Computer Society, Fujitsu, Intel, and a broad range of organizations have subscribed to this program.

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One final suggestion is that you would also send a copy of the December Computer Design for the Museum's growing archives and library. Eventually, we hope to have videotaped talks from all the major historic figures in the industry and work to preserve all significant artifacts, photographs, and relevant documentation.

Gordon Bell
Board of Directors
The Computer Museum
1 Iron Way
Marlboro, MA 01752

## Kudos

Your special segment on Computer Design Today (Dec 1982) would make a valuable complement to textbook materials in our course on computer design. Would you be kind enough to donate 100 copies to the Electrical Engineering Dept at the University of Rhode Island? The copies would be distributed to 100 senior students in electrical engineering and computer science.

Louis Scharf
Electrical Engineering Dept
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Your "Data Communications Technology" piece in the Dec 1982 issue (p 211) was definitely a 'keeper." As a matter of fact, it is now required reading for all of our new salespeople.

Norman Brust
Contel Information Systems, Inc
130 Steamboat Rd
Great Neck, NY 11024

You asked for rated interest of the Computer Design Today article, "Input/ Output Technology" (Dec 1982, p 157). Although I rate it as "high," I would like to add that it was highly interesting, very topical, all embracing, and most useful.

Congratulations to Mr Richard Parker, the author, who did a fine job.

## J. Peter Cunliffe

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## Committees push to standardize disk 1/0

$S$tandardization efforts for disk drive I/O interfaces have been many and have generally fallen within the confines of larger efforts by the American National Standards Institute and the International Standards Organization, through various technical committees. Unfortunately, as with any evolutionary process, a misunderstanding has arisen as to what is in fact an adopted standard, and what is merely a proposed standard. Furthermore, differences, no matter how minor, are bound to surface between proposed standards and the original, temporary standards upon which the proposed standards are based. This occurs even though manufacturers of products already on the market may claim compatibility with both.
What is happening in disk drive I/O interface standards becomes clearer by examining more closely which American National Standards Institute (ANSI) technical committee is doing what work, and the status of that committee's work. Most of the $1 / 0$ interface standards work is taking place in ANSI through the хзт9 I/O Interface Committee, which reports to the x3 American National Standards Committee. The x3 Committee's realm involves standards for computers and information processing.

Working in parallel with ANSI is the International Standards Organization (ISO) through its SC13 and parent TC-97 committees. Although aNSI is represented on ISO's TC-97 Committee, those ISO approved interface standards are not necessarily ANSI standards, and vice versa. Despite the lack of a formal mechanism for interorganizational consultation, ANSI or ISO will sometimes try to get its standard approved by the


Fig 1 The ansi X3T9 Committee is developing interface standards for backplane, system, device, and peripheral buses. All except the backplane concern disk drives as well as other peripheral products. The backplane bus relates to CPUS, DMA controllers, and main memory, but not peripherals.
other. However, approval is by no means certain.

Realistically, ANSI standards carry more weight in the marketplace, on a worldwide scale, than those of iso. This results from commercial practicality. The majority of the world's computer and computer peripheral products are made and shipped by U.S. manufacturers, companies that sit on ANSI standards committees.

Much of the work for developing disk drive I/O interface standards is in the ANSI X3T9.2 Committee for lower level interfaces, the ANSI X3T9.3 Committee for device level interfaces, and the X3T9.5


Fig 2 Proposed by ansi x 3 T9.2 Committee for computers and computer peripherals, the Small Computer System Interface can operate at up to 6 m with single-ended flat ribbon or to $\mathbf{1 5} \mathbf{m}$ twisted pair cable. Up to eight devices can be attached.

Committee for future interfaces. Note that the "lower level" term for the х3т9.2 Committee is an old term that meant lower in performance than the IBM I/O channel. In its modern context, it means parallel buses for mini- and microcomputers.

## Four main thrusts

The ansi X3T9 Committee's work is aimed at developing I/O interface standards for four main areas: backplane, system, peripheral, and device level buses. The last three concern I/O interface standards for disk drive as well as other peripheral products. Backplane buses such as the S-100 and Unibus connect CPUs, singleboard controllers, main memory, and DMA controllers, and are thus not directly involved with disk controller interfacing.

A system bus is defined as one that connects computers, peripheral subsystems, terminal concentrators, gateways, and file servers as peers. This bus can tie computers into a network of loosely coupled processors.

A peripheral bus is defined as one that connects a single host (computer, storage director, file server, and channel) to one or more peripherals, where the peripheral includes the device (eg, disk drive) and associated controller.

A device level bus is defined as one that connects a "naked" device such as a floppy or rigid disk drive or a printer. Fig 1 illustrates all four I/O interface concepts that encompass the work of the ansi X3T9 Committees.
(continued on page 32)

# If's not Magic, ifts N:C. 

## Push for standards <br> (continued from page 30)

System bus efforts within the X3T9 Committee's jurisdiction include the Local Distributed Data Interface (LDDI) and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI). Peripheral buses include the Intelligent Peripheral Interface (IPI) and the ISO's DP7069 standard proposed by the ISO's SC13 Committee. Device level buses include a floppy disk interface (approved as an ANSI standard X3.80-1981 and based on an industry de facto standard), the Storage Module Drive (SMD) Interface (approved as an ANSI standard X3.91-1982) for $14^{\prime \prime}$ disk drives, a rigid disk interface for high performance small Winchesters and some $14^{\prime \prime}$ disk drives (not yet approved as a standard), and a quarter-inch cartridge tape drive interface (in early stages of proposal).

## Systems buses proposed

The ansi x 3 T9.2 Committee has proposed the SCSI as a system bus for connecting computers and computer peripherals (Fig 2). The committee has submitted an early draft to the European Computer Manufacturers Association (ECMA) for further consideration. SCSI allows up to eight computers and peripheral controllers to communicate with one another (any one of the eight nodes can talk to any of the remaining nodes) over 6 m of a single-ended 50 -conductor flat ribbon cable using $48-\mathrm{mA}$ drivers (up to 15 m of 50 -conductor flat ribbon or twisted pair cable for differential versions). Data can be transmitted at up to 5 M bytes/s (synchronously) and at up to 2M bytes/s (asynchronously).
Designed for distributed bus arbitration, the proposed interface standard is suitable for floppy disks, all $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ and 8 " Winchesters, and medium performance (eg, SMD) $14^{"}$ rigid disk drives, as well as streaming tape drives. This interface has a relatively high level peripheral command set and includes commands for common peripherals.

SCSI is very similar to SASI (identical according to many experts), the interface proposed by Shugart Associates (Sunnyvale, Calif). In fact, sCSI evolved from the original SASI document. Opinions differ, however, among interface experts on the differences between SASI and SCSI, at least the original version of SASI. Some interface experts claim the SCSI proposal is SASI; however, other experts strongly dispute this.

Aside from the fact that the X 3 T 9.2 Committee cannot endorse a standards proposal that is associated with a company name, such as SASI, the disputed differences between SASI and SCSI seem


Fig 3 Essentially a local area network, the Local Distributed Data Interface is proposed by the ANSI X3T9.5 Committee for communication among eight computers or peripherals at up to $\mathbf{1 k m}$. At shorter distances, more devices could be connected.
centered around the command sets. SCSI has a more precisely defined document, whereas SASI is more vague in some areas.

Here again, however, experts disagree. Some contend that it is difficult to define SASI. They also point out that SCSI allows system arbitration by any of the eight devices on the bus (any of the eight can act as the system controller), whereas SASI allows only one device to act as a controller. In addition, the lack of a seek command in SASI means that a CPU must waste valuable time while a peripheral is seeking its track. With SCSI, the CPU is not tied up by any one peripheral device until that peripheral is ready to read data.

In fairness to SASI, it has been undergoing many revisions and improvements by Shugart Associates since the first version was proposed about three years ago. Actually, the Shugart revisions and the X3T9.2 Committee's work on SCSI represent two attempts to arrive at the same thing and to narrow down whatever differences exist, without greatly impacting those products already in use and now being shipped with SASI compatibility.

Back in 1979, Shugart Associates asked Data Technology Corp (Santa Clara, Calif) to come up with the first TTL implementation of SASI-an implementation that is part of many products now in use. Many contend that the Data

Technology implementation is only a minimal SASI implementation and does not represent the full capability of SASI. From that perspective, perhaps it is easier to understand why some experts feel that SCSI and SASI are different. However, it should also be remembered that SCSI is a natural and evolutionary step following a proposed interface standard by an industry giant like Shugart Associates. Thus, some differences can be expected, no matter how small or insignificant.

Meanwhile, many major disk drive and peripheral controller manufacturers are shipping products they claim are both SASI and SCSI compatible. This makes it credible that SASI and SCSI are very similar, if not the same. It also indicates that even if some differences exist between SASI and SCSI, they are so small that a user could take care of them with some software changes. After all, very few interfaces are perfect enough to guarantee no software changes.

## A local network proposal

Still another system bus interface proposal is LDDI, now in the X3T9.5 Committee (Fig 3). LDDI is essentially a local area network that allows up to eight computers or peripheral devices to communicate with one another over a $1-\mathrm{km}$ maximum distance through network access devices. The bus uses a prioritized
(continued on page 34)

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## KEYBOARDS

## Push for standards

(continued from page 32)
carrier sense multiple access accessing scheme and transmits data at 50 M bps. Information is sent serially over a $75-\Omega$ coaxial cable. For distances shorter than 1 km , more than eight computers or devices can be connected.

Meanwhile, other proposals for device level buses are being considered in the X 3 T 9.3 Committee. One proposal is a recently completed draft for a rigid disk interface standard, the BSR X3.101, which has been sent to the parent x 3 Committee. It is optimized for relatively high performance, small Winchester disk drives (ie, those with servo positioners instead of stepper motors). This interface (Fig 4) allows up to 10M-bps data transfer rates among up to eight Winchester disk drives interconnected on a bus up to 3 m long, in the form of a 50 -conductor ribbon cable. It calls for a data separator between each drive and the interface line for bit-serial data transfers. This interface uses 24 - and $40-\mathrm{mA}$ single-ended control bus signals plus differential serial data and clock lines. The bus has parallel command bytes.

At the 1982 National Computer Conference, 12 Winchester disk drive manufacturers and 7 controller manufacturers showed products that were compatible with this draft proposal interface standard. The BSR X3.101 is expected to be a potential competitor to the ST-506 de facto industry interface standard for $51 / 4$ " Winchester disk drives from Seagate Technology (Scotts Valley, Calif).


Fig 4 Still being considered by the ANSI X3T9.3 Committee, the Rigid Disk Interface BSR X3.101 is intended for use with relatively high performance small Winchester drives. Maximum bus length with eight devices is $\mathbf{3} \mathbf{~ m}$.

The хзт9.3 Committee is also working on another device level bus that is now in the form of a draft proposal interface standard. The IPI (Fig 5) allows up to eight peripheral devices (ie, disk drives, printers, tape drives, CRT terminals) to be daisy chained to a host controller in a master/slave arrangement, over a bus of up to 125 m long. It allows 8 - or 16 -bit data transfers at up to 5 M bytes/s. Data


Fig 5 The ansi x 3 T9.3 Committee has drafted a proposal for the Intelligent Peripheral Interface that will operate at up to $\mathbf{1 2 5} \mathbf{~ m}$. Data transfers occur on split bus 8 -bit unidirectional or 16-bit bidirectional configurations.
transfers can take place through the use of either a split bus 8 -bit unidirectional configuration or a 16-bit bidirectional configuration. The single daisy chained bus consists of 24 signals, has centralized and prioritized arbitration of interrupt requests, and includes command sets for common peripheral devices.

Four electrical/cable configurations have been proposed by the $\mathbf{X} 3 \mathrm{~T} 9.3$ Committee for IPI: a $3-\mathrm{m}$ maximum flat ribbon cable with 3 -state and open collector drivers and TTL receivers, a $15-\mathrm{m}$ maximum twisted pair ribbon cable with open collector drivers and high threshold receivers, $5-\mathrm{m}$ maximum coaxial ribbon cable, and a $125-\mathrm{m}$ maximum coaxial cable with open emitter drivers and receivers. The IPI's relatively long distance (up to 125 m ) and high data transfer rate of 5M bytes/s make it useful for high performance $14^{\prime \prime}$ Winchester disk drives with large capacities of stored data.

## Acknowledgment

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their valuable help in preparing this report: Tom Thawley, Engineering Director, Interphase Corp (Dallas, Tex); Larry Bucher, President of Adaptec Inc (Milpitas, Calif); William E. Burr of the National Bureau of Standards (Washington, DC) and chairman of the ANSI X3T9.2 Committee; and Gary S. Robinson of Digital Equipment Corp (Maynard, Mass), chairman of the ANSI X3T9.3 Committee. -Richard Parker, Contributing Editor

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## Multiple-processor system supports pipelined architecture with multiple cache memories

Extending its reputation for offering unique system solutions to large scale computer users, Burroughs Corp announced its latest, the B7900. Members of the family include the singleprocessor B 7900 F with 12 M -byte memory, the dual-processor H version with 24 M -byte memory, and the 3 -processor K model with basic memory capacity of 36M bytes.

The system's distributed architecture is based on multiple specialized functional processing units. These unitscentral processing module, host data unit, and auxiliary processor-each have a different capacity and orientation. Assigned in various configurations within the asynchronous processing system, each processor contributes specialized performance to handle various workloads.
Combining parallel and pipeline processing techniques with extended memory concepts, the central processing module consists of four asynchronously operating elements. These, the progam control unit, data reference unit, execution unit, and memory access unit, are complemented by four cache memories that keep operating elements supplied with data. Memories include 12 k -byte code cache for capturing program loops and working set code segments; 12k-byte data cache, 32 high speed registers for staging data; and a 32 -word (52-bit) aging queue that facilitates multiword data stores.
Within the input/output subsystem module, the host data unit (HDU) has three host dependent ports each containing two message level interface (MLI) ports. These ports supply a high level of system i/O throughput. The host data unit supports an I/O burst rate of 24 M bytes/s and addresses 96 M bytes of memory.
The universal I/O subsystem is configured with I/O base modules each having up to eight microprocessor driven peripheral processors called data link processors (DLP). Each DLP contains at least one microprocessor, a peripheral interface, and buffer memory. Up to 32 dLPs can be used within the universal I/O subsystem.

When configuring multiple systems with shared peripheral subsystems, each I/O base module connects physically with up to four mLI ports. Each of its DLPs is assigned to one HDU at a time but may be transferred through console commands.
The auxiliary processor within the universal I/O subsystem module acts as an additional resource processor and is code compatible with the central processor module. It can address up to 96 M
bytes of memory and can perform testing of system components.

Memory in a basic system has 12M-byte capacity. This can be extended in 6M-byte increments to a maximum of 96M bytes. Memory uses 8 -way phasing and supports a memory/requestor bandwidth of 72 M bytes $/ \mathrm{s}$. To provide singlebit error correction and multiple-bit error detection, the 60 -bit words contain 48 data bits, 3 control bits, a parity bit, and 8 error correcting bits.

Master control program operating system software provides resource and task management for the systems. Designed together as an integral hardware/software unit, the system architecture supplies virtual memory, compiler oriented hardware, reentrant code, dynamic resource allocation, and multiprogramming. Burroughs Corp, Detroit, MI 48232.
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## High performance supermini puts virtual memory in hardware for realtime response and flexibility

With unbundled features to offer costeffectiveness, Harris's 700 series maintains virtual memory flexibility and realtime performance. Positioned between the company's 500 and 800 series systems, 700 series machines supply performance designed to cover the gap between existing 32-bit superminicomputers. With options, the basic units add high end functions at a cost only slightly higher than that of midrange machines.

A bus having a 19 M -byte/s transfer rate is central to the system. All system modules, central processor, memory


Harris's 700 series competes with superminicomputers over a wide performance range while allowing users to hold down costs through modular expansion.
subsystem, floating point processor, cache memory, and I/O channels, connect to this bus. The CPU operates with a 300 -ns cycle time overlapping instruction fetch and execution.
Supporting 48 M bytes of virtual address space, the virtual memory subsystem allows users to write programs that are larger than the real physical main memory. The demand paged system is supported by virtual memory management hardware and virtual operating system. By performing virtual memory address translations in hardware rather than software, context switching is reduced along with overhead.

Second layer of the memory hierarchy, main memory expands to 12 M bytes. Each memory module known as an Integrated Memory Subsystem (IMS) consists of a controller and arrays of up to 1.5 M bytes on a single board. Error correcting logic handles all single-bit errors and detects all double-bit errors and many multiple-bit errors. Main memory cycle time is 335 ns ; access time is 250 ns .

The system's optional 6 k -byte cache is divided into equal stores for instructions and operands. Processor requests for data go to both main and cache memories, realizing significant performance improvements when data are found in cache. Typical cache hit rate is $90 \%$ or better. Cache cycle time is 150 ns ; access time is 70 ns . With cache, the system operates with approximately $75 \%$ of the performance of the vax-11/780.

Available for the system are integrated disk controller and communications network processor. The disk controller combines I/O channel and disk controller functions on the same board, providing support for up to four disks. The singleboard communications processor simultaneously supports as many as 16 individually programmable communications lines for local or remote device connection via synchronous, asynchronous, isochronous, and X. 25 protocols.
The machines derive usefulness in interactive, multistream batch, remote job entry host, and networking applications from the virtual operating system (vos) and language processors-all designed for these environments. All H700 systems include communications network processor, operator's console, and vos. Prices begin at $\$ 49,900$ for a machine with 384 k -byte memory. Shipments will begin in the second quarter of this year. Harris Corp, Computer Systems Div, 2101 Cypress Creek Rd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309.
Circle 242

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## Minicomputer eases system upgrades with multiple processors and flexible task scheduling

With easy field expansion and dynamic task scheduling, the Supramini multiprocessor system from PolyComputers Inc can handle system upgrades and various application requirements. Performance can be increased from 3 mIPS to 16 MIPS without software modification, by adding processor/memory modules. If computing and memory resources need to be reallocated to meet varying task requirements, the system operator can reassign processors and memory spaces without interrupting the affected tasks.

The system shares the Data General NOVA ${ }^{\circledR}$ bus structure and instruction set, with extensions to handle its multiprogramming functions. According to the company, peripherals such as rigid disk drives, terminals, and printers account for $90 \%$ to $95 \%$ of the total system cost. System integrators familiar with the Data General family can easily upgrade their multi-user/multitasking applications without extensive hardware and software investments.

Key to the system's performance and flexibility is the way the processor/memory modules and the virtual memory operating system (vMOS) are merged to provide a virtual computer with virtual memory for as many as 100 users. Each processor/memory module contains two 16-bit bipolar processors and 512 k bytes of RAM, capable of supporting eight users with individual 64 k -byte workspaces.

One such module is dedicated to servicing peripheral requests (eg, access to rigid disks and printer spooling) and handling interprocessor communications. From this module, the system operator can evoke vMOS commands that allocate processors to handle multiple batch streams, multiple timeshared terminals (up to four per processor), or single batch streams under end-user control. Main memory can be allocated as either working or cache.

Processors are assigned as one of three "ports": multiprogramming (MP), timesharing (TS), or batch (BT). MP ports


> A dedicated processor/memory module handles only peripheral services and interprocessor communications. This frees other processor/memory modules in the Supramini system to handle program development and execution chores exclusively.
handle multiple batch streams under system operator control as parallel processes. The system operator can move from one MP port to another to monitor them and provide needed commands. He can create a single job stream by designating a disk file as the command source for a port. Multiple job streams can be created by assigning different files to different ports. Using dedicated MP ports to handle such tasks as payroll and report generation frees other processors to handle exclusively user-generated tasks.

TS ports differ from MP ports in that they accept command input from a remote terminal rather than the system console. Multiple tasks are also supported on TS ports so that an executing program can split itself into two or more asynchronously operating execution paths. When one of these tasks is blocked, another task can be run.

Single $\mathrm{BT}^{\text {ports }}$ pun under the control of TS ports in much the same manner as MP ports run under the system console. Thus, users can execute programs as scheduled tasks, while still working interactively with the system. Up to 20 asynchronous tasks can be scheduled by users in a realtime environment.

Virtual memory concepts are supported in VMOS as either working, fast storage (cache), or mass memory. All 512 k -byte RAM segments on the processor boards are pooled together to provide either 64 k -byte workspaces (where programs are executed and data are accessed without software intervention), or an area to store overlays if swapping is required. Any main memory not actively used as working memory is allocated as fast storage.

Code and data segments are initially stored in mass memory (Winchester and cartridge drives, as well as magnetic tape drives used for backup) when program execution begins. Segments are moved to working memory as needed. Further access to mass memory is dependent on the size of the user program and available fast storage.

When it overflows, a memorytracking algorithm in vmos moves code segments from fast storage to mass memory in the same manner as segments are moved from working memory to fast storage (the least used segments are at the bottom of the stack). For program execution, memory usage tends to reach an equilibrium. Frequently used code and data segments remain in working
(continued on page 42)

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## Standards: no other 3D graphics vector work-station delivers more speed or a higher IQ than the UltraGraf;'"only our color raster scan display products offer resolution as high as $\mathbf{1 , 5 3 6} \times 1,024$ pixels. But there's still another standard you should investigate-the one we set for our company.

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new high in high powered productivity. Lundy continues to invest in expanded R\&D each and every year. Because R\&D is the name of this highly competitive game-and we intend to keep setting standards.

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When you take a close look at our graphics terminals, service, support, software, systems capability, enhance-ments-and our company-you'll understand why Lundy can help you see more in graphics now and in the long term.

For more information, write: Lundy Electronics \& Systems, Inc., Glen Head, New York 11545, or call: (516) 671-9000.

${ }^{\circledR}$

Mt. Everest, symbolic of aiming high, was generated on the Lundy 15680 raster: It offers 16 colors and 136 shades from a palette of 4,096 colors.


## Easing upgrades

(continued from page 40)
memory or fast storage, while less frequently used segments migrate to the disk.

These virtual memory features support large application programs, with a maximum of 4 M bytes of real memory backed up by 1.2 G bytes of disk storage. Both multi-user timesharing and batch
processing job streams run on a common file structure (relative, indexed, and sequential). Using this structure allows concurrent file access from multiple users. Auto-index updates all files dynamically each time the data file is updated. All five supported languages


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DMA controller, memory management unit, 128 K or 256 K bytes of dual access RAM with parity expandable to 1M byte on-card!!!, twin EPROM sockets providing a total capacity of 64 K bytes, four RS-232-C ports with optional RS-422 on one port, winchester interface, streamer tape/ printer interface, three 16 bit counter/ timer channels, eight user definable LEDS and four dip switches, and two iSBX ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ connectors for further expansion!!!

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(BASIC, FORTRAN, COBOL, Wirth-standard Pascal, and ASGOL systems implementation language) also access the common file structure.
With three processors, 576 k bytes of MOS RAM, a 34 M -byte Winchester disk drive, quarter-inch streaming tape drive, high speed printer port, and eight RS-232 communications channels, the smallest configuration costs $\$ 36,950$ in end-user quantities of one. Also included are the VmOS operating system, one compiler, debugger, and utilities. Further software or system regeneration is not needed as processors and memory are added. A self-initialization utility in VMOS detects and uses added resources without affecting application programs or system level software.

A fully expanded system of 17 processors, 4 M bytes of MOS RAM and 1.2 G bytes of disk storage supports 100 users for less than $\$ 100,000$. PolyComputers Inc, 18003-L Sky Park S, Irvine, CA 92714.
-Joseph Aseo, Field Editor
Circle 243

## SOFTMARTE

## Small computer schematic design aid automates board layout

An electronic sketchpad replaces pencils, paper, and templates to design systems composed of integrated circuits and discrete components. FutureNet's DASH I (Design Aid Schematic Helpmate) adds a $640-\times 360$-pixel resolution graphics controller, memory expansion boards, printer/plotter, and a "mouse" for easy cursor manipulation to the IBM Personal Computer. Thus, in addition to creating, updating, and printing schematics quickly, a designer can also extract lists of materials (L/M), engineering change orders (ECOS), and Net List information.
Key to the DASH I is the schematic drawing editor. Its 16 simple keyboard commands allow entire drawings or just detailed portions to be created, modified, stored, and retrieved on the built-in floppy disk drive. Parts of the drawing can be moved and copied to eliminate tedious work, or they can be saved in a symbol parts library.

A starter library of standard discrete components (eg, transistors, diodes, zeners, capacitors, resistors, potentiometers, relays, LEDs, and inductors) is furnished with templates for popular TTL parts, microprocessors, and ROM and RAM chips. Users can also design
(continued on page 44)

## Automating layout

 (continued from page 42)custom symbols to add to the library, as well as enter comments onto a drawing where required.

Components are displayed on screen within a 160 - x 115 -display unit work area, measuring approximately $5.5^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime}$ $(13.9 \times 20 \mathrm{~cm})$. These display units provide a device-independent definition of
graphic position where symbols, lines, and alphanumeric characters can occur. A digital mouse moves the cursor around the workspace to place symbols in the desired positions, as well as to draw the interconnects.

Instead of the designer learning a complex new language, he can use com-

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mands like " $\$ 138$ " to place a 74LS138 chip on the drawing. Status indicators, located to the right of the workspace, display such information as line types used in the drawing, as well as alphanumeric character size.

DASH I lets the user manipulate and view either the whole drawing compressed to the size of the screen, or a segment of the drawing at actual size. In the compressed mode, only the components and associated connections are displayed. Since the number of display elements remains constant between compressed and detailed modes, small details such as pin numbers and alphanumeric notations are omitted in the compressed mode. This information is viewed in the detailed mode within a rectangular area called a symbol cell. Printed copies of the schematic are available in five standard sizes: A ( $8 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime} \times 11^{\prime \prime}$ ), B ( $11^{\prime \prime} \times 17^{\prime \prime}$ ), C ( $17^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{x}$ $\left.22^{\prime \prime}\right), \mathrm{D}\left(22^{\prime \prime} \times 34^{\prime \prime}\right)$, and E ( $34^{\prime \prime} \times 44^{\prime \prime}$ ).

By including detailed information (ie, part numbers and pinout configurations) with the interconnections and symbols, the central data base can be extracted and used as an input for a series of automated processes. A basic design checking program detects gross violations like missing interconnections, outputs without inputs, and improper pin loading. Separate packages allow the user to extract the $\mathrm{L} / \mathrm{M}$ and automatically generate ECOs to eliminate errors encountered when these tasks are handled manually. Net List information provides the interconnection data for wirewrapping of breadboads, as well as input to automated PCB layout systems and logic simulators. Although the company does not provide a package to process the Net List information, it is confident that users can easily design interfaces for the available packages.

With an IBM Personal Computer, DASH I costs $\$ 12,960$. Also included are the Hawley model x063X Mouse (with three control buttons), a C.Itoh model 1550 printer (136- x 144-dot/in resolution), 256 k bytes of ram for system software, and 64 k bytes of buffer storage (capable of holding two bit-mapped pages), monochromatic display, floppy disk controller, two $5 \frac{1}{4} 4^{\prime \prime}$ double-sided disk drives, mouse interface, and either MS-DOS or CPM/86 operating systems. Without the IBM PC and printer, DASH I costs $\$ 5960$. No hardware or software modification is required for existing PCS. FutureNet, Inc, 21018 Osborne St, \# 5, Canoga Park, CA 91304.
Circle 244

## SEEQS 8001 ETHERNET CONTROLLER HAS everyone talking.



Like their human counterparts, personal computers, copiers, and peripherals often need to exchange a few words among each other to get their work done. And now Seee makes it practical and costeffective for them to do just that. With the world's first Ethernet Data Link Controller (EDLC ${ }^{\text {M }}$ ), the Seep 8001.

Practical because the 8001 doesn't dictate design criteria. You're free to choose the buffer management, memory management, and bus configurations that match your system's cost and performance.

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MC68000) to put popular mini- or micro-computers on speaking terms.

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So if your next product will be talking across an Ethernet network, contact Schweber Electronics or SeeQ Technology, 1849 Fortune Drive, San Jose, California 95131. Telephone (408) 942-1990.

We'll make it easy for you to hold up your end of the conversation.
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# How do you makea 3 MIPS real-time computer for under ${ }^{\$ 15,000 \text { ? }}$ 

## Simple. Hewlett-Packard's new HP 1000A900 really makes things easy for OEMs

 with demanding industrial automation and process applications.We made our computer exceptionally fast and rugged, as well as simple to use, expand and maintain. With state-of-the-art LSI technology, we were able to integrate the CPU and floating point hardware chips. We also included HP's Scientific Instruction Set and Vector Instruction Set firmware. Combined with a 4-kilobyte cache memory, twolevel pipelined implementation and 3.7


If price/performance is important in your business, you can't do better than this.
megabytes per second I/O bandwidth, this made it comparatively simple to reach a CPU speed of 3 MIPS. As well as 560,000 floating point operations per second. All for an astonishingly low $\$ 14,818$.
Since we used only a quarter the number of components that are in our previous top-of-the-line computer, the A900 is even more reliable and simple to maintain. MTBF is a healthy 8000 hours; average repair time a scant 90 minutes.

You'll have an easy time expanding your system, too. You can start with our standard $3 / 4$-megabyte board, and
move all the way up to 6 megabytes of 64 K RAM error-correcting main memory. Without straining your budget. Because you can get this additional memory for just $\$ 3340$ per megabyte.

## The Automators: a well-matched family.

In our HP 1000 A-Series family, you'll find two other members with the same level of price/performance as the new A900. For example, the A600 microcomputer gives you 1 MIPS minicomputer capabilities for only $\$ 5 \mathrm{~K}$. The A700 minicomputer adds an easily customized microprogrammable processor. So, for just $\$ 10 \mathrm{~K}$, you can tailor its power to handle data acquisition, process control and supervision of several dedicated processors.

All three computers come in a range of configurations, from $\$ 2 \mathrm{~K}$ micros to $\$ 50 \mathrm{~K}$ super-minicomputer systems. They all support identical peripherals, making it simple to expand or add power any time you want. And we simplify planning your own system with a choice of nine graphics I/O devices, six CRT terminals, and a wide range of printers, disc drives and HP-IB compatible instruments.

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|  | 6650 | 68 | 45 ms |
|  | 15450 | 158 | 45 ms |
| $8^{\prime \prime}$ | 3450 | 35 | 42 ms |
|  | 7050 | 70 | 42 ms |
|  | 804 | 105 | 42 ms |
| $5^{\prime \prime} 4^{\prime \prime}$ | 502 | 50 | 35 ms |

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*Memory is contained on a single board but requires space of two slots due to stack overhang. $\boldsymbol{\sim}$ Check this one: about $1 / 3$ the price of the DEC equivalent!


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## Politics and technology-a volatile mix for ferroelectric memory

ecent announcements regarding ferroelectric memory technology, a means of producing nonvolatile, high density, radiation-hard memory chips, are marred by controversy.
Principals in the ferroelectric drama include George Rohrer, developer and patent holder of fundamental ferroelectric techniques, and technical staff members of Sandia National Laboratories. It was Sandia that performed early evaluation tests on Rohrer's primitive ferroelectric devices in 1972. The fundamental question is, Why did this technology, which today holds the promise of being the computer memory panacea of the decade, failed to win acceptance when introduced in 1972?

As the political debate becomes more convoluted, the technology itself is becoming less puzzling. Curiously, the essence of it is not based in iron (ferro) compounds. Instead, the key to ferroelectric memory operation lies in the behavior of a chemical compound called 3 -phase potassium nitrate ( $\mathrm{KNO}^{3}$ ). This substance exhibits a unique quality when under the influence of an electric field; a nitrate ion within a rhombohedral cell of potassium nitrate is physically displaced (Fig 1). The displaced $\mathrm{NO}_{3}$ ion remains in one of two potential energy wells indefinitely after the electric field is removed


Fig 1 Polarized $\mathrm{KNO}^{3}$ rhombohedral crystal is able to store digital information by altering its orientation. The physical position of nitrate ion within a lattice determines the logic state represented.
(Fig 2). By reversing the field, the nitrate ion's original position is restored. For computer memory applications, the net electric dipole moment induced in the field plates by this ionic shift represents two binary states. Since information storage occurs within a polarized crystal, the memory mechanism is robust and completely nonvolatile.

A memory cell can be constructed from $\mathrm{KNO}^{3}$ by using a thin film of it as a dielectric layer between metal electrodes. A layer thickness of 0.01 to 0.10 microns is typical, with chip densities limited by the width of conductor electrodes rather than by $\mathrm{KNO}^{3}$ related parameters. Existing production methods allow for conductor widths of one micron. At this scale, chip densities of $160 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{bit} / \mathrm{in}^{2}$ are possible in 256k-bit packages.

By adjusting the thickness of the $\mathrm{KNO}^{3}$ layer, switching voltages (cell output) can be controlled. Thus, memory cell compatibility with any logic level can be designed at the time of fabrication. Switching speeds on the order of 20 ns are typical and cycle times as speedy as 0.2 ns are theoretically possible.

George Rohrer explains his technology's initial setback in political terms: "After testing, they [Sandia Labs] wanted exclusive rights to my patent. I said no way...at least not without some money coming forward.' Rohrer adds, "They then tried to put the strong arm of the government on me. At least that's my opinion of what was going on."

Rohrer claims that only the intervention of a phalanx of lawyers and congressmen on his behalf caused Sandia to back off. As a result, he concludes, "I am a persona non grata around Sandia today."

Charles Johnson, a long-time member of Sandia's technical staff, was involved in early tests of Rohrer's ferroelectric devices. He remembers things differently: "I think that you might say that Sandia was not impressed with George's devices...there were some definite reliability problems."

Johnson counters Rohrer's charge that Sandia tried to usurp ferroelectric patents saying, "I have never known of an instance where Sandia tried to usurp a patent." He adds, "Sandia is a government owned facility and all patents, with the exception of those that are classified, fall in the public domain. Anyone can use them." Rohrer, however, contends that this is not the case. "You must understand how Sandia is arranged," he insists. "It is not an arm of the government. It is owned by AT\&T


Fig 2 Nitrate ion occupies one of two energy wells within a $\mathrm{KNO}^{3}$ lattice. When the ion is physically displaced by an externally applied electric field, a charge is induced on the memory cell field plates. The detected charge represents a binary state.
and funded by the government, on a reimbursable basis, to do research." The specter of AT\&T involvement in Sandia is ominous for Rohrer.

In actuality, the structure of Sandia falls somewhere between these extremes; a distinction must be made between Sandia Corp and Sandia Labs. Sandia Labs was established in 1945 and operated by the University of California until 1949. The Bell system then assumed responsibility for operations, forming the Sandia Corp to oversee these details. Today, Sandia Corp is in fact a subsidiary of Western Electric and operates Sandia Labs on a no-profit, no-fee basis. According to a Sandia spokesperson, Western Electric influence is minimal.
Rohrer concedes that early ferroelectric efforts were hobbled by manufacturing problems. He maintains that today, this is not the case.
On paper, the ferroelectric memory fabrication process promises high yields at a paltry $0.001 \Phi /$ bit cost. Additional benefits include high immunity to common mode and adjacent pulse noise (30 to 1). Also, the ferroelectric mechanism exhibits little sensitivity to particle radiation with a hardness of $10^{13}$ neutrons $/ \mathrm{cm}^{2}$ claimed. This quality
(continued on page 54)

Automotive (Conformal Coated)


Porcelain Steel (Pot Element)


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## Politics and technology

## (continued from page 52)

alone makes ferroelectric devices attractive for military applications designed to function during nuclear Armageddon. Finally, high reliability and life expectancy ( $10^{10} \mathrm{read} / \mathrm{write}$ cycles) are claimed for modern ferroelectric devices.
The most attractive aspect of ferroelectric memories (aside from nonvolatility) is the potential ease with which they can be interfaced to existing logic families. In addition, symmetrical cell read/write times eliminate the need for special timing or control circuitry. Obviously, nonvolatility precludes the need for refresh circuits. Device power consumption at high output levels is not specified, but according to published literature is "on the order of microwatts." Standby power drain is zero watts.

The mechanism of the ferroelectric business plan is Technovation Inc, a company that George Rohrer presides over and formed 10 years ago. Headquartered in Necedah, Wisc, Technovation maintains a loose affiliation with Best Energy Sẏstems, also of Necedah. Rohrer serves as Best's vice president of
engineering and Best's president, Terry Paul, acts as Technovation's business manager. Out of this amalgam, both men hope eventually to build a computer memory empire by licensing the technology that they have developed.

Technovation's business plan is ambitious, calling for the lease of a production facility in Colorado Springs by summer. Sample quantities of 1 k -bit chips should be available by mid-1985. Larger 256 k chips will be available by mid-1986, according to company spokespeople. In addition, a 10 M -bit version of the memory, designed using cubic integration and 3 -micron geometries, is planned for 1987. Ths $\$ 10$ million startup financing required is expected to be in place by April.

Given all these technological and entrepreneurial pluses, ferroelectric technology seems destined to succeed this time around. But, will it? George Rohrer is confident, yet philosophical, about his chances for success. "We were 10 years ahead of our time in 1972," he says. "We touted nonvolatility, density,

and radiation hardness before they were issues for most manufacturers." He sardonically adds, "With several companies we approached in those days, [Rockwell and Motorola] we also had to contend with the 'not invented here' syndrome." Now, in George Rohrer's view, his time has finally come. "This device is an absolute necessity today," says Rohrer, 'because of the popularity explosion of small computers."
Terry Paul, Rohrer's business manager, is also optimistic. "We've been beseiged by inquiries from military contractors who want this device now," he claims. Paul adds, with a note of concern, that, despite its early setbacks, ferroelectric technology will soon be a reality-either here, or in Japan, where similar development is proceeding apace.

Whether or not the traditional cooperation-between government, industry, and the inventor-that drives Japan Inc will outrun citizen Rohrer in his quest for success remains to be seen. For the time being, George Rohrer is closer than he has ever been before. "You give me a company," he concludes, "and I'll give you a story." And, one assumes, a ferroelectric memory that works.
-Chris Brown, Technical Editor

## Disk drive increases data transfers fourfold

Parallel read/write heads in the MegaVault MVP 132 rigid disk drive effectively boost the data transfer rate fourfold by creating four separate read/ write channels that can be accessed simultaneously. Labeled a parallel random access memory (PRAM), the drive segments its eight read/write surfaces into upper and lower halves. This allows four read/write heads to be used at a time for a transfer rate of approximately 4.8 M bytes/s. Typically, disk drives are limited to using one read/write head at a time, restricting data transfers to only 1.2 M bytes/s.

The $8^{\prime \prime}$ PRAM drive is intended as a replacement for very large solid state memories in systems with high ram requirements. For such applications as computer graphics, digital video, and image analysis, the drive offers 132 M -byte unformatted storage, with a $40-\mathrm{ms}$ average access time. A maximum of eight drives can be linked in a daisy chain to increase total capacity to over 1G byte.
(continued on page 59)

## INTELLMA

## New 32-Bit Multi-User <br> Computer System with VAX ${ }^{*}$-like Speed + UNIX** + Ada**

The IN/7000M from INTELLIMAC is a state-of-the-art general purpose computer system. Based on the powerful MC68000 microprocessor, the 7000M supports multiple users and multi-tasking under UNIX Version 7 and/ or the INTELLIMAC IN/MSX Multi-System Executive with TeleSoft Ada.

## Standard Hardware Features:

* 8 MHz single-board 68000 computer
* 21-slot Multibus**** chassis
- Multi-processor capable
* 256 KByte RAM (on CPU card)
* 1 MByte ECC RAM on Multibus (up to 8 MByte)
* Memory Management Unit (MMU)
- 8-line RS232C serial I/O
- 160 MByte Winchester Disk
- 8 MByte fixed plus 8 MByte removable cartridge disk
1.6 MByte 8 " floppy

72" steel cabinet, rugged casters

## Software Available:

- Unix Version 7 ("C", FORTRAN 77, COBOL, Pascal, BASIC-Plus, Utilities)
- IN/MSX Multi-User Ada (TeleSoft-Ada and Pascal, 68000 Assembler, NASA Path Pascal, Ada Utilities, Applications)

Designed for high reliability, maintainability and availability (RMA), the 7000M's subsystems have very high MTBF's-many exceeding 15,000 hours. Program benchmarks indicate that the 7000 M can perform at $50 \%$ to $150 \%$ of the speed of the DEC VAX 11/780, depending on operating system, language, and number of users.


## INTELLIMAC

[^4]
## PERTEC.

## new leader in tape technology.

Hello PPC! The division that made Pertec Computer Corporation world famous for high tech peripherals is once again a separate, autonomous operating corporation-Pertec Peripherals Corporation. It may seem like a small change, but it symbolizes the parent Triumph-Adler's commitment to PPC as an effective, independent organization free to pursue future generations in tape technology.

With worldwide sales and service capability and over 100,000 tape drives shipped, PPC is clearly the leader in tape technology and intends to stay that way. Its autonomy, and a doubling of product development dollars will provide its OEM customers with the best solutions and support possible for their future tape requirements.
PPC Introduces the VINDICATOR." PPC's engineers have designed this high performance $1 / 2$-inch drawer mount streaming tape drive, providing 46 or 92 Mb capacity, to better meet OEM demands
for low cost, dependable tape transport. The VINDICATOR's high reliability design includes virtually all the features the OEM has been looking for: auto-load, load-on-line, auto power restart, a auto-load, diagnostic package with automatic self-test on powerup, a universal power module and a programmable front panel. And finally - extended gap start/stop performance and industry standard PPC formatter interface make the VINDICATOR the best choice for traditional and backup applications today, and for the requirements of the future.

You too can join the new leader in tape technology. Call or write the "new" Pertec Peripherals Corporation, 9600 Irondale Avenue, P.O. Box 2198, Chatsworth, California 91311 or call (213) 882-0030, TWX: (910) 494-2093. In Europe and the United Kingdom, contact Pertec International, 10 Portman Road, Reading, Berkshire RG3 1DU Telephone (44) 734-591441.


# ONE SLOT SHOPPING. 



## INTRODUCING THE WINCHESTER/FLOPPY/TAPE THREE-IN-ONE MULTIBUS CONTROLLER.

## Try this on for size.

DSD's new 7215 single-board Multibus ${ }^{\circledR}$ controller/interface handles two SA1000-type 40 Mb Winchesters, a $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ streamer, and two $8^{\prime \prime}$ floppies.

Plus on-board data separation, 32-bit ECC, and self-diagnostics. All on the same board.

There's also a version for $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ drives, the 5215, with similar capabilities.

And both are very, very quick.
Thanks to a pipelined architecture that moves data at non-interleaved speeds.

## Top-of-the-line performance.

The 7215 and 5215 are the highest performance controllers on the market for $8^{\prime \prime}$ and $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ drives.

And that makes them ideal for multiuser and UNIX ${ }^{\text {w }}$ applications.

They also emulate Intel ${ }^{\circledR}$ iSBC ${ }^{\circledR} 215$ and iSBX ${ }^{\mathrm{mm}}$ 218 controllers so you can run RMX 86 anytime.

And with 24-bit addressing support, you can take advantage of high performance microprocessors like the 68000 and the new inexpensive memory chips to address larger physical RAM memory.

To tune system performance, both boards offer four alternatives for bus arbitration. As well as having the capability to boost system performance by performing overlapped seeks and multisector operations.

## Plus the convenience to match.

The best part about all this performance is that it comes on one board. So it only takes up one backplane slot. And there are no extra boards to fool with.

As easy as that sounds, there are those of you who'd rather not do-it-yourself. For you, the 7215 controller is also available in our 770 storage systems.

And like all DSD products, our Multibus boards and systems are supported by our exclusive Rapid Module Exchange ${ }^{\text {tw }}$ and regional service centers.

## Shop around.

Compare our incomparable Multibus boards and systems to anything else you like. To make it easy, just send your business card to DSD Corporate Headquarters, Marketing Communications Department, for a free copy of "The Multibus Buyers Guide."

[^5][^6]
## Boosting data transfers

(continued from. page 54)
Using multiple parallel heads differs from the common practice of placing multiple fixed heads on a single arm to read a single surface. Although the latter technique reduces track to track access and latency times, the company notes that channel to channel crosstalk and asynchronous noise degrade the data transfers when simultaneous accesses are attempted. Problems with increased channel to channel crosstalk preclude the simultaneous use of adjacent heads mounted on the same arm in the PRAM drive (see the Figure).

A single voice-coil positioner limits data transfers to the same track on all four surfaces. Simultaneous access to different tracks on each surface would either require multiple positioners or multiple heads per arm, according to the company. Typical access time between the drive's 823 tracks is 5 ms , with a full stroke move specified at 70 ms .

Although the company offers standard SMD and ANSI interfaces for the drive, the user needs to design a custom disk controller to take full advantage of the independent read/write channels. The company provides only the sealed head/disk assembly and an electronic module that consists of the power amplifier, servo tach, microprocessor control, and four sets of read/write assemblies. Each read/write head also has its own amplifier to reduce noise.
Necessary functions that the custom controller must handle include selection of the upper or lower surfaces to transfer data, breakdown of the data stream to pass to the individual channels, error detection and correction, and memory buffering to optimize throughput. If multiple drives are to be linked, the controller also has to synchronize the drives so that one drive can perform a read/ write operation while another is seeking. This reduces latency times as well as increases throughput.

Controller design can be eased if the parallel read/write channels are treated as separate disk drives, according to the company. Apart from the selection of the upper or lower read/write surface, off the shelf controllers available for both the SMD and anSi interfaces can serve as a basis for the custom controller. Off the shelf controllers already perform most of the needed functions.

The MVP 132 disk drive unit measures $7.1^{\prime \prime} \times 17.5^{\prime \prime} \times 14.75^{\prime \prime}(18.0 \times 44.5 \times 37.5$ $\mathrm{cm})$ and costs $\$ 6500$ in OEM quantities, with units shipped 60 days aro. MegaVault, an SLI Co, 6431 Independence Ave, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Circle 245


A user can transfer data to any four of eight surfaces on the MegaVault myP 132 disk drive. This is accomplished by specifying either the upper or lower surface and the desired read/write channel.


Our RIMFIRE controllers are full Bus Masters with a variety of options that make it easy to design them into any Multibus system. Their simple Parameter Block Interface offers numerous programming options such as Bus Lock, ECC and Retry Disable, Linked Commands and Mailbox Interrupts.
CALL OR WRITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

Single-chip microcomputer system reduces microcontroller application development time

asingle-chip microcomputer with onboard Forth compiler and operating system reduces the development time associated with writing assembly language programs for microcontroller applications. This system from Rockwell International's Electronic Device Div also eliminates the need for elaborate microprocessor development systems. For writing code, the microcomputer needs only a single reusable, external development ROM and scratchpad rAM. An RS-232 compatible serial I/O port can link a terminal to the minimum count development system. Moreover, an onboard PROM programmer needs only an external $25-\mathrm{V}$ power supply to transfer applications programs to EPROM.

Developing applications programs in a high level language lowers costs-code can be written and debugged in about one-third the time of an equivalent assembly language progam (the most common language for writing controller programs). Forth was selected because it allows programmers to create machinedependent I/O structures, as well as permits direct memory references.

Microcontrollers generally do not have access to such I/O devices as disk drives, video display terminals, and line printers that languages such as FORTRAN or BASIC typically require. Also, special purpose devices like timers and edgesensitive lines, common in controller applications, are memory mapped devices. Languages developed primarily for multitask/multi-user systems usually prohibit any user from directly addressing system resources, such as memory. Forth supports memory references with commands like "fetch" @ and "store" ! that can read or write into any memory location.

Using Forth's interpretive quality, the user can test and run code without creating and assembling source code. The R65F11 and R65F12 host processors act as both development and target systems. Both processors contain the Forth interpreter and a runtime bootstrap routine in ROM code that develops applications programs in external RAM. Once perfected, the program can be preserved in ROM or EPROM as the code to be used in the same system for a dedicated control process. Similar configurations have also been implemented to support Forth on the RCA 1804 microcomputer and Tiny basic on the National INS8073 microcomputer.


System configurations for the RISC-Forth chip set allow a range of capabilities from a single-system terminal and minimal memory to floppy disk drives and 16 k bytes of bank-switched memory. Shown here is a maximum configuration. EPROM programming is also available.

Both the R65F11 and R65F12 are based on the 6502 microprocessor and contain 3 k bytes of mask programmed ROM and 192 bytes of RAM. Both have a 16 k -byte external memory addressing capability. However, the number of available I/O lines differs-the R65F11 provides 16 lines; the R65F12 40 lines. The internal ROM is preprogrammed with all runtime words contained in Forth. About onethird are devoted to machine language primitives and the remainder are Forth words defined with these primitives.

Over 120 Forth functions are included in the kernel; the bootstrap program ("cold') initializes the part and looks for external applications programs to execute. One such program is the external development ROM. This contains all the dictionary definitions and compiletime only words a user needs to enter commands and create applications programs. The kernel in the microcomputer and the development rom then combine to form a complete Forth operating system.
A serial port on the microcomputer (capable of fully buffered, duplex, asynchronous communications at baud rates up to 62 k bps ) is used to connect a system terminal to the 3 -chip system. After program development is completed, the debugged code is then transferred from RAM to EPROM. Then the development ROM is removed so that the applications program can be set up similar to the development ROM.

Auto-start occurs when the system word "cold" is executed upon reset.

Cold initializes the microcomputer's internal registers, establishes the 16 k -byte external memory map, and sets up the serial channel for 1200 -bps asynchronous transmission. Essential Forth variables are then downloaded to zeropage ram and the system RAM is set at memory location 300 Hex and up.

After initializing the part, cold searches the external memory map in 1 k -byte segments. The first two bytes are read and compared to a 5 A and A5 Hex pattern. When found, the following two bytes are used as a pointer to the high level Forth routine to be executed. An appropriate machine-coded interpreter will then be called, based on the address of the desired word's code field. If this pointer is directed at the fifth and sixth bytes, these, in turn, point to an assembly language program.
Thus, the system can execute any dedicated applications program written in either RISC-Forth (a version of Fig-Forth with extensions) or assembly language, as well as enter a preprogrammed ROM. Cold checks for an auto-start ROM, beginning at address 400 Hex. Applications programs are created starting with that same address. In this way, programs developed in RAM can be copied into EPROM and then replaced with a permanent copy. Higher starting addresses can also be accommodated at the user's discretion.

If neither an applications program nor a development ROM is found in the memory map, cold then turns over execution
(continued on page 62)

# THE BUS STOCKS HERE: 

PSM-512A: 512 kbyte Multibus ${ }^{T \mathrm{M}}$ memory with ECC, 275 nsec access time. Fixes single-bit errors, flags multi-bit errors.

CIRCLE 41

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CIRCLE 42


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## Reducing development time

## (continued from page 60)

to an internal, high level Forth word that sends the message "no rom" to the system terminal. It also attempts to boot a program from an RM65 floppy disk controller at memory location 100 Hex.

A target compiler can be used to produce standalone code, with only the needed portions of the kernel retained, if
a user needs to program many applications programs within the 3 k -byte memory. After a program is written and tested with all the high level constructs available in Forth, "object code" modules are created with the compiler. These modules are suitable for submission as rom codes for production runs without

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fear of compiler translation errors. The RISC-System target compiler runs on an AIM $65 / 40$ system with disk capabilities.

Prices for the RISC-Forth development system are $\$ 17.85$ for the R65F11, $\$ 23.35$ for the R65F12 in quantities up to 24 , and $\$ 45.70$ for the single R65FR1 development ROM. Quantity discounts are available. Price for the target compiler is available upon request. Rockwell International, Electronic Device Div, 4311 Jamboree Rd, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

- Joseph Aseo, Field Editor

Circle 246

## DATA COMNDONTCATIONS

## Intelligent network component manages ultrawide bandwidth digital data links

Link/1 breaks $\mathrm{T}-1$ facilities into as many as 200 standard speed channels under dynamic online centralized network control. It reduces the need for multiple networks by mixing data over digital links that operate at up to 2 M bps.
As stated by Timeplex president Ed Botwinick, "the relatively low cost of the $\mathrm{T}-1$ links now becoming available from the phone companies and other carriers will be one of the key factors that make office automation and the office of the future really possible." Until about two years ago, T-1 facilities were available only for internal use within the telephone system. Today, however, leased line $\mathrm{T}-1$ service is available to subscribers. Digital transmission links running at 1.544 M bps, $\mathrm{T}-1$ facilities provide the equivalent of 24 voice grade lines.
The ability to mix information allows users currently operating separate data and voice networks as well as others for fax dial-up lines and video facilities to cut costs. In addition to reducing the need for multiple networks and thus saving in transmission costs, it extends the range of possible applications to include high speed computer to computer file transfers that were previously impossible over bandwidth channels.
To use T-1 facilities effectively, the Link/1 combines time division multiplexing, integral T-1 modems, programmable network configuration and port assignments, and dynamic bandwidth contention capabilities. With this, it provides the ability to mix synchronous, (continued on page 65)

# Penril's 4800 and 9600 Modems AreOut Front in Features,Not Price 


#### Abstract

Penril's new V. 27 and V. 29 compatible high speed modems use microprocessor control to give you a full set of no-compromise features at low cost.


FRONT PANEL CONTROLS
The 2127 (V.27) and 2129 (V.29) display their operating characteristics on the front panel. And five front panel switches let you change those operating characteristics or set up tests in seconds without internal strapping.

DIAL-LINE BACKUP AT 4800 BPS
The 4800 bps version provides the added security and convenience of two call direct connect dial backup. If data quality drops, the 2127 can make a backup connection on CCITT or Bell dial-up lines. An optional autodial feature eliminates the need for manual dialing and telephone sets.

## DATA MONITORING

The 2127 and 2129 continuously monitor data quality with an audible alarm so you can respond instantly to signal degradation.

AUTOMATIC NETWORK TEST
The 2127 and 2129 implement V. 54 (loops 2, 3 and 4) test loops. The 2127 and 2129 contain an integral V. 52 test pattern generator and bit error rate detector. So you can perform a complete network Bit Error Rate Test without external equipment or a remote operator. Best of all, Penril's modems automatically test (ALB, remote LLB and remote DLB) point to point configurations and sequence through each modem in a multi-drop network with a pass or fail indication for each modem.

DIAGNOSTIC CONTROL
Optional side channel diagnostics provide network control functions without interrupting normal data flow. Alternately, a V. 23 compatible side channel option is available.

COMPATIBILITY
The 2127 and 2129 utilize automatic adaptive equalization to accommodate your Bell or CCITT networks. They are strappable for International power sources. And the user may choose an optional interface compatible with MIL STD 188C or RS-449.

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Penrill ${ }_{2} 127$


# Only your imagination can limit the application of Comtal's new Vision Ten/24 Image Processing System. 

Whether you're exploring the outer regions of space or exploring for oil in some remote area of the world, Comtal's new Vision Ten/24 is the only digital image processing system that processes and displays $1024 \times 1024$ high resolution images with a clarity never experienced before in image processing. It's a powerful tool for interpreting and analyzing images for such diverse applications as LANDSAT, meteorology, seismology, graphic arts, earth resource management, medical imagery, or something only you know about.

## Four times the resolution at $30 \%$ lower cost.

The Vision Ten/24 is the only image processing system capable of processing and displaying images at a 1024 x 1024 resolution in real time ( $1 / 30$ second) with a 40 MHz video output rate. That's four times the resolution of the industry-standard $512 \times 512$ systems. With it, whole new worlds open up. Inter-

pretation and analysis become more precise. Best of all, the basic Vision Ten/24 system price is 30 percent less than our previous $1024 \times 1024$ system because of our design and manufacturing refinements. Giving you incomparable price/performance.

## Building block flexibility.

Our modular design approach with the architecture of the Vision Ten/24 gives you flexibility along with easier system upgrades. You can increase video paths, memory size or processing power by simply adding modules. Making the Vision Ten/24


## Comtal-a generation ahead in image processing.

Our new Vision Ten/24 is a generation ahead of any other digital image processing system. It's not surprising since our systems have consistently been the state-of-the-art in image processing. For example, our $512 \times 512$ systems offer more exclusive features and options, and give you more standard models to choose from, than anyone else. With a decade of experience in image processing and more than 600 systems installed worldwide, only Comtal gives you the leading edge of image processing technology.
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system techiology/
DATA COMODONEETONS

## Digital data links

(continued from page 62)
asynchronous, and isochronous digital information streams over a single data link.

Voice connections are provided through a digital voice module. This module converts analog voice signals to a $32,000-\mathrm{bps}$ data stream. This stream is multiplexed with other information on the $\mathrm{T}-1$ link. The same module converts digital signals back to analog form. Achieved through the use of a sophisticated sampling technique and coding algorithm, the $32,000-\mathrm{bps}$ rate is half the industry standard. The remaining bandwidth can be used for nonvoice applications.

To handle the facilities, a microprocessor has been dedicated to network management. This unit supplies three levels of processor controlled reconfigu-ration-dynamic, periodic, and manual. The microprocessor within the network manager can be user programmed to allocate available bandwidth on the data link to specific ports, types of applications, or particular end users on the basis of priority ratings. Allocation occurs dynamically, dropping lower priority channels in favor of higher priority ones.

An interactive supervisory port permits management and diagnostics to be done from a central site. All management and diagnostic functions are controlled from either an ASCII terminal on the port or by a computer connected to a special interface port. Diagnostic capabilities pinpoint problems using progressive isolation. This combats the increased finger pointing to be expected when using mixed vendor networks.

Since the unit assumes so much communications responsibility, fault tolerance has been designed in. Every major component that affects more than one I/O module can be backed up by a redundant unit. For example, dual independent power supplies share the load under normal conditions; either can assume the full load if the other fails. Similarly, common control logic, network manager, data link controller, and T-1 drives can have redundant online backups. Since port modules are designed to fail safe, only those ports routed through the module are interrupted; no other ports are affected.
Cost of the equipment ranges from about $\$ 8000$ for a minimum useful configuration to over $\$ 70,000$ for high end systems. Deliveries are scheduled for second quarter 1983. Timeplex, Inc, One Communications Plaza, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662.

Circle 247


## When the FGGsays control your interference use Spectrum's shialded-filtered connector:

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Spectrum Control itself, offers you a full range of electromagnetic compatibility services and products for both custom and standard applications. For more information call, or write for Engineering Bulletin 27-0027-53. Write Spectrum Control, Inc., 2185 W. Eighth Street, Erie, PA 16505. Or call 814/455-0966, TWX 510/6996871. Spectrum's filtered connectors could be the low cost solution you're looking for.

[^7]

SPECTRUM CONTROL INC.
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Why settle for a plodding plotter when you can double your throughput with an all-new Model 945 or Model 965 beltbed plotter from CalComp for approximately the same price?

Productivity gains can range from $25 \%$ to more than $500 \%$. It's like having up to two plotters for the price of one.

CalComp Model 945 beltbed plotter (left) for sheets up to ANSI size D (or ISO size AI), and Model 965 plotter for drawings up to sheet size $E$ (or size A0).


What's the difference? The basic philosophy behind each plotter design. Their plotters trade off speed for onetime economies of smaller size, lighter weight, less powerful components. You pay the price in plotting time with each pen and paper movement (their 24-ips maximum vs. CalComp's 42-ips) and each excursion of the single-pen carriage to a side-mounted carousel.

CalComp's Model 945 and Model 965 plotters, by comparison, allow you to map up to 16 logical pens to four physical pens continuously poised over the plot surface-ready to be activated


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pu need a reliable $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ floppy, $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ Winchester or $8^{\prime \prime}$ ThinLine ${ }^{\text {Tw }}$ floppy, we're the supplier you can rely on.

## PERIPH <br> 




Let's get clear about the overall picture. These new 68000 peripherals e not your garden-variety, 16-bit support chips. They're windows to he limits of your imagination. Because with just these TTL-compatible devices (SIO, MFP and userefined gate arrays) plus memory, such as our MK4564 64K RAM or 1K38000 256K ROM, you can use our MK68000 to design any number e sophisticated I/O-intensive applications. And doing more with less not nly saves space and weight, it also reduces manufacturing overhead and ower consumption. Which in turn, also improves overall system reliability. The MK68564 SIO features two independent, full duplex serial chanels and can handle asynchronous as well as a variety of synchronous ommunications protocols. It has directly addressable registers and ofrs the choice of polling, interrupt (vectored and non-vectored) and MA transfer modes.
The MK68901 Multi-Function Peripheral (MFP) has four timers, an iterrupt controller for 16 sources, eight parallel I/O lines and a full dulex USART with programmable DMA signals, all in a 48-pin DIP. With Mostek gate arrays, you can create custom logic peripherals for ny system requirement simply, quickly and cost-efficiently. In fact, our IGHLAND ${ }^{\text {SM }}$ Design System is probably the most user-friendly CAD ol available for developing semicustom logic.
Put it all together with the MK68000. It's the simplest way yet to cree a vision of your own. To get the full picture, contact Mostek, 1215 . Crosby Road, MS2205, Carrollton, Texas 75006. (214) 466-6000. Europe, Mostek International (32) 2.762.18.80. In the Far East, ostek Japan KK (81) 3 404-7261.

## Protocol analyzer solves data communications network problems

0esigned for electronic data processing centers, data communications equipment manufacturers, and common carriers, Hewlett-Packard's 4955A protocol analyzer can solve development, availability, and productivity problems of communications networks. The mainframe contains a $9^{\prime \prime}(23-\mathrm{cm})$ CRT, two 256 k -byte cartridge tapes, a full ASCII keyboard, 8 menu soft keys, and 128 k words of internal storage. For portable use, the keyboard folds up and doubles as a front panel cover. The 4955A provides analysis of communications lines with speeds ranging from 50 to 72 k bps. Internal ram storage can be used for realtime storage of data streams, physical lead status, and timing. Multiple events can be captured by 63 separate triggers.
Network connection is made via a user-selectable pod (RS-232-C, RS-449, v.35, or MIL-188C). While a full computer keyboard is provided, the eight function keys can control seven display formats on the CRT. The 4955 A is particularly useful for troubleshooting. Moreover, no formal programming skill or language is required. A measurement sequence can be easily constructed using only the soft keys for selective monitoring or device simulation. Full terminal emulation and multiple trigger measurement can be done simultaneously.

For more complex operations and added features, BASIC is optional. Additional communications oriented commands and I/O control functions enhance the language. All datacom keywords from the menus can be assigned to BASIC to perform triggering or branching. The protocol analyzer can be used to emulate data-terminating equipment (DTE) or data-circuit terminating equipment (DCE) for troubleshooting a network with multiple-vendor equipment.

When realtime analysis is insufficient, tape storage allows offline examination of the various data streams. Instrument setups and measurement sequences can also be stored for field service applications. Efficient memory utilization makes maximum use of the internal 128 k -word memory possible. Data bytes, lead transitions, and trigger controls are stored with time stamping (ie, long idle periods need not be stored). This eliminates the need for large disk based memory to handle large data streams.

A line diagram of any four interface control lines to pinpoint incorrect timing sequences is displayed on the CRT. Character by character examination of any transaction is possible. Eight menus are defined, each with a specific function, and the soft keys are relabled to correspond to the displayed fields. This


Soft key operation, BASIC programmability, and flexible protocol support are featured in the HP 4955A protocol analyzer. Internal 128k-word storage and dual $\mathbf{2 5 6 k}$-byte tape drives provide mass storage for offline analysis of data streams and setup and measurement sequence storage.
speeds user mastery of the instrument. In addition, the 4955A has resident firmware to act as an HPIB (IEEE 488) bus controller for a printer. In the HPIB controller mode, all keyboard functions can be accessed remotely.
The protocol analyzer costs $\$ 20,950$. Optional bASIC is $\$ 2015$; physical interface pods are $\$ 1110$ each. Delivery is 8 to 12 weeks aro. Contact local HewlettPackard sales offices.

Circle 248

## Logic analyzer provides flexible operation through plug-in ROM packs

A multicard mainframe with ROM, RAM, and COMM packs, the 1240 logic analyzer from Tektronix allows the user to select a wide array of capabilities and operational modes. The dual time base permits analysis of complex systems (eg, multiprocessor systems) in which separate portions of the design operate from independent clocks. Concurrent, synchronized data acquisition simplifies integration of such systems. Using information from both time bases, the 1240 permits the acquisition triggers to be defined, then displays the resulting data in a time-aligned manner.

Hardware triggers include counters, timers, duration filters, and glitch detection to 5 ns . Software analysis tools include flexible clocking and demultiplexing to handle multiplexed buses. There are 14 levels of trigger definition for isolating software execution loops. Pass counters, filters, looping, conditional branching, and data qualification are part of the 1240 's software analysis capability.

A menu-driven user interface has four levels of user-selectable operation. Each level allows more powerful functions. Thus, the logic analyzer supports both novices and advanced users. The unit replaces the usual array of multifunction keys with a touch-sensitive display. Each menu uses onscreen selection fields to perform operations unique to that display, keeping dedicated keys to a minimum. With a turn knob on the front panel, scrolling in a smooth and continuous fashion can be either horizontal or vertical.

There are two types of data acquisition modules-the 9 -channel 1240 D 1 at 100 MHz and the 18 -channel 1240 D 2 at 50 MHz top speed. The mainframe accepts up to four of these modules in any combination. Each channel has 512 bits of data-capture memory, which can
(continued on page 74)



Your component-level disk controller project will go much smoother and quicker with our WD1010 LSI Winchester controller. It's a 40-pin device with all the control circuitry needed to control ST500/SA1000 type drives and is compatible with most 8 and 16 -bit microprocessor busses, handling data rates up to 5 MHz .

Buy our board-level disk controllers. Have us build a custom board for you. Or do-ityourself with our LSI. If you choose the latter, we'll provide schematics, microcode and generous engineering assistance.

We've got all the support components your design needs, too. To wit:

WDI011: Digital Data
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WDIOI2: Write
Precompensation
WDIO14: ECC
WD1015: Buffer Manager
WD1510: LIFO/FIFO
external sector buffer
WD279X: Single Chip
Floppy Disk Controller.
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SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY/ TEST B BDEASURIENDENTU

## Logic analyzer

(continued from page 72)
be chained to create wider or deeper data-capture tables. For example, a 36 -channel configuration can be reconfigured to 18 channels with 1024 bits of information storage, or to 9 channels with 2048 bits.

Removable rom, RAM, and COMM packs allow the user to easily configure the 1240 to support different communications interfaces and working environments. Tektronix is planning a large library of rom packs for postacquisition data processing (eg, histogram displays for software performance analysis). ROM packs will be convenient for user-definable mnemonics and disassembly for standard microprocessors. One planned ROM pack will support user definition of soft keys and permit custom configuration of the 1240 for manufacturing and service applications. COMM packs tailor the 1240 's universal I/O capability to many different communications protocols such as RS-232-C and GPIB (IEEE 488).


The 1240 logic analyzer offers up to 72 channels at speeds up to 100 MHz . A dual time-base feature simplifies debug of multiclock-driven systems. Users can select four levels of functionality. A touch-sensitive display with menudriven onscreen soft keys facilitates user proficiency.

An internal nonvolatile, batterybacked CMOS memory holds up to two complete instrument setups. Additional RAM packs can act as external nonvolatile storage for setups and reference memories. Reference memories contain correct response data and facilitate test transfer from engineering to manufacturing and field/factory service.

The 1240 logic analyzer ranges from $\$ 7500$ to $\$ 19,500$ depending on selected features. The portable instrument weighs $26 \mathrm{lbs}(12 \mathrm{~kg})$ and meets MIL-T28800C environmental Class 3 specifications for rugged environments. Deliveries will begin in the spring of 1983. Tektronix, Inc, PO Box 1700, Beaverton, OR 97075.

Circle 249

## DEEELOPNTENTM SYMTEMM

## Gate array development system reduces circuit design time

|l tilizing eight different processors and based on an expandable Multibus architecture, the Gatemaster gate array development system from Daisy Systems Corp addresses every function within the gate array design cycle. It provides a complete set of interactive software tools for a schematic oriented design editor, as well as syntax checking, logic timing verification and simulation, physical layout with interactive placing and routing of circuit elements and signal lines, and creation of formatted database tapes that can be used by the gate array supplier in the manufacturing operation. According to the manufacturer, use of the system can cut circuit development time in half.

The development system is the first to unify the design process from engineer's conception to finished layout. As a portable standalone design system priced at $\$ 100,000$, it represents a substantial cost reduction compared to traditional development methods (auto-placement and routing programs alone are priced at $\$ 200,000$ and require an external mainframe).

System hardware is based around the $10-\mathrm{MHz} 8086$ 16-bit CPU and an 8087 arithmetic coprocessor. These are supported by 1.5 M bytes of main memory, a 40M-byte Winchester disk, an 800 - by 1024-pixel graphics display, a $19^{\prime \prime}$ $(48-\mathrm{cm})$ monochrome or color monitor, and a programmable keyboard. A 19.2 k -baud RS-232-C serial port and high speed RTE, DR11W, and Ethernet communications links are available. Options include a high resolution printer/plotter, a data input tablet, additional memory, a 1M-byte floppy, and a cartridge tape drive. The monitor has been optimized with a separate bit-slice processor based graphics engine for fast screen updates. The operator sees almost instantaneous response time. Likewise, a separate disk manager processor optimizes disk response time.

Various software programs deal with a central database manager, providing consistency throughout the design process. Thus, changes in one portion of the design that affect other sections are integrated into the final design.

The concept of correctness by construction permits the designer to define the electrical characteristics of the circuit elements when the schematic is created.
(continued on page 76)


## Introducing a brainy new solution from theWizards of Winchester Disk Controllers.



Components Group, 2445 McCabe Way. Irvine, CA 92714. (714) 557-3550 Controllers?

A new Winchester controller. Plus floppy controller. On one low cost board Small enough to mount atop a $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ drive. And ST500/SA1000 compatible. "Smart", you say? What did you expect from the Wizards of Winchester Disk

We promised you more for less. Our new WD1002 delivers. At $\$ 195$ (U. S. OEM quantities) it's $\$ 50$ less than its predecessor, the WDIOOl.

The big news, though, is that weve made the WD1002 the brainiest disk controller yet, with an abundance of new LSI innovations. Such as our WD1010 single-chip Winchester controller device. It replaces the microprocessor on our earlier boards. And about 25 other devices. Plus we've added the new WD1014 Error Correction device and the WD1015 Buffer Manager device. Because just about every system with a Winchester has a floppy nearby, we included our new WD279X single chip floppy disk controller, too. So you get a complete, powerful solution on one reliable $5^{3} 4^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime}$ board. And you're on the upgrade path to our upcoming WD1003 and WD1004 boards.

To make our disk controllers even more irresistible, we'll customize them to your bus and form factor. Or sell you our LSI, along with everything you need to build a controller yourself

It doesn't take too much brains to see that it's safe, smart and simple to commit your disk-based systems to WD. Call our controller hotline, 714/966-7827 and we'll arrange to sit down with you and get into the details you need

Gate array system
(continued from page 74)


The Daisy Systems Gatemaster gate array development system with self-contained software for logic design, circuit simulation, timing verification with a physical layout editor, and auto-placement and routing programs. This software is supported by a multiprocessor Multibus architecture that includes a $\mathbf{1 0} \mathbf{- M H z}$ 8086/8087 processor pair and a bipolar bit-slice graphics processor. Up to 2M bytes of main memory are supported with a $\mathbf{4 0 M}$-byte Winchester disk standard.

An electrical net list created by the schematic data base contains all component and signal names, as well as electrical parametric information. The list is compared in real time with all layout entries, and the system will not allow the creation of an electrical error. This alleviates the concern that a later interactive entry will upset the circuit's electrical characteristics. It also eliminates the need for external electrical and design rule verification programs.

In addition, the data base on the Daisy supported array families includes all layout rule and process information, thus avoiding physical design violations. The gate array family data base is fully documented and includes an entire set of component libraries for both the logical and physical design process. All entries, from the schematic through mask layout, are syntax checked and guaranteed correct by construction. The company supports all of the major gate array families from such manufacturers as Motorola, ami, Texas Instruments, National Semiconductor, AMCC, and Mitel. Process independent, the system can support bipolar and MOS technologies.

Basic design is created by the engineer using the schematic editor. This editor uses the Gatemaster's hierarchical file system to permit a multilayered approach identical to the manual methods now
being used to create schematics. The designer can start with general block diagrams and logically progress through the design to the detail level drawing that shows components, transistors, and interconnections. A design data base maintains all entries by component and signal name and keeps track of all connections from page to page. Three programs check syntax and prepare the design data base for simulation.

The Daisy Network Connectivity Extractor (DANCE) syntax checks and flags any missed connections or parameter violations found on each page. It creates a net list from the graphics oriented schematic, thus eliminating a major source of error in conventional methods. Manual extraction of net lists from schematics is a tedious and errorprone operation. The Daisy Resolving Linker (DRINK) links multiple pages and permits incomplete designs to be operated on as a complete design. This facilitates interactive troubleshooting since the simulator can be used to analyze designs before the detail work is finished. The Simulator Input Generator (SING) creates a formatted component and network list and does design rule error checking. Three checking programs use assumed trace lengths to do circuit timing verification, logic simulation, and logic analysis to ensure that the logic design is error free.

A separate physical layout editor uses the graphic screen display, allowing the designer to interactively place components and route signal lines under the guidelines in the design database electrical parameters. Misconnection possibilities are eliminated by using the common data base. Thus, physical design is guaranteed to be identical to the previously checked logic design. Hardware pan and zoom permit the operator to physically inspect the detailed elements on each mask layer, as well as look at the layout globally.

Once the layout is complete, the design can be run through the timing and analysis programs with actual trace length values, and circuit operation can be confirmed. Further, test patterns can be created and, along with a correctly formatted tape, sent to the gate array manufacturer for input to his computer based layout process.
The development system incorporates both interactive and automatic layout and placement software. For example, an engineer can invoke a very fast placement routine to quickly evaluate how much silicon a particular function will require and then optimize the evaluation results. Then the interconnects are routed either automatically, or interactively if space is at a premium. The system is totally reentrant at any point in the placement and routing process.
Moreover, the user has the option of halting an automatic process, entering the interactive editor, using his intuition to make changes, and then letting the automatic process continue. Automatic placement programs will not move any component that the designer has specified. After placing the remaining elements, they will provide histogram data that indicate relative figures of merit for the proposed layout. The designer can use these to determine which ideas will be the most successful. While maintaining the advantages of automated functions, this combination of interactive and automatic processes permits an engineer's experience and knowledge to be utilized.
Since the development system can function as a powerful graphics terminal connected to a mainframe, customers can also access any custom design aids already developed and available on inhouse or timeshared computers. A number of formatting programs, for example, are available to put the design data base into a form acceptable to various mainframe based simulation programs. Daisy Systems Corp, 139 Kifer Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.
Circle 250

## Who says

 SMD Controller design is so r-r-rough? cause to approach any disk interface task with trepidation. Because now, in addition to our industry standard floppy disk controllers and ST500/SA1000 Winchester disk controllers, Western Digital delivers a single chip solution to SMD, CMD, MMD, LMD and FHT interfaces. Oh my!

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We're truly SMD compatible.
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All in onethird the space. Using less than half the power.


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AMD House, Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, England, GU 21 1JT, 44-4862-27272.

## Finally, a Winchester that

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[^8]B23, M23, and W23 are approximately $35 \%$ less than comparable DEC systems in 1.0 MB configurations. Additional 1.0MB memory modules from Dataram are about $\mathbf{4 0} \%$ less than DEC's equivalent 1.0 MB memory. Contact us for actual price comparisons.

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From top to bottom, chart the range of LSI-11 system performance you get from Dataram... and only Dataram.
It starts with our low-end B23 PLUS Q-BUS system at lower (much lower!) than DEC prices. And continues with high-end M23 and W23 Q-BUS systems that use Dataram's innovative Q-MAP ${ }^{\text {TW }}$ I/O mapping module to generate a separate 18 -bit bus from the LSI-11/23's 22 -bit bus. Allowing you to put 4.0 MB of memory on the 22-bit bus while interfacing your high-performance peripherals (RM02, TM 11, RX 02 and more) to the 18 -bit bus. Giving you much more performance than provided by the PDP-11/23 PLUS, which supports only the RL01/RL02 and RX01 on its 22-bit bus.
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# Electronic Show and Convention 

New York Coliseum and<br>Sheraton Centre Hotel<br>April 19 to 21, 1983

How far "Tomorrow's Technology Today," the theme of Electro/83, will take us depends on how well designers fit the barrage of rapidly developing elements into transitioning systems. From April 19 to 21 at the New York Coliseum, over 500 high technology manufacturers will shepherd this year's flock of new products before Northeastern professionals involved in the design, manufacture, and test of system level electronic components.

Of equal concern to Computer Design readers is Electro's Professional Program, held concurrently at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.
Nearly one-quarter of the 1983 sessions will focus on updating approaches to chip technology, architecture, and applications. Discussions about improvements in nonvolatile memory technology and high speed, high performance CPU products-in addition to computer aided design and engineering-are also sure to draw crowds.

Session 1 will launch the Professional Program with a review of technical advances that are broadening the scope of $5-\mathrm{V}$ only EEPROMS and nonvolatile RAMs. Guidelines for choosing between the two technologies will clarify basic issues that confront designers when contemplating how to match the memory to the application. Speakers will point to incipient developments that will govern the position of nonvolatile memory in future systems.

In many cases, high speed array processors are becoming flexible and cost-effective alternatives to bigger general purpose processors or special purpose hardware. Session 6 will recap the latest strides in the field, taking note of the array processor's growing slice of the design pie in industrial, scientific, and medical applications. Speakers will examine architectural aspects, pipelining, and parallelism, then look to future prospects that include a new generation of user friendly, system oriented array processors.

While manufacturers work out the bugs in design automation and production, logic arrays


Arthur Hansen Conference Chair


Dan C. Krupka
Professional Program Chair
are gaining acceptance as workable semicustom alternatives. Bipolar and СMOS gate arrays are the favorites for both creating semicustom integrated circuits and converting discrete circuits to custom or semicustom arrays. In Session 19, industry trends will be reviewed alongside specific manufacturer advances in technology, architecture, and applications.

Growing ranks of hard disk drives in small computer systems are clamoring for VLSI controller designs that will achieve higher performance at reduced cost. Session 26 will analyze the features and design tradeoffs of several recently released vLSI controllers. Meanwhile, data communications engineers are beefing up a panoply of VLSI products to meet the burgeoning demand for higher performance in wider applications. At the top of Session 10's list is a survey of VLSI controllers for the leading local area network contenders.

Low technology circuit boards have gone back to school to cope with ECL's 7-ns switching speeds. Circuit boards are turning into sophisticated systems that often include controlled transmission lines. In addition, the surge toward chip carriers is revamping the face of integrated circuit packages. Chip carriers rely on improved techniques for dense interconnections because they employ nearly three times as many interconnections per square inch as 16 -lead DIPs, for instance. Session 9 will explore techniques for dealing with higher densities, including multilayer printed circuits and discrete wiring.
(continued on page 88)

## Electro

(continued from page 87)
Several sessions will follow emerging semiconductor solutions to analog problems. Covering advances in analog LSI, Session 4 will introduce the technology behind complex semiconductor data conversion systems. Speakers will weigh what the user stands to gain from building integrated circuits into a data conversion system-even though they may cost more than conventional elements. Multiplexed single-chip data acquisition systems and microprocessor compatible digital to analog converters will be prime topics.

For registration information, contact Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc 8110 Airport Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Tel: 213/772-2965

## Professional Program Excerpts*

Session 1: 5-V Only EEPROMs and Nonvolatile RAMs
Tues 9 to 11 am, Georgian B
Chair: W. P. Krysiak, NCR Microelectronics
1/1 "Silicon Nitride Oxide Silicon (SNos) 5-V nVrams and eeproms"
T. J. Tyson, nCR Microelectronics

1/2 "Choosing between NVRAMS and E2PROMs:
Guidelines to Match Applications to Memory Technology"
D. Pichulo, Intel Corp

1/3 "A New Family of User Friendly eeproms" J. J. Spadaro, General Instrument, Microelectronics Div
1/4 " $5-\mathrm{V}$ Technology Makes Nonvolatile Memories Easy to Use"
G. Landers, Xicor

1/5 "Future Directions in Electrically Erasable rom: Features, Applications, and Technology"
B. W. Smith, Seeq Technology, Inc

## Session 3: Digital Signal Processing Hardware and Applications

Tues 9 to 11 am, Royal B
Chair: L. V. Kaplan, Texas Instruments, Inc
3/1 "The s28212 Signal Processor Development System"
G. Edwards, American Microsystems Inc

3/2 "Generalized Speech Peripheral Board Using TMS32010"
W. Gass, Texas Instruments, Inc

3/3 "Address Generation in Signal/Array Processing" B. New, Advanced Micro Devices

3/4 "Application Areas for Digital Signal Processing Microcomputers"
S. Sweitzer, NEC Electronics USA, Inc

3/5 "DSP Chips Today and Tomorrow: A User's View"
J. Feldman, MIt Lincoln Labs

## Session 4: Advances in Analog LSI Tues 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Georgian B

Chair: S. Ohr, Electronic Design magazine
4/1 "CAD/CAM Building Blocks Aid Large Scale Integration in cmos"
S. Sockolov, Intersil

4/2 "Acquisition, Processing, and Conversion with a Single Monolithic Device"
C. Hochstedler, Intel Corp

4/3 "Single-Chip Digital to Analog Converter Systems Reduce Board-Level Component Count" E. Ritter, Signetics, Analog Div

4/4 "The Analog Lsi Challenge-The смоs Impact" K-F. Lu, Texas Instruments, Inc
4/5 "Advances in Process Development Lead to New Architectures in Data Converters" S. Miller, Analog Devices Semiconductor

## Session 6: Array Processors-Advances in Technology and Applications

Tues 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Royal B
Chair: S. L. Cool, Analogic Corp
6/1 "A Survey of Systolic Arrays for Signal Processing"
J. M. Speiser and H. J. Whitehouse, Naval Ocean Systems Center
6/2 "Measuring the Performance of the FPS-164 Architecture"
A. Charlesworth, E. Hall, and J. Maticich, Floating Point Systems, Inc
6/3 "ST-100 Array Processor Architectural Highlights" R. C. Hausman and P. A. Cannon, Star

Technologies, Inc
6/4 "AP500-Architecture of a New Generation of User Friendly, System Oriented Array Processors" J. B. Porter, S. L. Cool, B. A. Mattedi, and L. Mirkin, Analogic Corp
6/5 "MUSEC-A Powerful Data-Flow Network of Digital Signal Microprocessors" M. J. Knudsen, Bell Labs

## Session 7: Power MOSFETs The Second Generation <br> Tues 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Georgian B

Chair: E. Oxner, Siliconix inc
7/1 "mOs Controlled Bipolar Devices" B. J. Baliga, General Electric Corporate Research and Development
(continued on page 90)

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In the world of electronic data processing, choosing the wrong contact can result in lost information. And lost information means lost time and money. A simple error can cost you anywhere from $\$ 50,000$ to \$150,000 - or more.

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## cannon IITT <br> The Global Connection

(continued from page 88)
$7 / 2$ "High Voltage, High Speed Cascode Bipolar/mOSFET Switch"
B. Pelly, International Rectifier Corp, Semiconductor Div
7/3 "MOSFET-Aided Thyristor Configurations"
L. Clark, Motorola Inc, Semiconductor Products
$7 / 4$ "MOSFETS in Arrays and Integrated Circuits"
R. Blanchard, Siliconix inc

## Session 8: Developments in emc Design and Testing

## Tues 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Royal A

Chair: W. S. Lambdin, Electro-Metrics Div, Penril Corp
8/1 "Designing for Commercial Electromagnetic Susceptibility (ems)"
D. M. Staggs, Xerox Corp, Office Products Div

8/2 "A Basic All-Weather Open Field emi Test Site" D. N. Heirman, Bell Labs

8/3 "Open Site Verification of emc Antenna Factors"
E. L. Bronaugh, Electro-Metrics Div, Penril Corp

8/4 "State of the Art emi Testing"
F. A. Fisher and W. P. Kruse, nap Consumer

Electronics Corp
8/5 "Anechoic Facilities: A Controlled emi, All-Weather Test Environment"
E. D. Knowles and G. A. Roux, bE \& C Engineers, Inc

## Session 9: High Speed, High Performance CPU Products-Circuit Board and IC Package Alternatives

## Tues 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Royal B

Chair: J. P. Plonski, Multiwire Div, Kollmorgen Corp
9/1 "High Performance Printed Circuit Boards for the IBM 3081 Processor"
F. Haining, Івм Corp

9/2 "Multiwire-Its Benefits in Subnanosecond Chip Carrier Applications"
T. J. Buck, Multiwire Div, Kollmorgen Corp

9/3 "The Effect of Substrates on High Speed Design"
G. Messner, PCK Technology Div, Kollmorgen Corp

9/4 "Packaging-The Significant Constraint Today in High Speed, Digital Based Products"
D. G. Grabbe, Amp, Inc

[^9]10/4 "Local Networks: Token Passing Controller"
M. Stieglitz, Western Digital Corp,

Communications Div
10/5 "General Purpose Ethernet Hardware Approach" G. Ramachandran, Fujitsu Corp

## Session 11: Probing the Limits of Optical Processing and Transmission

Wed 9 to 11 am, Royal A
Chair: W. B. Gardner, Bell Labs
11/1 "Physical Limits for Optical Switching and Logic"
P. W. Smith, Bell Labs

11/2 "Long Wavelength Ultralow Loss Fibers"
G. H. Sigel, Naval Research Lab

11/3 "Limits on the Propagation of Very Short Optical Pulses"
W. J. Tomlinson, Bell Labs

11/4 "Microfabrication Techniques for Integrated Optics"
J. T. Boyd, University of Cincinnati, Dept of Electrical Engineering

## Session 13: Solving the Office Automation Puzzle

Wed 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Georgian B
Chair: S. Jayakar, Rolm Corp
13/1 "An Applications Oriented Approach to Office Automation"
S. Wilder and S. Jayakar, Rolm Corp

13/2 "Local Area Network Selection Criteria for the Office Automation Environment"
R. Shatzer, Sytek

13/3 "Communication Gateways between Dissimilar Networks"
J. Pathak, Bridge Communications Inc

13/4 "Emerging Standards in Data Communication"
S. Joshi, Advanced Micro Devices

13/5 "Architectural and System Design Issues for Distributed Communication Networks"
S. Kota, Ford Aero Space and Communications Corp

[^10](continued on page 95)


# Tell me two bright ideas for solenoid and motor driving 

## L295 High-Power, Dual Half Bridge Driver

The L295 is a dual half-bridge switchmode driver for either two solenoids or one phase of a stepper motor. Applications include hammer driving in matrix printers and stepper motor driving in either paper feed mechanisms or electromagnetic controllers.
The device incorporates two independent channels with separate inputs and outputs to provide all functions necessary for direct interfacing between digital circuitry and two inductive loads. The output current is completely controlled by switching techniques resulting in a very efficient operation. Dual supplies allow interfacing with peripherals running at voltages higher than logic.
The L295 drives loads up to 2.5 A per channel from a 50 V supply. Additional features include thermal protection and a minimum number of external components.

These devices assembled in the popular Multiwatt * package feature easy mounting and a low thermal resistance ( $R_{\text {th }} \mathrm{JC}$ ) of less than $3^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W}$.


## L294 High Power Solenoid Driver

The L294 functions as a transconductance amplifier to power solenoids in printer, hammer, and needle matrix applications. The device drives one solenoid from a supply of 50 V with an output current of up to 4A.

The switchmode control of the output current allows high speed driving of electromechanical actuators with increased efficiency and reduced power dissipation.
Additional features of the L294 include thermal protection and diagnostic circuitry with latched output for recognizing conditions such as coil short circuit.

$\square$ Please send me more information on your linear offerings. Have a sales representative contact me.

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# For the microcomputer designer who has to turn promises into products. 

# The power of the Color DAS comes to microcomputer software design. 

To transform demanding specs into a fully functional digital design you need the best logic analyzer support you can get.

And that's what Tek's Color DAS Digital Analysis System now gives you: The best in logic analyzer performance coupled with the broadest microcomputer support on the market. Total software coverage for 10 major processors, plus support for your proprietary processors.

It's done through the new PMA 100 Personality Module Adapter and Tek's PM 100 Series of 12 microcomputer Personality Modules. You make only a single
probe connection to the system under test. The Color DAS does the rest.

## Only Tek gives you all three disassembly modes.

No matter how you want to see your real-time code execution, the Color DAS has you covered.

New Software Mnemonic Disassembly presents acquired data in a format identical to your original source code.

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Absolute Disassembly produces a straight hex version of data and addresses for each cycle.



User-programmed color highlights preselected data, calling immediate attention to critical code lines.

## Custom mnemonics for custom chips.

You can even create your own mnemonic sets for proprietary or custom chips. And set up a special general purpose personality module to automatically handle the processor's data acquisition requirements.

Plus you get programmable color to highlight disassembled data when it appears on the display.

In every case, the Color DAS gives the best picture possible of real-time code execution. Quickly. Automatically.

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| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Motorola Intel Zilog <br> 6800 8085 $Z 80$ <br> 6802 8086 $Z 8001$ <br> 6809 8088 $Z 8002$ <br> 68000 Multibus  |  |  |

*MULTIBUS is a registered trademark of Intel Corporation

## Color software support into your microcomputer design.

Contact your nearest Tek Sales Engineer or write us for more information.

[^11]Europe, Africa, Middle East Tektronix Europe B.V
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Amstelveen, The Netherlands, Telex: 18312

Canada, Tektronix Canada Inc., P.O. Box 6500, Barrie, Ontario L4M 4V3, Phone 705 737-2700

Circle 60 for Literature
Circle 61 for Sales Contact


## Electro

## (continued from page 90)

## Session 15: Engineering Research OnlineTomorrow's Technology Today

## Wed 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Royal B

Chair: B. Gersh, Dialog Information Services, Inc
15/1 "Retrieval of Numerical Data at Bell Labs" R. A. Matula, Bell Labs

15/2 "Online Engineering Information at IBM" G. Hasslacher, Івм Corp

15/3 "Online Research Tools for Engineers: INSPEC and emis"
G. Mears, IEe Station House

15/4 "A Survey of Online Bibliographic Information Data Bases Useful to Engineers"
R. P. Caputo, Dialog Information Services, Inc

15/5 "Productivity through Information Retrieval" J. Iervolino, Lockheed Electronics

Session 16: High Reliability Distributed Data Acquisition and Control Systems
Wed 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Georgian B
Chair: D. H. Chase, Analogic Corp
16/1 "Data Acquisition System Migration from the Traditional Control Room Environment"
R. V. Farley, Gould Inc, S.E.L. Computer Systems Div

16/2 "Using Distributed Intelligence to Increase System Reliability"
R. A. Havener, Analogic Corp

16/3 "Measurement and Control Systems: A User's View"
C. Maher, Monsanto Plastics and Resins Co

16/4 "The Plant Information Center Based Upon Control Systems"
J. A. Ward and E. L. Ellison, IBM Corp

## Session 17: Display TechnologiesPresent and Future

Wed 3:30 to $5: 30 \mathrm{pm}$, Royal A
Chair: J. A. van Raalte, RCA Labs
17/1 "Current Trends in Computer Graphic CRT"
C. Machover, Machover Associates Corp
$17 / 2$ "Liquid Crystal Displays"
A. R. Kmetz, Bell Labs

17/3 "Gas-Discharge Displays-Direct View and Excited Phosphor"
A. Sobel, Lucitron, Inc

17/4 "Electroluminescent Displays"
L. E. Tannas, Jr, Aerojet Electro Systems

## Session 18: Protecting and Exploiting Technical Developments: Basics for Engineers and Entrepreneurs

## Wed 3:30 to $5: 30 \mathrm{pm}$, Royal B

Chair: M. A. Lechter, Cushman, Darby \& Cushman 18/1 "Basics of Property Rights in Technology" M. A. Lechter, Cushman, Darby \& Cushman

18/2 "Tax Aspects and Financing Alternatives for R \& D Activities"
H. Busbee, Coopers \& Lybrand

18/3 "Employed Inventors' Rights"
B. Lehman, House Judiciary Committee

18/4 "R \& D Contracts and the Issue of Rights in Resulting Developments"
J. Wilson, R. P. Dobb, and W. T. Gerl, Georgia Institute of Technology
18/5 "Protection of Software and Firmware"
F. R. Perillo, Digital Equipment Corp; and
M. A. Lechter, Cushman, Darby \& Cushman

## Session 19: Developments and Trends in Logic Arrays

## Thurs 9 to 11 am, Georgian B

Chair: P. Madan, Lsı Logic Corp
19/1 "Flex Array-A New Approach to Semicustom Bipolar Circuits"
B. Loftis, Signetics Corp

19/2 "Design Automated Bipolar and смоs
Logic Arrays-Design Considerations, Capabilities, and Tradeoffs"
T. Chambers, Texas Instruments, Inc

19/3 "Advancements in Gate Array Technology" C. Hardage, California Devices, Inc

19/4 "Developments in Products, Technology, and Design Automation"
P. Madan, Lsı Logic Corp

19/5 "Onchip Memory and Test Functions for Gate Arrays"
D. Sabo, National Semiconductor

## Session 20: Vision for Automatic Inspection and Robotics <br> Thurs 9 to 11 am, Royal $\mathbf{A}$ <br> Chair: R. M. Petitto, Electro-Optic Integrated Controls Inc <br> $20 / 1$ "Vuebots: A Fast and Versatile Hardware Approach to Vision" <br> L. A. Murray, Electro-Optic Integrated Controls Inc <br> 20/2 "The Role of Vision in Industrial Robotic <br> Systems and Inspections" <br> P. Villers, Automatix <br> 20/3 To be announced <br> 20/4 "Intelligent Vision Systems-A Taste of the Future . . . and Reality" <br> S. T. Jones, General Electric, Optoelectronic Systems Operations

$20 / 5$ "Applications of the Pixie Machine Vision System"
S. Wilson, Applied Intelligence Systems

20/6 "A New Approach to Machine Vision Simplifies Application Development"
J. Trombly, Octek

Electro

## (continued from page 95)

## Session 21: Primary and Secondary Batteries and Their Role as Components in Electronic Systems

## Thurs 9 to 11 am, Royal B

Chair: J. Broadhead, Bell Labs
21/1 "Lead-Acid Batteries and Their Application to Electronics Systems"
D. P. Boden, C \& D Batteries

21/2 "Long-Life Secondary Nickel Cadmium Batteries for Microelectronics Standby Applications"
J. A. Carcone, General Electric, Battery Business Dept
21/3 "High Energy Density Primary Batteries and Their Applications"
K. R. Brennen, Energy Technology

21/4 "High Energy Density Secondary Batteries and Their Applications"
E. J. Cairns, University of California, Lawrence Berkeley Lab

Session 22: Integrating CAD Software into the Customer Owned Tooling Approach

## Thurs 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Georgian B

Chair: S. E. McMinn, American Microsystems, Inc
22/1 "Advancements in CAD Based ICs"
M. E. Cavanaugh, Atari, Inc

22/2 "CAD of ic Using Path Programmable Logic"
K. Smith, University of Utah, Computer Science Depi

22/3 "Integrating Foundry Processes into the
Engineering Workstation"
H. Landman, Metheus Corp

22/4 "The Development and Fabrication of a 3-micron cmos Test Chip"
R. Cummins, Martin Marietta
$22 / 5$ "Potential Foundry Interface Problems when Developing CAD/Engineering Workstation Generated Designs"
M. E. Sharpless, American Microsystems, Inc

## Session 23: Speech Recognition and Synthesis

Thurs 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Royal A
Chair: S. E. Dunn, Motorola, Inc
23/1 "Applications of Text to Speech Conversion"
D. Gilbom, Telesensory Speech Systems

23/2 "мсU Controlled Speech Synthesis"
T. Williams, Motorola, Inc

23/3 "MCU System Implementation of Speech Analysis, Synthesis, and Recognition"
L. Dusek, Texas Instruments, Inc

23/4 "Design of Connected Word Recognition System"
S. Viglione, Interstate Electronics

23/5 "Innovations in Speech Synthesis and Recognition"
J. Fattal, NEC Electronics USA, Inc

## Session 24: Diagnostics and Testability Techniques in Digital System Design

Thurs 12:30 to $\mathbf{2 : 3 0} \mathbf{~ p m}$, Royal B
Chair: W. Miller, Advanced Micro Devices
24/1 "New PROM Architecture Simplifies Microprogramming"
J. Birkner, Monolithic Memories Inc

24/2 "Diagnostic Pipeline Register Enhances System Reliability and Testability"
B. Kitson, Advanced Micro Devices

24/3 To be announced
24/4 "Increasing the Diagnostic Capability of Large System Designs"
R. Rudis, Data General Corp

24/5 "Signature Verification Techniques in Digital Systems"
D. Hannaford, Data ॥/o

## Session 25: Can an Engineer Really Design an IC Using an Engineering Workstation?

## Thurs 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Georgian B

Chair: S. Sapiro, Computer Aided Engineering
25/1 "An EWs for ic Design"
S. Sapiro, Computer Aided Engineering

25/2 "CAD-Its Past, Present, and Future"
S. Daram, American Microsystems, Inc

25/3 "Optimizing the Engineering Workstation
Environment for Gate Array Development"
L. Roffelsen, California Devices, Inc

25/4 "Using an ews in a Systems Environment"
R. Harris, Magnetic Peripherals Inc

25/5 To be announced

Session 26: VLSI Implementation of a Hard Disk Controller
Thurs 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Royal B
Chair: H. Szejnwald, NEC Electronics USA, Inc
26/1 " $\mu$ PD7261D VLSI Hard Disk Controller"
P. Brooks, NEC Electronics USA, Inc

26/2 "ACS 5000 SCSI (SASI) Disk Controller Chip Set"
P. Devin, Adaptec

26/3 "High Integration Winchester Disk Controller"
L. Farrel, Intel Corp

26/4 "A Microcoded vLsı Controller for Hard and Floppy Disk Application"
S. Lau, Signetics Corp

26/5 "Lsi Control for Winchester Drive"
J. Jaworski, Western Digital Corp

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At last, the perfect answer to your portable communications requirement. It's the
TransTerm 3-a compact, light weight, ASCII data terminal which will fit right into your briefcase for easy carry-around Ascir data ternial which will fit right ind

## T0 40 meghatres. Disctrion 5 1/4-inch Winchestars.



## Disctron Announces The 40 Megabyte Half-High 5 1/4" Winchester.



Disctron offers you more capacity, higher performance, and easier integration in $51 / 4$-inch Winchester. With capacities to 40 megabytes. With average access times as low as 35 ms . And with special features-electronically dampened actuator, buffered step mode, electrical spindle brake, integral microprocessor control and built-in AGC.
Easy integration. Slip these $51 / 4$-inch drives into an existing minifloppy cavity. Use standard minifloppy voltages. Use standard ST506/ST412 interfacing. These drives are ready to go.
Plug in the Disctron difference in $51 / 4$-inch Winchester.

## To 160 megahytes. Disctron 8-inch Winchestars.


(Lynx) 8"-Removable Disc Drive
8" Fixed Disc Drive


Disctron has it all. Fixed and removable Winchesters with capacities to 160 megabytes. Thin film media. Internal diagnostics. Self-contained shock mounting. Internal carriage lock. SMD and ANSI-standard interfacing. DC power. $\square$ Plug in 10.6 megabytes on an ANSI-standard, transportable cartridge. Linear voice coil, embedded servo and microprocessor control provide precise head positioning and reliable data access.
Plug in the Disctron difference in 8-inch Winchastar.
Only Disctron offers a complete family of $5^{1 / 4}$-inch and 8 -inch Winchesters in fixed and removable, proprietary head technology and manufacturing, high volume manufacturing, and the solid financial foundations of CCT's more than $\$ 75$ million in assets.
More than megabytes. Discover the Disctron difference. For more information, circle our readers' service number. Or call us direct at (408) 946-6692.


CIRCLE 64

If you really want protection against downtime, you can always tuck away an extra printer and use it strictly for emergencies.

But why buy two of their printers, when one Non-Stop Trilog TIP-300 will do? It's the only printer made that comes with a built-in back-up print head.

## Two heads are better than one.

Most dot-matrix line printers use
only a single print head. That's fine unless something goes wrong with the head. Then you're out of business until a service representative shows up.

On the other hand, the Trilog TIP-300 uses an exclusive two-headed system. Both 150 lpm print heads run simultaneously. Giving you a total output of 300 lpm .

Should one print head temporarily
fail, the user simply flips a switch and the remaining head continues printing at 150 lpm .

Now that's Non-Stop-Printing ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ !
Dual heads offer another advantage, too. Instead of being pushed to capacity like most single heads, each Trilog head runs at a 50\% duty cycle. This makes them much more reliable than conventional print heads.

## This is a printer with a spare for unexpected breakdowns.



## Advanced innovation isn't just in our heads.

That's why we also gave Trilog printers dual tractors. They not only stabilize the paper and minimize friction, but allow the paper to move forward and backward. This gives you plotting capability and lets you generate forms. You can also print bar codes. Plus business and engineering graphics.

Five printers for the price of one.

Besides graphics, the TIP-300 gives you four other types of printing: standard data processing characters. Letter quality characters that approach the sharpness of fully formed characters. And two versions of compressed characters for paper savings and special formats.

For more information contact:

Trilog, Inc., 17391 Murphy Ave., Irvine, CA 92714. Or call (714) 549-4079. TWX (910) 595-2798.

You'll see that one of the most reliable printer combinations you can buy is a single Trilog Non-Stop Printer.

## Non-Stop-Printing starts with

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®

## So's this.



## Mini/Micro $\mathbb{N O r t h e a s t ~}$

## Computer Conference and Exhibition

New York Coliseum and<br>Sheraton Centre Hotel<br>April 19 to 21, 1983

Single-chip computers and processors are riding the crest of a development wave that is sweeping through general purpose and dedicated systems alike. As smart peripherals and onchip software come of age, basic architectures must be reshuffled to accommodate the metamorphoses of familiar system elements.

Mini/Micro-Northeast is one place for regional oems and system integrators who specify computers, data communications equipment, peripherals, and software to keep abreast of the legion alternatives at both chip and system levels. The technical symposium and exposition will take place on April 19 to 21 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel and New York Coliseum-in conjunction with Electro/83, but a separate event.

Advanced system concepts, development aids, and broadening applications for established technology are the backbone of the Professional Program. For instance, single-chip EPROM microcomputers are going beyond form factor emulation for their ROM based counterparts. Growing demand for modifiable program memory in medium and large scale applications is the impetus behind this development. Session 6 will review what these EPROM microcomputers can do, and discuss distinctive features such as self-programming.

Dual processor systems are beating a path to smoother software migration and evolution. Session 1 will map out hardware and software decisions that confront designers building 2-processor systems. Floating point support for various 16 - and 32 -bit processors will be discussed in Session 7, with attendant architecture, hardware, and software.

Some computer designers are opting for 8 -bit processors after finding that 16 -bit gains do not always justify the extra hardware and software baggage. Session 8 will detail third-party operating systems that support a return to high performance 8 -bit processors, while Session 3 reaffirms the value of low end microcontrollers in volume production.

For registration information, contact Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc, 8110 Airport Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Tel: 213/772-2965


Charles Sutherland Steering Committee Chair


Kerry Maletsky Professional Program Chair

## Professional Program*

## Session 1: Dual Processor Systems

Tues 9 to 11 am, Georgian A
Chair: R. Mateosian, Zilog, Inc
1/1 "Dual Processors Bridge the Gap"
B. Cohen, Digital Research

1/2 "Dual Processor Systems Using Zilog's z800 CPus"
F. Lynch, Zilog, Inc

1/3 "Xedex's Baby Blue Coprocessor Technology for the iвм Personal Computer"
D. Murray, Xedex

1/4 "16-Bit Zoom Computer Attaches to Any Z80 CP/M System"
W. Fry, Exxon Office Systems
$1 / 5$ "The Design of the Cromemco DPU"
D. Mandelkern, Cromemco

## Session 2: Advanced Microprocessor System Concepts

Tues 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Georgian A
Chair: S. E. Dunn, Motorola, Inc
2/1 "Using Microcode to Extend a CPU Architecture in a Manner Transparent to Software"
B. Rash, Intel Corp
$2 / 2$ "The z8000 Family Provides Advanced System Solutions"
T. Cramer, Zilog, Inc
(continued on page 106)

[^12]
# Choose between Winchester systems or controllers 

## Complete systems to minimize system costs ...

 SMS FWT series disk peripherals provide up to 80 M bytes of 8 " Winchester disk storage and 1 M bytes of floppy disk storage for DEC's* PDP-11, LSI-11, and VT-103, INTEL Multibus** and other microcomputers! In only $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ of table top or rack space you also get the following benefits:- Choose $8.9 \mathrm{Mb}, 17.8 \mathrm{Mb}$, $35 . \mathrm{Mb}$, or 71.2 Mb of formatted Winchester disk storage.
- Up to 427K bytes/sec data transfer for Winchester and 63 K bytes/sec for floppy.
- Supports IBM single and double density diskette formats plus DEC's RX01/ RX02 formats or INTEL 202 format depending on host computer.
- Single board interfaces are compatible with PDP-11 Unibus, LSI-11 Q-Bus, INTEL Multibus or use your - own adapter card for special microcomputer busses.
- Convenient Winchester backup requires only 40 seconds per 1.2M byte floppy diskette.
- Off-line and on-line system and drive tests verify correct disk and controller operation.
- Automatic error retry, ECC (Error Correction Code) and Winchester disk flaw management insure exceptional data integrity.


## Or just controllers to optimize system packaging.

All controllers used in SMS disk peripheral systems are available separately. Each controller supports (2) Shugart/Quantum Winchester and (2) Shugart floppy disk drives, utilizes patented PLL circuitry to provide maximum margins for worst case bit shifted data recovery, incorporates ECC (Error Correction Code) and includes on-board self test! Additional features are:

## DEC PDP-11/LSI-11

- Single LSI-11 dual height or PDP-11 quad height interface plus formatter board.
- On board bootstrap and 22 bit Q-bus support.
- Standard RT-11, RSX-11M, UNIX,*** and SMS utility software support selective file backup and load operation.
- High performance data transfer of up to 427 bytes/sec.
- Emulates DEC RX02 floppy disk controller.
- Automatic recognition of RX01, RX02 and IBM diskette formats.


## INTEL MULTIBUS

- Single Multibus compatible PC board requires only 5A (max.) @ 5 volts.
- Direct connection to (2) Shugart/Quantum and (2) Shugart floppy disk drives. Eliminates external data separator board.
- Interface and command compatible with INTEL iSBC 215A and iSBX 218 controller boards.
- Supports IBM and INTEL iSBC 202 diskette formats.

GENERAL PURPOSE

- Single board controller requires only 5A (max). @ 5 volts.
- Interface, dimension and connector compatible with Shugart 1403D.
- Direct multi-sector disk transfer of up to 427K bytes/sec.
- Easy to use byte parallel general purpose interface.


## Meet HP's new 1630Logic Analyzer a bottleneck... and ecstatic when we

From now on it makes no sense to buy an analyzer that offers timing and state measurements only. Not when you can have these capabilities plus interactive analysis and software performance measurements too. All for less than the cost of a good timing and state machine alone. That's what you get with HP's new 1630A/D Logic Analyzer. It delivers advanced hardware and
software testing and debugging power. Plus the ability to quickly spot software bottlenecks and inefficiencies. And a way to resolve hardware/software fingerpointing conflicts. With one low-cost instrument.
HP's new 1630 extends the power of logic analysis to span most of the development cycle. And productivity gets a big boost. Because the 1630's simple interface, combined with lowcost peripheral compatibility, speeds setups and documentation. Best of all, it's affordable for even the smallest lab.

At $\$ 8,600$, the 1630 A gives you 35 channels of state (to 25 MHz ), 8 channels of timing (to 100 MHz ), or, in the interactive mode, 27 state and 8 timing.
For $\$ 10,630^{\circ}$, the 1630 D offers 43 channels of state or 16 timing. In the interactive mode, you have a choice of 35 state and 8 timing or 27 state and 16 timing. Both models include software performance analysis.
Here's what all that capability can do for you.


## Kou'll be amazed when it shows you how you the price.

## Software Performance Analysis

Ever had a software bottleneck? A routine that takes too much time? Those problems won't stand in your way with this powerful new analysis mode. Histograms of time-interval distribution eliminate guesswork by
showing you best case, worse case, and average time between any two events you define...nonintrusively... while your system is operating. Great for benchmarking. And spotting out-of-spec modules.

## Interactive Measurements

Now there's a logical way to resolve hardware/software fingerpointing feuds. The 1630 lets you monitor bus activity in the state mode, trigger on a given bus pattern, then view asyn-
chronous status and control line activity in the timing mode. This quickly unravels problems such as I/O port malfunctions. Similarly, you can establish trigger conditions

Histograms of memory space activity show where the action is. If you've got a bottleneck, this display leaves no doubt about its location.
based on timing parameters, then view state activity. This correlates hardware malfunctions to software errors. For example, a false reset due to a glitch.

## Timing and State Analysis

In traditional operating modes, the 1630 delivers new sequencing, triggering, and store qualification power. For timing analysis, this includes pattern triggering ANDed with a transition or glitch, edge or glitch triggering, and time qualification of pattern triggering. In the state mode, four user-defined terms can be used in any combination to define sequence, store qualification, trigger and restart conditions. With these resources, you get right to the problem. Without sorting through tons of data.

But that's not all. The 1630 makes it easier yet by talking your language. You can assign alphanumeric labels to input channels and status or control line patterns. Measurements are then displayed in your system's terminology. In addition, the 1630 , with low-cost peripherals, performs inverse assembly. So you see listings in target microprocessor mnemonics. From now on, you needn't struggle with timeconsuming conversions.

Get all the details on this advanced analyzer. See how it takes the drudgery out of logic testing, debugging and analysis, speeding your project to completion. Call your local HP sales office listed in the telephone directory white pages. Ask for an HP field engineer in the electronic instruments department.

* U.S.A. list prices only.


CIRCLE 68


## $1024 \times 1024$ 16 COLOR GRAPHICS CONTROLLER, \$4,100

It's a price breakthrough even at $\$ 7,200$ for a single unit. Our multibus display controller gives you performance too with 8,16 , or 256 colors; hardware, pan, scroll, and zoom; multiple plane BIT, BLT, and fast vector writing with the new NEC 7220.
Boards can be modularly configured to give you upgradeable options. You can start with a 2 board 8 color system; move to 3 boards with 16 colors, or grow to a 256 color set with overlay planes. Palettes of $2^{12}$ or $2^{24}$ can be selected for our look-up-table. The same boards can be configured for grey scale.
Hardware features don't become software pains either. Our Unix "C" driver and core package allows you to work above low level mental gymnastics.
Want more information? Circle the bingo or call us at (617) 275-4330 for an individual quote. Put some color in your systems life.


7 Oak Park Bedford, MA 01730

## Mini/Micro Northeast

(continued from page 102)
2/3 "The 32-Bit Solution"
J. Browne, Motorola, Inc

2/4 "NS 16000 Family: A Top-Down Approach"
G. Kates, National Semiconductor
$2 / 5$ "Extending Computer Power with the TMS 320 Family"
L. Kaplan, Texas Instruments, Inc

## Session 3: Microprocessor Development Aids Tues 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Georgian A

Chair: M. J. Campo, Pro-Log Corp
3/1 "std Bus Development Aid"
M. J. Campo, Pro-Log Corp

3/2 "Emulation Comes to CP/M"
S. Thatcher, Applied Microsystems
$3 / 3$ "High Level Language Debugging Aids"
D. Johnson, Tektronix Inc

3/4 "Logic Analysis in Microprocessor Development"
R. Freund, Nicolet Paratronics Corp

## Session 4: Single-Chip News

Wed 9 to 11 am, Georgian A
Chair: K. Kristie, Motorola, Inc
4/1 "Advanced Features of the New Members in the z8 Microcomputer Family"
S. Jasper, Zilog, Inc

4/2 "Performance Advances in Single-Chip Microcomputers"
J. Lanagan, Motorola, Inc

4/3 "The mk68200 Offers Design Flexibility for High-End Applications"
D. Folkes, United Technologies Mostek

4/4 "Continuing the Evolution of High Performance
Single-Chip Microcontrollers"
M. Pawolski, Intel Corp

4/5 "High Level Languages Speed Application Development"
R. Dumse, Rockwell International

## Session 5: Low End Microcontrollers Continue to Dominate Volume Productions

Wed 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Georgian A
Chair: R. L. Murray, Motorola, Inc
5/1 "A Low Cost Single-Chip Microcomputer Solves a Wide Range of Applications"
R. Koster, Texas Instruments, Inc

5/2 " 8 -Bit Microcomputers Enter the Very Low End Applications Field"
B. Huston, Motorola, Inc

5/3 "Single-Chip Microcomputers for High Volume Applications"
J. Fattal, NEC Electronics USA, Inc

5/4 "Cops Microcontroller"
L. A. Distaso, National Semiconductor

5/5 "A New High Performance Microcontroller"
V. R. Ranganath and R. Palm, Synertek
(continued on page 108)

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Mini/Micro Northheast
(continued from page 106)

## Session 6: EPROM Single-Chip Microcomputers-More Than Just a Prototyping Tool

## Wed 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Georgian A

Chair: J. Millar, Texas Instruments, Inc
6/1 "EPROM Single-Chip Microcomputers for Self-Modifying Programs'
B. Huston, Motorola, Inc

6/2 "A Powerful EPROM Single-Chip Microcomputer Which Can Program Itself"
J. Wallace, Texas Instruments, Inc

6/3 "Will There Be rom Based Microcontrollers in 1985?'"
A. Toth, Intel Corp

6/4 "Piggyback EPROM Microcomputer Solves Low Volume Application Problems"
D. Folkes, United Technologies Mostek

6/5 "The z8 Protopack Offers a Low Cost Solution" K. Marks, Zilog, Inc

## Session 7: Floating Point Support for 16/32-Bit Microprocessors

## Thurs 9 to 11 am, Georgian $A$

Chair: G. R. Kates, National Semiconductor
7/1 "Fast Floating Point for Speed-Hungry Applications"
G. Martin, National Semiconductor
$7 / 2$ "High Performance Floating Point Coprocessor for Protected Multi-User Systems"
J. Bhat, Intel Corp
$7 / 3$ "Floating Point Power for the MC68000 Family"
J. Boney and V. Shahan, Motorola, Inc
$7 / 4$ "Zilog z8070 Floating Point Processor"
R. Mateosian, Zilog, Inc
$7 / 5$ "99000 Family Incorporates Floating Point Onchip"
A. Orben, Texas Instruments, Inc

## Session 8: Third-Party Software Enhances the Versatility of High Performance 8-Bit Microprocessors

Thurs 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Georgian A
Chair: J. F. Stockton, Motorola Semiconductor Inc 8/1 "Third-Party Software from a Semiconductor Vendor's Point of View"
J. F. Stockton, Motorola Semiconductor Inc

8/2 "An оem's View of the os-9 and Flex Operating Systems"
E. M. Pass, Computer Systems Consultants Inc

8/3 "End-User Requirements Determine an Operating Systems Choice"
R. Tripp, The Computerist Inc

8/4 "Problems with Supporting Applications
Programs in a Multiple os Environment"
R. Dennington, Introl Corp
$8 / 5$ " 8 -Bit vs 16-Bit: A Performance Comparison of Multi-User Operating Systems"
J. Heckman, Universal Data Research Inc

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# THE CHIP THAT REFRESHES ITSELF 

# An 8k x 1 memory chip with onchip refresh and control circuitry offers designers the best aspects of both dynamic and static RAMS. 

by John J. Fallin,<br>Joseph P. Altnether, and William H. Righter

Ihe ideal microprocessor memory has three major characteristics: ease of use, flexibility, and low cost. Unfortunately, all of these characteristics are seldom available in a single device. Thus, memory system design involves compromises. Matching memory component characteristics to desired design parameters rarely results in a perfect fit.

To optimize memory design, the designer must set priorities in choosing between static random access memory (SRAM) and dynamic random access memory (DRAM). Neither choice completely supplies all the beneficial characteristics. SRAMs are easy to use, but high cost, limited density, and high power consumption limit their application to under 64 k bytes. DRAMS are suitable for large memory arrays (above 64k bytes) where density and low power are important. In addition, the refresh

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William H. Righter is also an applications engineer at Intel Memory Products. He is responsible for the graphics applications of dynamic RAMs. Mr Righter is currently working on a BSEE from the University of Portland.
overhead of large memory systems is spread over a large amount of memory. Between the two extremes represented by static and dynamic rams, however, is a performance zone where all three ideal characteristics (low cost, flexibility, and ease of use) are required.

Low cost can be achieved with a DRAM cell. A major factor determining the cost of a memory device is the physical area occupied by the memory cell. Small cell size allows small die size, which results in more die per wafer. The net result is lower cost. DRAMs achieve lower unit costs because they use a single transistor for the memory cell. Each SRam cell, on the other hand, requires six transistors. In addition, the DRAM cell provides the benefits of low power and high density. The remaining ideal characteristics (flexibility and ease of use) demand more innovative approaches than are presently available.

A microprocessor memory system using DRAMs consists of three major elements: microprocessor, memory, and controller. To gain ease of use, the controller must be incorporated into either the microprocessor or the memory. By including the memory control in the microprocessor, a simple memory device can be built in which the cost of the control logic is distributed over the entire memory system. Sadly, this approach has inherent faults. Because refresh is derived from microprocessor timing, any operation that suspends or stretches the timing must be carefully analyzed to ensure that it does not violate system refresh timing. Examples of such time stretching operations are extended wait states, hold operations in direct memory access, or the single-step operations important in system debugging. Moreover, placing the burden of refresh on the microprocessor can reduce processor performance by suspending operation to service memory refresh.

Another technique for refresh control is to incorporate most of the refresh mechanism on the RaM chip, leaving the most difficult portion-the arbiter-to the system designer. This type of ram is known as a
pseudo- or quasistatic RAM. Statistical techniques or special features of a particular central processing unit (CPU) may be used to accomplish refresh, though it is not always guaranteed. The system must be thoroughly analyzed to ensure proper refresh timing.

The third memory refresh method incorporates all of the memory control logic, including arbitration logic, into the RAM chip. Thus, all DRAM cell control is contained on the same piece of silicon, creating a complete integrated memory system on a chip. This concept is called an integrated RAM (iRAM.) Combining the best features of dynamic and static RAM, the irAM satisfies the ideal microprocessor memory requirements-a DRAM storage cell for low cost, a Joint Electron Device Engineering Council 28-pin package configuration conforming to universal flexibility standards, and ease of use because of onchip control. (See the Panel.)

Intel's $8 \mathrm{k} \times 8$ iRAM contains all the elements needed for complete memory control. Recognizing the need for both synchronous and asynchronous refresh, Intel offers the 2187 iRAM with synchronous refresh for special applications and the 2186 with asynchronous refresh for general purpose designs. With onchip refresh, the 2186 needs no external stimulus or control. As a result, memory is autonomous; like an SRAM it can be left alone with power applied and still retain data. Any operation that suspends or stretches the system timing has no effect on refresh operation. However, because refresh is asynchronous with the microprocessor, a memory request can occur during a refresh cycle. In this case, the iRAM signals the system microprocessor that a delay will occur in the cycle.

## Device operation

The 2186/2187 performs four types of cycles: read, write, false memory, and refresh. It is important to note that chip enable ( $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ ) is an edge-triggered, not a leveltriggered, input. On the $2186 / 2187$, an access cycle is requested for every high to low transition of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$. Care must be taken to ensure that a new access cycle is not requested before the previous cycle is completed. This would violate memory cycle time (TELEL) and would jeopardize data integrity. A minimum precharge ( $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ high time-TEHEL) must also be guaranteed. The violation of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ high time would most likely occur in systems where noise spikes can occur on chip enable.

Functioning like a clocked static RAM, iRAM addresses are latched off the external address bus on the falling edge of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$. This feature is useful in many designs because it saves the designer one or two transistortransistor logic packages. In contrast to the trailing edge write of the SRAM, the iRAM requires a leading edge write. Further, the irAM permits three different types of access cycles. Depending on the active time of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ and its relation to output enable ( $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ ) or write enable ( $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ ), a long mode cycle, a pulsed mode cycle, or a false memory cycle (FMC) can be performed.

A long mode cycle is similar to a fully static RAM cycle in that $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ remains valid throughout the entire cycle. In the pulsed mode cycle, the iram operates as a clocked static RAM and $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ is active only at the beginning of the cycle. When $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ becomes active, without an $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ or $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$, the iRAM performs an FMC and terminates on the rising
edge of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$. This is useful during byte write operations of 16 -bit microprocessors. In this case, a 16 -bit word is selected (two iRAMS), and only one receives a write pulse to perform byte write. The other selected iram performs an FMC.

Assuming a refresh is not in progress when the cycle begins, an access cycle is initiated on the high to low transition of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$. After activating $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$, addresses are latched from the external bus and data are presented to the bus. Data will remain at the bus as long as $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ remains active, independent of the state of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$.

## Any operation that suspends or stretches the system timing has no effect on refresh operation.

If a refresh cycle is in progress at the time $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ goes low, a deferred cycle occurs. In this case, ready (RDY) will respond by going low within a given time (TELRL) of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ going low. After the refresh cycle and part of the access cycle complete, RDY will return to a high state. At a specified time after this (TRHQV), valid data will become available at the data input/output (I/O) outputs.

It should be noted that $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ can remain active for an unlimited period of time, and data will remain on the bus even though internal refresh cycles continue to be performed. This allows operation in systems using single-stepping hardware debug, since wait states can be inserted at will. RDY does not respond under these conditions.

For the sake of clarity, assume that a refresh cycle is not in progress at the time of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ 's falling edge. A write cycle begins in the same way as a read cycle, with addresses latched on the falling edge of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$. For a pulsed mode, $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ must go low within a specified time of the falling edge of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ (TELWL). If this specification time is not met, an FMC occurs and thus, no write. For a long mode, TWLEH must be met to ensure a write given setup time before (TDVWL) and a given hold time (TWLDX) after the leading edge of $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$.

If a refresh cycle is already in progress at the onset of a write cycle, the RDY will respond at a given time (TELRL) after $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ 's falling edge. Data will still be latched into the device on the falling edge of $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$, but the actual write to the array will not occur until after the refresh cycle is completed. RDY responds during write cycles to prevent cycle timer (TELEL) violations. As in a read cycle, $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ and $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ can remain active for an indefinite period to accommodate single-step type operation. An FMC occurs when $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ becomes active but neither $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ nor $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ becomes active. An FMC is a valid mode of operation and also acts like a row address strobe (RAS) only refresh, in which the row selected by the seven external row addresses is refreshed.

## Internal vs external refresh

The 2186 internal refresh is completely automatic, requiring no external stimulus; an internal timer provides refresh requests. If an access cycle is requested during a refresh cycle, the 2186 will respond by outputting a RDY low. For applications requiring maximum performance,
the 2187 allows external generation of refresh signals. A high to low transition on the refresh enable ( $\overline{\mathrm{REFEN}}$ ) input of the 2187 will initiate a refresh cycle. After starting a refresh cycle, one cycle time (TELEL) must be allowed before attempting another access or refresh
cycle. Deferred access cycles are not allowed on the 2187, as it has no arbitration circuitry. If $\overline{\text { REFEN }}$ is held low for at least one timer period, the internal timer will begin to time out, and the 2187 will maintain refresh with no outside intervention.

## Inside the iRAM

Included in the 5-V iram device are a dynamic array, an arbiter, a refresh address counter, and a refresh timer along with complete control and precharge circuitry. The 2187 differs from the 2186 only in the refresh timer and arbiter control circuitry. The diagram illustrates the interrelation of these irAm elements.

## Arbiter

The arbiter that determines the priority sequence of two or more asynchronous inputs is the most significant element of the 2186 internal refresh circuitry. In the 2186 , the two inputs to the arbiter are an external access cycle request and an internal refresh cycle request. When either of these requests is made, the arbiter decides whether the cycle will proceed immediately or be delayed. For example, if an access cycle is in progress at the time of an internal refresh request, the refresh cycle will be delayed until after the access cycle is completed. Conversely, if an access cycle is requested while the 2186 is performing a refresh cycle, the access cycle will be delayed. Here the 2186 will respond with a RDY low output, instructing the device that more time must be allowed. In the limit, both cycle requests can occur simultaneously. Therefore, arbitration becomes necessary along with the simple state gating as outlined.

## Array

The memory array, designed with direct random access memory (DRAM) storage cells, is fabricated using an N -channel double-layer polysilicon gate process. The array features polysilicon word lines and folded metal bit lines that provide high common mode rejection.

## Refresh timer

Refresh peripheral circuitry is included on the device to preserve the integrity of the data in the DRAM array. A refresh timer provides refresh cycle requests at appropriate intervals. The timer is designed to track with both process variations and temperature so as to guarantee proper refresh over all specified ranges.

## Row address counter

When the internal refresh cycle is granted, refresh addresses are provided by a refresh address counter. This counter contains the 7 -bit address of the next row to be refreshed and is incremented after each refresh cycle. Control logic within the peripheral circuitry handles the multiplexing of external memory addresses and refresh addresses during appropriate cycles.

## Device pinout

The $2186 / 2187$ comes in Joint Electron Device Engineering Council compatible 28 -pin socket. Pin 1 (labeled "CNTRL") becomes the RDY output on the 2186 , or the REFEN input on the 2187. Pin functions are described in the Table.

iRAM Pin and Signal Definitions

## Pin Description/Function

$A_{0}$ to $A_{12}$
$\overline{C E}$
Address inputs. These inputs provide the addresses needed to select one of 8192 bytes. Addresses appearing on these inputs are latched into the device on the high to low transition of $\overline{C E}$.
$\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}_{0}$ to $\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}_{7} \quad$ Data input/output. These bidirectional pins receive data to be written to the device and output data during a read cycle.

Chip enable input. A high to low transition on this pin latches addresses and initiates an access cycle.
$\overline{\mathrm{OE}} \quad$ Output enable input . During a read cycle this input turns on the data output buffers.
Write enable input. Data are latched into the device on the leading (falling) edge of this signal.
This output becomes active to signify a delay in the cycle. It is open drain, allowing the wire ORing of several 2186 RDY outputs.
This input allows for external refresh control. A high to low transition of REFEN causes a refresh cycle to be initiated. Holding REFEN low causes asynchronous timer operation.
$V_{C C} \quad$ This input supplies operating voltage to the device. $V_{C C}$ is specified at $5 \mathrm{~V} \pm 10 \%$.

GND
Ground input for the device.

After REFEN returns high from this state, a minimum amount of time (TRFHEL) must be allowed before the next falling edge of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ or $\overline{\text { REFEN }}$ in order to complete any refresh cycles initiated by the timer. This mode of operation is called power-down refresh. The 2187 also supports a single-step mode of operation, which is accomplished by strobing $\overline{\text { REFEN }}$ low after an access cycle is started and then holding it low. $\overline{\text { REFEN }}$ can be kept low indefinitely and data integrity guaranteed. With $\overline{\text { REFEN }}$ held low, data remain valid on the I/O pins as long as $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ remains active, even while refresh cycles are being performed.

Three requirements must be kept in mind when building microprocessor memory systems with irams. The first is the need for a stable $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ because the active low transition of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ latches addresses into the irAM. Also, there is a minimum specification between transitions of $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ (TEHEL) to allow for proper precharge of internal dynamic circuitry. The second requirement is the need for valid data at the memory device when the $\overline{\text { WE }}$ line is activated. This is a necessity since the irams write data into the array on the leading edge of the write pulse. The third consideration is compatibility with SRAMs. In particular, the design should allow for the trailing edge write of SRAMs. This permits using SRAMS as second source chips, or allows the iram to replace
read only memory (ROM) or erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM) during system debug stages.

Following are applications that exemplify the techniques for interfacing the asynchronous 2186 and the synchronous 2187 irams to various microprocessors. Although the designs can be simpler, additional circuitry is included to provide memory site compatibility with SRAMS and EPROMS.

## 5-MHz 8088 processor application

The first example involves a $5-\mathrm{MHz} 8088$ microprocessor configured to a bank of 2186 irams. It runs in the maximum mode without wait states for normal memory access cycles, except when RDY is activated due to internal refresh. The schematic diagram is shown in Fig 1. The iram chip enable circuit is a simple cross-coupled latch that provides an active low enable signal ( $\bar{E}$ ) synchronized with address latch enable (ALE). This enable signal, along with latched status bit S 2 , is used to enable the 74 S 138 address decoder to provide stable chip enable signals ( $\overline{\text { CE }} 0$ to $\overline{\mathrm{CE}} 7$ ) to the 2186 i RAMs. The memory write control (MWTC) output from the 8288 bus controller provides for both leading and trailing edge write conditions.

The basic operation of the $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ circuit is as follows: early in the CPU cycle, ALE goes high, then low, clearing the cross-coupled latch and driving $\overline{\mathrm{E}}$ high. $\overline{\mathrm{E}}$ remains


Fig 1 Schematic for iram use with 8088 microprocessing unit running in maximum mode. To ensure proper startup, all iram control inputs must be inactive for $100 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ after $\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}$ reaches spec.


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Fig 2 Schematic for iram use with 8086 microprocessing unit operation in minimum mode. NAND latch in processor's $\overline{\mathbf{W R}}$ line ensures adequate delay of data to iram as well as supplying trailing edge wr signal required by conventional srams.
high at least as long as ale holds the clear condition of the latch. Due to the skew of the falling edge of ale with the system clock, two possible decoder enable timing sequences exist. The first occurs when ale returns to a low state before the falling edge of the system clock. In this case, the latch remains cleared and $\overline{\mathrm{E}}$ remains high. On the falling edge of the system clock, the latch is set, driving $\overline{\mathrm{E}}$ low and enabling the decoder (depending on the state of S 2 ). The other timing sequence occurs when ale goes low after the falling edge of the system clock. In this case, when ale goes low, the $\overline{\mathrm{E}}$ signal is immediately driven low as a result of the system clock (low) input on the "set" side of the latch. The memory cycle completes and early into the next cycle when ALE goes high, $\overline{\mathrm{E}}$ returns to a high state. This clearing action occurs independently of the state of the clock.

The net result is the enabling of the 74S138 decoder after its address inputs have stabilized. Thus, a transientfree chip enable is supplied to the irams. The balance of the memory system is wired in a straightforward manner. The $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ signal for the memory array is connected directly to the read control ( $\overline{\mathrm{RD}}$ ) signal of the 8088 processor. Bidirectional data lines of the memories are connected to the processor's ADO to AD7 lines. CPU addresses are latched by the 74S373s two gate delays after the falling edge of ALE. Although the iRAMs do not require the address latches, they are included for completeness. A
typical system needs to latch the addresses from the multiplexed bus for interfacing to SRAMs, EPROMs, and so on. The address lines feed the memory array via the 74 S 373 flow-through latches. All of the RDY lines of the memory array connect to a RDY input of the 8284 A clock generator in an OR configuration. A $510-\Omega$ pullup resistor is used for stability.

Note that S 2 is latched into a 74LS74 flipflop on the rising edge of ale. This is important because, during certain CPU operations such as the execution of the halt instruction, the status bits are not guaranteed to remain valid until the falling edge of ALE. To guarantee proper power-up of the 2186 , all control inputs must remain inactive for $100 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ after $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}$ reaches specification. This is accomplished by tying RESET to the clear input of the $\mathrm{M} / \mathrm{IO}$ flipflop. A pullup resistor on the $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ is also required because the RD line on the 8088 goes into a high impedence state during RESET.

## iRAMs in an 8086 based system

The interface requirements for an 8086/2186 system (Fig 2) are similar to those for an 8088. The $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ generation circuitry consists of two JK flipflops, arranged as a 4-state sequencer. This sequencer makes its first transition on the rising edge of ALE, when sequencer output A is set. On the next falling edge of the system clock, sequencer output B is set, enabling the 8205 decoder if the cycle is a

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memory access ( $\overline{\mathrm{M}} / \mathrm{IO}$ also gates the decoder). After one more clock cycle, output A is reset, causing output B to be reset on the fourth clock cycle. When output B is reset, the $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ decoder is disabled, causing the $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ to the 2186 to return to a high state. With this arrangement, $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ is low for only two processor T states, allowing a $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ high time of at least two T states. This relatively long deselect time is important in 16-bit systems where a 2186 could receive a $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ but no $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ or $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$. This preceding condition would cause a false memory cycle to occur, in which case an extended $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ high time is required because TEHELF is greater than TEHEL.

For an 8086 operating in minimum mode, data output during a write cycle is not guaranteed to be valid at the falling edge of WR. To satisfy the leading edge write requirement of the 2186 , the leading edge of $\overline{W R}$ needs to be delayed until data out is valid. This can easily be accomplished through the use of a cross-coupled NAND latch, which also provides the trailing edge write needed for SRAMs. This delayed $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ is then steered to either one or both devices in the 16 -bit word by ORing $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ with either AO or bus high enable ( $\overline{\mathrm{BHE}})$. This allows for either word or byte writes. If wait states are needed, the RDY outputs of the 2186 can be routed back to the RDY input of the 8284 A clock chip. Because the RDY outputs are open drain, a $510-\Omega$ pullup resistor is required.


Fig 3 Additional circuitry required for $\mathbf{1 0 - M H z ~} 8086$ microprocessing unit/iram operation with one wait state.

By adding a single AND gate to the 8086 interface (Fig 3) 2186 can be run in one wait state $10-\mathrm{MHz} 8086$ system. Upon going high, ALE causes the flipflop driving A to be set, forcing $\bar{A}$ low. After a 1 -gate delay, RDYI is asserted. On the next falling edge of clock after ALE goes high, the flipflop driving a can now be reset on the next falling edge of clock, which occurs at the end of T 2 .

This arrangement ensures that RDYI will remain low for the time frame required to insert at least one wait state. If the 2186 responds to this access with a RDY low


Fig 4 Interface circuitry required for iram operation with $5-\mathbf{M H z} 80186$ microprocessing unit. This system, based on popular iAPX 86 family of components, provides users with programmable memory chip selects for blocked memory applications.

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condition, the trailing edge of RDYI will be pushed out to insert more wait states as needed. The number of wait states that can be inserted will never exceed six-assuming a maximum RDY low time of 575 ns .

Fig 4 shows the circuitry required to interface the 2186 with Intel's 80186 high integration 16-bit processor. The 80186 is an integration of 10 common iAPX 86 components, including an enhanced 8086-2 CPU, a clock generator, a local bus controller, and an interrupt controller. The clock speed of this configuration is 5 MHz . The 80186's bus structure is much like that of the 8086 , but there are some useful additions, including programmable memory chip select (MCS) outputs. These outputs can be programmed to become active for a user-selected block of memory. In Fig 4, one of four available midrange MCSs would be programmed to become active in the memory space allocated to the iRAM. This MCS signal is then used to initiate a count sequence with the two JK flipflops. The two flipflops' outputs provide both the $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ and the properly positioned $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ (for leading edge writes) to the iRAMs.

FMCs, in which the iRAM receives a $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ but no $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ or $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$, will occur any time a single byte write occurs. If this is the case, the $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ high time requirement becomes somewhat longer than that required for a read or write cycle. The $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ circuitry used was selected with this consideration in mind because of the long $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ high time it guarantees.

## Synchronous irams in an 8088 system

One way to create a synchronous design using the 8088 , operating in maximum mode with the 2187 iRAM, is to use a status decoder to generate a refresh signal during an opcode fetch cycle. The following example assumes that the 2187 irAM is used for data store only, so that the iRAM can be sent a refresh strobe during the time the 8088 is executing an instruction fetch from some other portion of memory (ie, EPROM, ROM). It also assumes that opcode fetches occur often enough to meet the 128 refreshes $/ 2-\mathrm{ms}$ refresh specification.

In the circuit shown in Fig 5, it is evident that the 2187 and the 8088 are interconnected with a minimal amount


Fig 5 System diagram of 2187/8088 synchronous system. iRAM refresh occurs during 8088 instruction fetch cycle and is generated by external status decoder. Minimal transistor-transistor logic interface circuitry is required.

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of transistor-transistor logic interface circuitry. The decoded 8088 signal M1 is connected to the $\overline{\text { REFEN }}$ input of the iRAM. This connection generates a refresh strobe to the 2187 every time the 8088 performs an opcode fetch. The 8288 bus controller generates memory read commands and memory write commands that are properly timed for all memory requirements. Thus, these signals may connect directly to the $\overline{\mathrm{WE}}$ and $\overline{\mathrm{OE}}$ control lines of the iRAM without special conditioning circuitry. The 8 -bit multiplexed address-data bus of the 8088 is connected directly to the I/O 0 to 7 lines of the iram. The low order addresses A0 to A7 are latched by ALE at the 74LS373 latch and, together with lines A8 to A12, form the irAm device address.

The $\mathrm{M} / \mathrm{IO}$ signal is status bit S2. It is latched by ALE and is used as one of the enable inputs to the iRAM chip enable decoder. The other decoder enable input is synchronized to ALE, providing a properly timed signal that ensures a stable $\overline{\mathrm{CE}}$ to the iRAM. The decoder is disabled on the rising edge of ALE. However, due to the skew of the falling edge of ALE and the system clock, two slightly different enable timing sequences can occur. If ALE goes low at or after the falling edge of the clock, the $\bar{E}$ enable
line is immediately activated and enables the decoder. Note that when RESET is low, REFEN will be forced low. This guarantees proper 2187 power-up. This circuit runs at 5 MHz without wait states.

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# CRUNCH BCD NUMBERS WITH BIT-SLICE CHIPS 

Cascaded bit-slice processors improve computational accuracy when it is necessary to use the binary coded decimal number system.

## by Michael J. Miller

Ihe binary coded decimal notation system answers the twofold problem experienced by computers in business settings. Two things occur where base 10 number crunching is paramount. Inaccuracies are introduced by normal floating point number operations based in octal or hexadecimal number systems during roundoff and conversion, and the computing overhead necessitated by frequent conversion between bases slows program execution. These problems are minimized if the machine is allowed to work in the same number base as the user. The binary coded decimal system allows binary hardware to operate comfortably in the decimal number system and enables fast and powerful numerical computing because of its bit-slice building block design. In a minicomputer class machine, a bipolar arithmetic logic unit such as the Am29203 can be used to supply binary coded decimal operations that are second to none.
For binary coded decimal (BCD) multiply and divide operations, the arithmetic building blocks are addition and subtraction. When a 4 -bit word length is appropriate, the 29203 chip provides these BCD functions as single microcycle instructions. In order to gain speed, the chip employs a carry lookahead scheme compatible with the binary scheme. Consequently, the same signals (CARRYin, carry-out, generate, and propagate) can be used during BCD and binary arithmetic.

[^13]

In order to preserve a valid BCD digit in each slice during addition, the 29203 asserts a carry if the sum is greater than nine. Upon receipt of a CARRY-IN, the next slice must add a 1 to its sum. As in binary, the generate signal indicates that there will be a carry from the slice because the result is greater than nine. If the result is equal to nine, the propagate signal is asserted, indicating that a carry into the slice will be propagated. Because generate and propagate are defined as they are, an Am2902 can be used in a carry lookahead scheme just as in binary.

BCD subtraction is also analogous to the binary operation. As in binary, the inverted carry output sense can be interpreted as borrow. It is necessary to borrow from the next digit whenever a larger value digit is subtracted from a smaller value digit. If both digits are of the same value, borrowing is necessary only if the next lower digit is borrowed. GENERATE and PROPAGATE operate as in a binary subtract operation in that a 2902 can be used.

Overflow occurs when there is an unexpected carry into the sign digit, causing an invalid result. This condition can be detected by exclusive ORing of the CARRY-IN to the sign digit with the CARRY-OUT of the sign digit.


Overflow can also be detected by checking the sign digit. If a value other than zero or nine is present, an overflow has occurred.

ADD and SUBTRACT instructions in the 29203 are also used to simulate multiply and divide operations via iterative algorithms. Because the algorithms are iterative, care must be taken to minimize the microcode loop. When minimizing the microcode, trade-offs can be made between hardware and firmware. The system designer should be aware of these trade-offs since they have an impact on how well the machine fits into the target application.

A 2-port random access memory (RAM) is the 29203's key feature (Fig 1). Two operands, selected by the A and B address buses, can be placed on either of two data buses. They can then be fed into the multifunction arithmetic logic unit (ALU) for number crunching. The ALU's output passes through a shifter and is then returned to the chip's RAM. By cascading 4-bit wide chips like the 29203 together, words of any width can be accommodated.

The 29203 is normally used in a microprogrammable architecture similar to that shown in Fig 2. In such architectures, a processor is composed of two main parts: a microprogram sequencer and an ALU. Lightly shaded
boxes represent the microprogram control. In normal execution, the instruction is fetched into the instruction register. The operation code of the instruction is converted to a microprogram subroutine address by the mapping programmable read only memory (PROM). The sequencer executes the subroutine to generate control and timing signals that direct the rest of the machine in executing the instruction in the instruction register. The sequencer executes an instruction every system clock cycle. As a result, microprogrammable architecture resembles a sophisticated state machine where the pipeline register serves as a current state register.

The darker shaded area of Fig 2 shows the ALU and condition code (CC) circuitry. The ALU takes instructions from the sequencer. The CC register saves the resulting condition code generated by the ALU from one microprogram cycle to the next. The sequencer can examine any one of the condition codes via the cc multiplexer and, when necessary, take a conditional program branch.

## Multiplication and division trade-offs and implementation

 In most general purpose applications, multiplication constitutes a portion of the instructions at least one order of magnitude smaller than addition. Division usuallyoccurs two orders of magnitude less than addition. Because addition and subtraction themselves usually represent less than $10 \%$ of the total instructions, it is more cost effective to implement multiply and divide operations in firmware rather than combinatorial logic. Firmware algorithms for BCD multiplication and division


Fig 2 Typical architecture incorporating bit-slice alu chips. In such schemes overall control resides with microsequencer. Condition codes are generated by aLU.
are analogous to some of the more classical binary methods. These algorithms are composed of simple operations such as SHIFT, ADD, and SUBTRACT.

Multiplication can be viewed as a series of addition operations. This simple view of multiplication implies a multiple sum of the multiplicand as numbered by the multiplier. This multiple sum can be easily implemented as a firmware loop. Unfortunately for large multipliers, this iterative type of operation is central processing unit (CPU) cycle intensive. However, if the multiplier is viewed as a group of individual digits, each digit can be multiplied with the multiplicand and the result added to an accumulator. After each multiplication and addition, the multiplicand is multiplied by 10 (a 4-bit left shift). The accumulator then becomes the summation of all the multiplications. This algorithm's mathematics can be stated
if multiplicand: $\left(a_{n}+1 a_{n}-2 \ldots a_{1} a_{0}\right)$
multiplier: $\quad\left(b_{m}-1 b_{m}-2 \ldots b_{1} b_{0}\right)$
then $\quad A \times B=S \cdot 10^{m-1} \cdot\left(a_{n-1} a_{n-2} \ldots a_{1} a_{0}\right)+$ ${ }^{m-2}$

$$
\sum_{i=0} b_{i}+\left(a_{n-1} a_{n}-2 \ldots a_{1} a_{0}\right)+10^{i}
$$

where $S=\left\{\begin{array}{r}0 \text { if } b_{m}-1=0 \\ -1 \text { if } b_{m-1}=9\end{array}\right.$
As the equation shows, the sign digit must be accounted for. This is done by subtracting rather than adding when multiplying with the multiplier digit. This algorithm gives a performance improvement over the previously stated method of approximately $\left(10^{\mathrm{m}}-1\right) / 9 \mathrm{~m}$, where m is the number of digits in the multiplier. This improvement is realized with only a few additional lines of microcode.

*Signals originate from pipeline register.

Fig 3 Block diagram of microprogrammable processor capable of executing iterative BCD multiplication algorithm.


Fig 4 Firmware flowchart to accomplish iterative BCD multiplication. This algorithm increases overall performance by selecting precomputed multiples of the multiplicand (section 1) in order to accomplish multiplication of a single digit in the multiplier and the whole multiplicand (section 3).

Further improvements result from precomputing, then holding, the nine multiples of the multiplicand in the 29203 's register file. During multiplication with each multiplier, the multiplier is routed to the register file
address bus to select the multiple, thereby producing a single multiply in one cycle. Because there are nine multiples of the multiplicand, it is not economical to multiply each by 10 every cycle. The same result can be achieved arithmetically by a 4-bit right shift of the accumulator's contents. By using several additional hardware registers and a few more lines of code, there is an approximate ratio increase over the previous method of $(m \times 9) /(m+10)$ where $m$ is the number of multiplier digits.

An implementation of this algorithm is shown in Fig 3. In order to simplify the discussion, only the logic that pertains to BCD multiplication is included. The circuit elements are depicted performing specific operations of different algorithm parts.

Buffers over the most significant device (MSD) are used for sign fill during BCD shift. When a BCD shift occurs, the BCD number is brought out on the DB bus and passed to the next lower digit via the DA port. It then passes through the alU into the ram. However, the sign digit wraps around from signal DB to signal DA on the most significant device (MSD). The final logic element is a register that holds a link digit. The link digit is used to implement multiprecision $B C D$ shifts. This register also serves to hold the multiplier's least significant digit (LSD) so it can be presented to the A address bus. The link register, an Am2919, is a 4-bit register with two outputs for each bit. Each output set has its own output control line.

The flowchart in Fig 4 shows the firmware used to drive the hardware of Fig 3. Section 1 contains instructions to clear the accumulator and generate the multiplicand's multiples. This operation takes 11 cycles to execute. Section 2 initializes the counter in the sequencer to one less than the number of times desired to loop. It also loads the multiplier's LSD into register A.

Multiplication is performed in the loop, the main part of the code (section 3). Register A selects which multiple of the multiplicand will be added to the partial product in the accumulator. The next two instructions perform a BCD shift of the accumulator (R12, R13) with sign fill. The last instruction BCD shifts the multiplier, loads link register A with the LSD, and checks the loop counter. This loop is executed seven times.

The last group of instructions, (section 4), adjusts the result according to the sign digit stored in the LSD and link register. The sign, in radix complement form numbers, has a numeric weight of $-1 \mathrm{xr}^{\mathrm{n}}$, where r is the radix and n is the number of digits including the sign. Therefore, the link register is used to select $0 x$ or 1 x the multiplier and subtract it from the multiplicand. If an Am2910 is used as the sequencer, several of the steps shown in the flowchart can be performed in one microprogram cycle because the 2910 has a built-in instruction that decrements an internal counter, checks for a zero count, and branches accordingly.

In this multiply algorithm there is a buffer digit between the sign digit and the digit with the first significant data. The buffer digit prevents an overflow during the addition in the multiply loop. This condition could be ignored if overflow were detected after addition and a routine conditionally called to handle the case. The overflow condition can be corrected by subtracting 1 from the sign digit after the BCD shift. The buffer digit


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can also be eliminated by converting the numbers to a positive sign magnitude, multiplying them, and adjusting the result according to the product of original signs of multiplier and multiplicand.

## Division: a series of subtractions

In the same way that multiplication is viewed as a series of additions, division can be thought of as a series of subtractions. The simplest way to divide is to count the number of times the divisor can be subtracted from the dividend before it is negative. Though this method is costly in microprogram cycles, it illustrates how division is the inverse of multiplication. The algorithm developed for division is a form of nonrestoring division.

For convenience' sake, it is assumed that both the dividend and the divisor are fractions, that the dividend and divisor are normalized (which implies keeping track of exponents implicitly or explicitly), and that both are positive. Since division is the inverse of multiplication, it is reasonable to assume that a method of division can be devised that entails subtracting a multiple of the divisor from a running partial sum and then shifting the partial sum. This is, in fact, the basis for most division algorithms. Generally speaking, division is not as fast as multiplication because it is difficult to determine which multiple of the divisor to subtract from the partial dividend. Consequently, most division algorithms employ trial and error to determine how much to subtract.

One such algorithm, the restoring division algorithm, subtracts the divisor from the dividend until a negative partial dividend is created. The divisor is then added to the partial dividend to restore it to a positive partial dividend. A count-the MSD of the quotient-is kept of how many divisors went into the dividend before there was a negative dividend. The partial dividend is then shifted up one digit by multiplying by radix 10 . The procedure of subtracting the divisor and counting is repeated for each digit in the quotient. This method is similar to the long division taught in grade school where trailing divisors are tested and finally subtracted from the dividend. After each division the trailing divisor is moved over one column.

An average of five subtractions and one addition for each digit in the quotient is performed by the restoring algorithm. The addition is eliminated by performing a nonrestoring algorithm. The nonrestoring division algorithm functions like the restoring algorithm until it encounters the negative partial dividend. At this point, the dividend is shifted up one BCD digit without being restored. The count that was kept is placed into the quotient's MSD. The counter is then set to nine and is decremented each time the divisor is added to the dividend. The adding and decrementing continues until the partial dividend is positive. The counter's contents are then placed in the quotient's second MSD, and the partial dividend is shifted up one BCD digit. At this point, the algorithm starts over.

The nonrestoring algorithm is the more efficient of the two firmware algorithms. A further improvement can be made in the nonrestoring firmware algorithm if, instead of repeatedly subtracting the divisor from the dividend, binary weighted multiples are subtracted in a successive approximation. To accomplish this, an algorithm starts by subtracting 8 x the divisor from the
dividend, then 4 x the divisor, then 2 x the divisor, and finally the divisor itself. Each time a multiple is subtracted, the result's sign is inspected. If the sign does not change, a 1 is placed in the corresponding bit of the quotient digit. For example, if 8 x the division worked, then a 1 would be placed in the most significant bit of the quotient digit $\left(2^{3}\right)$. If the sign changes, then a 0 is placed in the corresponding bit position. When the sign changes during operations with the next lower binary weighted multiples, the algorithm continues in the same way, but addition is performed rather than subtraction.


Fig 5 Firmware flowchart to accomplish iterative BCD division. This algorithm employs the concepts of both nonrestoring division and successive binary approximation.

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As long as each addition's result is negative, 0 is entered into the appropriate quotient digit. The algorithm continues adding when the partial dividend is negative and subtracting when it is positive.

Whenever 1x the divisor multiple has been added or subtracted from the partial dividend, the partial dividend shifts up one BCD digit x10, and calculation of the quotient's next significant digit begins. Calculation of the next quotient digit starts with subtracting $8 x$ the divisor from the partial dividend if the partial dividend is positive. A negative partial dividend indicates that the divisor was subtracted from the partial dividend one too many times. A correction must therefore be added to the partial dividend. Since the partial dividend is shifted up by one digit, the correction is performed by adding in 10 x the divisor. These steps can be combined into one by adding 2 x the divisor rather than adding 10 x and then subtracting $8 x$ the divisor (the beginning of the next step).

## Putting the algorithm to use

An implementation of the algorithm just discussed is shown in the flowchart in Fig 5. This implementation assumes that the numbers are positive, signed, normalized fractions. The program first generates the divisor's multiples and stores them in the register file. Next, the counter in the sequencer is loaded with two less than the desired number of passes through the loop. The actual division operation is performed in the "sign/division operations'' block of the flowchart. This section of the flowchart can be viewed as a state diagram that not only instructs the 29203, but also contains the dividend's sign as state information. The left-hand column represents the states where the dividend is positive, and the righthand column is where the dividend is negative. When the dividend is positive, subtractions are performed; when it is negative, additions are performed.

The choice between the two columns is determined by checking the MSD's 'carry-out"' bit. If the dividend is positive and the subtraction results in no carry-out, the new partial dividend must be negative. At this point, the
algorithm flow is switched to the right column. If the dividend is negative and the subtraction results in a carry-out, the new partial dividend is positive. In this case the algorithm flow switches to the left column. The final division operation is a BCD shift left (x10) of the dividend. This operation also shifts the quotient digit that was assembled in a shift register.

Fig 6 shows the hardware needed to perform division. Besides the 29203, two other important logic groups are required. The carry (sign) is fed into a shift register that assembles each quotient digit. When the dividend is shifted up one digit, the new quotient digit is shifted into the LSD of the least significant half of the dividend. At the same time, the MSD is shifted into a link register. The link register can then be shifted into the LSD of the most significant half of the dividend.

In a nonpipelined system, the total algorithm takes five cycles per quotient digit, plus five cycles to set up. Therefore, 16 digits divided by 8 digits in an 8 -digit machine will be executed in 45 cycles. In a pipelined system, the status flags-such as carry-out-are latched in order to break up long delay paths, resulting in shorter microprogram instruction cycle time. A branch based on the carry-out cannot be performed in the same cycle as the arithmetic operation. Therefore, an extra cycle must be added for each conditional branch. The counter conditional branch, decrement, and BCD shift do occur in one cycle, however. The algorithm, therefore, takes 85 cycles to execute in a single pipelined system.

In a pipelined system, the execution time can be substantially decreased by implementing a conditional BCD addition or subtraction, thereby eliminating the need for a separate continual branch. By using a multiplexer placed in the 29203 instruction path, normal operation instructions are passed from the pipeline register to the ALU chip. During BCD division, the multiplexer is used to select either addition or subtraction modes based on the registered carry-out of the previous operation. Once again, a trade-off occurs: more hardware yields less firmware and faster execution. The resulting algorithm



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| Microcode for Bit-slice BCD Operation* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Field | Microcode | Program | Constant |  | Am29 |  |  |  | 3-address/ <br> 2-address |
| Subfield names |  |  | PL | 1 | CCP | CC | CLEN | $\overline{\text { RLD }}$ | 3 address |
| Bit position in microword |  |  | 0 to 11 | 12 to 15 | 16 | 17 to 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| No of bits in each field |  |  | 12 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\times$ | x | $\times$ |  |  |
|  |  | BCDM: | $x$ |  | $\times$ | x | x | 1 | 0 |
|  | 101 |  | $\times$ | E | x | x | $\times$ | 1 | 0 |
|  | 102 |  | x | E | $\times$ | x | x | 1 | 0 |
|  | 103 |  | $x$ | E | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 1 | 1 |
|  | 104 |  | $\times$ | E |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
|  | - |  | - | - | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  | - |
|  | - |  | - | - | x | x | x |  | - |
|  | - |  | - | - | x | x | x |  | - |
|  | 10A |  | $\times$ | E | x | x | x | 1 | 1 |
|  | 10 B |  | OOD | 4 | x | x | x | 0 | 1 |
|  | 10 C | LOOP1: | x | E | $\times$ | $\times$ | x | 1 | 1 |
|  | 10 D |  | x | E |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
|  | 10E |  | x | E |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
|  | 10 F |  | $\times$ | 8 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
|  | - |  | - | - |  |  |  |  | - |
|  | - |  | - | - |  |  |  |  | - |

*Four-bit fields are in hexadecimal; others are in octal. Symbol x indicates "don't care." Microword bit positions not depicted for Am29203 have the following signal levels: $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{n}}$. WE, OEY logic zero
executes in five cycles for each BCD digit. Since it takes just as many cycles as the nonpipelined system, the net gain is equal to the performance difference between the pipelined and the nonpipelined systems.

## Working in microcode

After the hardware is designed and algorithms are chosen, the programmer has to generate flowcharts and translate them into working microcode. In order to

| 100 | BCDM : | LOW RO \& CONT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 101 |  | LOW R12 \& CONT |
| 102 |  | PAR R11,R1 \& CONT |
| 103 |  | BCDA R1, R1, R2 \& CONT |
| 104 |  | BCDA R1, R2, R3 \& CONT |
| 105 |  | BCDA R1, R3, R4 \& CONT |
| 106 |  | BCDA R1,R4, R5 \& CONT |
| 107 |  | BCDA R1, R5, R6 \& CONT |
| 108 |  | BCDA R1, R6, R7 \& CONT |
| 109 |  | BCDA R1,R7, R8 \& CONT |
| 10A |  | BCDA R1, R8, R9 \& CONT |
| 10B |  | BCDSR R10 \& LDA \& COUNT OOD \& CONT |
| 10 C | LOOP1: | BCDA R12,,R12 \& AIND \& CONT |
| 10D |  | BCDSR R12 \& SIGNFILL \& LDA \& CONT |
| 10 E |  | BCDSR R13 \& LMSD \& CONT |
| 10F |  | BCDSR R10 \& LDA \& CNTR \& GOTO LOOP1 |
| 110 |  | PAR R1, R9 \& CONT |
| 111 |  | BCDS R12, R12 \& AIND \& CONT |
| 112 |  | BCDSR R12 \& SIGNFILL \& LDA \& CONT |
| 113 |  | BCDSR R13 \& LMSD |

Fig 7 Source microcode for BCD multiply operation. Each line of microcode is composed of several opcode fields and one complete instruction.
provide some understanding of this esoteric task, some of the assembled code for the BCD multiply routine is provided in Fig 7.

Because each microprogrammed machine has a different architecture, the syntax and mnemonics of the microprogram can vary. And, because architecture dictates the signals that need to be controlled, the microprogram word's structure and content for each machine also varies. When writing microcode for a new machine, the programmer has two choices: write a new assembler or use a meta assembler. The disadvantage of writing a new and unique assembler is that it takes time. Also, it is often more difficult to accommodate changes in the microword as hardware development proceeds. In addition, the meta assembler approach allows more flexibility.

The following is an example of how BCD multiplication can be implemented in microcode. Each line of microcode is a complete instruction to the microengine and is composed of several operation code fields. These fields control the different portions of the entire machine. In this example a single field generates the address of the next microprogram instruction to be executed. Another field specifies which operation the 29203 is performing. The Table, "Microcode for Bit-slice BCD Operation," shows the different opcode fields in the microprogram word.

Since there are multiple opcode fields in the instruction word, the syntax must be different from that of machine assembly language-which, in general, has one opcode field. Like standard assembly language, there are opcodes and operands represented as mnemonics. Each mnemonic is associated with a particular bit field in the microinstruction word. The " $\&$ '" symbol is used

|  | Am29203 |  |  |  |  |  |  | Miscellaneous BCD Control Signals |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Source A | Source B | Destination B | $\overline{\text { OEA }}$ | $I_{0}$ | $\overline{\text { OEB }}$ | Destination $I_{5}$ to 8 | Function $I_{1}$ to 4 | $\overline{\mathrm{SF}}$ | $\overline{\text { LMSD }}$ | $\overline{\text { AIND }}$ | $\overline{\text { LDA }}$ | $\overline{\text { S4R }}$ | $\overline{\text { S4L }}$ |
| 24 to 27 | 28 to 31 | 32 to 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 41 to 43 | 44 to 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| x | $x$ |  | 0 |  | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| x | x <br> $\times$ | c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| B | $\times$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | F | 6 | 1 | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$ |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | B | 0 | . |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | B | 0 | . |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $1$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 |  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| x | A | A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| x | C | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | B | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| x | C | C | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 0 | 1 |
| x | D | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | . |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\times$ | A | A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | - |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | - |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

as an operator to concatenate the different operations to be performed in a given microprogram word. For example, two operations are specified in word 100 of Fig 7. LOW RO directs the 29203 to clear register 0, and CONT directs the 2910 to continue to the next instruction at 101 .

If the microprogram word 100 in Fig 7 is carefully compared with the assembled code in the Table, it is apparent that some bits were not logically specified by LOW RO or CONT. These bits were left to default. Line 10D is an example of when one of the bits ('sign fill'") is finally specified rather than allowed to default. Default values must be supplied by the microcode assembler; Sometimes, the default can actually be a "don't care."

The Table shows the final assembled code as it will be programmed in the microprogram control store. The bits that are shown as "don't cares" are allowed to be in the unprogrammed state of the control store.

There are several inherent advantages in taking a bitslice approach to $B C D$ multiplication and division operations-improvements in system performance, speed, and accuracy are just a few. The Am29203's architecture is particularly suited to applications where both binary and BCD arithmetic is a necessity. By incorporating iterative algorithms into microcode, many of the disadvantages of time-consuming BCD operations are eliminated.

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# IMPROVING COMPUTATIONAL THROUGHPUT 

## By tying several 8087 numerical data processing chips to a single 8086 CPU, parallel instruction execution can be accomplished with resulting increases in operational speed.

by Cedar Yoram and Meir Ben-Nun

Using microcomputers to perform arithmetic computations is a technique that has seen striking growth. Recent progress in this method has been aided considerably by the introduction of the 8087 numerical data processor. This chip, together with the 8086 central processing unit, forms the iAPX 86/20 microcomputer. The numerical data processor allows fast and simple numerical computations of floating point arithmetic and transcendental functions. Performance is hindered, however, because the manufacturer imposes a severe restriction on the system-only one numerical data processor can be connected to a central processing unit. Therefore, other solutions must be considered for applications that require a greater computational throughput than that available from the iAPX 86/20.

One recommendation is a design based on a number of microcomputers connected through a standard Multibus. ${ }^{1}$ Unfortunately, such a solution leads to a partitioning of the algorithms, which results in intensive and complex data communications problems. Using a custom designed bus, tailored specifically for a given

[^14]problem, could simplify the communication protocol. Designing such a bus, however, would be a complicated task. Another solution is a special purpose high speed arithmetic unit designed to suit the specific computational demands of the problem. This method usually requires a large number of components and a long design period. A third solution, the multiple numerical data processor system (MNDPS), presents a simple method for combining a number of numerical data processors (NDPs) with one 8086 central processing unit (CPU), thus overcoming the throughput bottleneck imposed by normal design constraints.

## System features and architecture

The MNDPS has several main features. First, there are four modes of NDP operations.

- Mode 0 is the conventional iAPX 86/20 operation mode with any one of the 8087 s specified to be active, while others remain idle
- Mode 1 is when all NDPs perform in parallel on the same operation using different data
- Mode 2 is when ndPs work in an automatic cyclic mode
- Mode 3 is when NDPs work in a prescribed order, which can be arbitrarily modified by the program
In addition, different instructions can be executed concurrently. Bus arbitration between the CPU and the NDPS is automatically performed without additional hardware. The instruction set required for programming MNDPS remains essentially the same as that of the iAPX $86 / 20$. Only two additional instructions exist, neither of which is required when the system operates in modes 1 and 0 . One is used in mode 2 , both in mode 3 . Finally, all the advantageous characteristics of the iAPX 86/20 system with respect to high level languages and development systems remain unchanged, while performance increases.

Although the proposed architecture connects a number of 8087 NDPs to a single 8086 CPU simply, there are two fundamental difficulties in implementing this concept. First, the instruction queue operates in first in,

System block diagram of MNDPS architecture. Use of multiple NDPs requires adding other hardware elements for control and status detection.

first out mode, and whenever an escape instruction (which initiates the 8087 operation) appears somewhere in the queue, neither the exact time of the execution nor the NDP chosen to perform the operation is known. Second, the escape instruction code does not have a special field for addressing the different NDPs of the set. A straightforward solution to these problems would introduce an early detection and direction unit. The architecture shown in the Figure has overcome these implementation difficulties.

In addition to the basic iAPX 86/20 hardware, the proposed system contains an 8087 selector, an 8087 mode selector, an 8087 busy selector, an 8086 empty queue state detector, and a status register. The 8087 selector is controlled by the CPU and has the ability to change the queue status at the inputs to the NDPs. Forcing an empty queue combination in all NDPs except for the one that has to perform the instruction is the key principle. The empty queue combination erases the contents of the queues, thus preventing both execution of the specified instruction and reception of subsequent instructions by the unselected NDPs.

A CPU move instruction that loads data into the NDP selector performs the desired NDP selection. The NDP's queues, normally synchronized with the CPU queue, lose their synchronization due to the execution of the move instruction. Therefore, resynchronization of the queues is required immediately after the execution of the NDP instruction. Resynchronization is accomplished by forcing an empty queue state in the CPU through a jump instruction. The 8086 empty queue state detector identi-
fies this state on the 8086 queue status outputs and then signals the 8087 selector to remove the empty queue combination, thus resynchronizing all the NDPs. Using the move and jump instructions enables an arbitrary selection of the NDPs, economizing execution time.

Additional improvement in computational speed can be achieved in mode 2 by arranging for cyclic NDP selection. This is done by omitting the move instruction and using only the jump instructions. In addition to the synchronization process, executing the jump instruction with the system in mode 2 results in the cyclic selection of successive NDPs. The best results in computational speed and software economy are achieved in mode 1 (whenever this mode is applicable), with all NDPs executing the same instruction in parallel. Such operation requires no additional instructions beyond those used in the conventional mode 0 .

All NDPs are connected to a common local bus. Bus arbitration logic, a built-in feature of the NDP, prevents contention on the local bus. Connecting the NDP request/grant pins provides an automatic mechanism for mastering the bus. The highest priority in accessing the bus is given to the last request in the requesting chain.

The busy outputs of the NDPs are routed to the test pin of the CPU by the NDP busy selector, prior to the execution of the NDP instruction. In the parallel mode, all busy lines are ORed and routed to the test pin.

The NDP interrupts are handled with the standard Intel approach. A special status register is included in the system to restore the state of the NDP selector and

NDP mode selector prior to an interrupt. This is necessary since an interrupt acknowledged after the selection of an NDP causes the same effect as a jump instruc-tion-it cancels the NDP selection.

Now that the architectural fundamentals have been described, several applications of the hardware can be discussed. To show the benefits of this hardware configuration operating in several modes, consider a common problem encountered in typical defense applications-the generation of a vector using scalar multiplication.

## Scaling a vector

Three types of operation are examined in this example. In case 1, the system is working in the conventional mode ( 0 ) with NDP 1 chosen to work as the coprocessor with the CPU host. In cases 2 and 3, the system contains
three NDPS, according to the dimension of the vector to be multiplied. In case 2 , the system is working in a combination of modes 3 and 1. Finally, in case 3 a combination of modes 2 and 1 is applied.

Here, advantages and drawbacks to using each of the modes are discussed. Also, the relative gains in time for cases 2 and 3, as compared with case 1, are provided. The following notations are used
$\overline{\mathrm{a}}=\left(\mathrm{a}_{1}, \mathrm{a}_{2}, \mathrm{a}_{3}\right)$-Vector $\overline{\mathrm{a}}$
b-scalar
$\bar{c}=b \cdot \bar{a}=\left(b \cdot a_{1}, b \cdot a_{2}, b \cdot a_{3}\right)$
Note that the "wait" instruction is implicitly assumed to precede each NDP instruction. Also, every NDP instruction is characterized by an F prefix.

## iAPX 86/20 basic system concepts

The iAPX $86 / 20^{2,3}$ is a microcomputer based on two major components-the 8086 CPU functions as the host processor; the 8087 NDP serves as a coprocessor. The coprocessor interface allows specialized hardware to appear as an integral part of the host's architecture, controlled by the host's special instructions. When the host encounters these special instructions, both the host and the coprocessor recognize them and work together to perform the desired function. Connection between the coprocessor and the host is via the local bus lines (ie, address, data, status, clock, ready, reset, test, and RQ/GT).
Once the coprocessor begins operation, the host can continue program execution in parallel. The coprocessor's parallel operation does not normally affect the host unless the coprocessor has to refer to memory. When the host releases the local bus to the coprocessor, it may continue to execute instructions from its internal queue. However, the host must stop when it needs the local bus currently in use by the coprocessor. This parallel operation of host and coprocessor is called concurrent execution. Concurrent execution of instructions requires programs to provide synchronization between the host and the coprocessor.
Synchronization results in either the host or the coprocessor waiting for the other to finish an operation in progress. The host/coprocessor synchronization instruction, called "wait," uses the host's test pin. The coprocessor can signal to the host via this pin that it is still busy. When the host executes a wait instruction, it stops program execution, while it

| TABLE 1 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Queue Status Signals and Their Encoding |  |  |  |

checks the test pin for activity. When the test pin becomes inactive, the host resumes program execution with the next instruction following the wait.
Special instructions called "escape" initiate coprocessor operation. The host/coprocessor interface requires the coprocessor to recognize when the host has encountered an escape instruction. Whenever the host begins executing a new instruction the coprocessor must look to see if it is an escape instruction. Since only the host fetches instructions and executes them (except for the execution of the escape, performed by both of them) the coprocessor must monitor the instruction currently being executed by the host. The host can fetch an instruction at a variable length of time before it executes the instruction. In this way the instruction queue of the CPU is formed. An instruction queue allows instructions to be prefetched when the local bus would otherwise be idle. The host does not indicate which instruction it is currently executing. Instead, the host indicates when an instruction is fetched and, later, when it is executed.
To identify the actual instruction that the host fetched from the queue, the coprocessor must also maintain an instruction stream identical to the host's. When the host has filled its queue, it stops prefetching instructions. Instructions are removed from the queue one byte at a time for decoding and execution. When a jump occurs, the queue is emptied. The coprocessor follows the host's actions by monitoring the host's bus status, queue status, and data bus signals (see Tables 1 and 2 ).

| TABLE 2 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Bus Status Signals and Their Encoding |  |  |  |  |
| $\bar{S} 2$ | $\bar{S} 1$ | $\overline{\text { So }}$ | Function |  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | Interrupt acknowledge |  |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Read input/output port |  |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Write input/output port |  |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | Halt |  |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Code fetch |  |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | Read data memory |  |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | Write data memory |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | Idle |  |

In case 1 (mode 0 ), the assembly language program to accomplish vector generation looks as follows

MOV MODE-0, AL
; Select mode 0 (NDP1)
FLD DWORD, al
; Load $a_{1}$ into NDPl stack
FLD DWORD, a2
FLD DWORD, a3
FLD ST(0)
FMUL DWORD b
FLD ST(1)
FMUL DWORD b
FLD ST(2)
FMUL DWORD b

```
N2: FLD DWORD a3 ; Load a into NDP3 stack
    MOV MODE-1, AL ; Select mode 1
    JMP N3 ; Resynchronize all NDPs
    FLD ST(0) ; Get a }\mp@subsup{2}{2}{s}\mathrm{ from stacks in all NDPs
N3: FMUL DWORD b ; A parallel multiplication
    by scalar b in all NDPs
```

Overall execution time in this case is slightly less than one-half the time required for case 1 and $15 \%$ faster than case 2 . This improvement over case 2 results mainly from the economy in software realized by using the jump instruction to synchronize all NDPs.

## System performance appraisal

Evaluating MNDPS performance in comparison with the iAPX 86/20 in executing a given algorithm Q can be defined by the following gain ratio
$\gamma(\mathrm{Q})=\frac{\text { Execution time of } \mathrm{Q} \text { on } \mathrm{iAPX} 86 / 20}{\text { Minimum execution time of } \mathrm{Q} \text { on MNDPS }}$
Minimum execution time in the denominator has to be understood under the conditions of the most convenient partitioning of the algorithm Q into a number of parts, and selection of the optimum mode for each part of $Q$.

The performance gain $\gamma(\mathbb{Q})$ depends on a number of parameters, such as data loading time from memory to NDP(s) stack; data storing time from $\operatorname{NDP}(\mathrm{s})$ to memory; execution time of various arithmetic and stack manipulation operations; minimum time between the execution of consecutive $\operatorname{NDP}(s)$ instructions, depending on the mode of operation of MNDPS; and non-overlapping memory access time of NDP(s) working parallel (mode 1).

This proposed system, a simple technique for combining a number of NDPS with one CPU, can operate in several modes. Throughput improvements for a given algorithm depend, to a great extent, on the selection of the proper modes for different parts of the algorithm. In the example of partitioning algorithms in two parts, one with a pronounced serial and the other with a parallel character, the result was clear at the outset. But such partitioning may present quite a complicated task for other, more complex algorithms. In addition, it is conceivable to design the system so that some of the NDPs operate in one mode, while others operate in a different mode. Working out the indicated problems, however, is an ongoing challenge.

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## SPECIAL REPORT ON DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS DESIGN

Baseband, broadband, star, tree, ring, CSMA/CD, CSMA/CA, token passing: all these and more are the current buzzwords related to local area networks (LANs). A host of manufacturers have chosen varying topologies as the bases for their LANs, while designers differ in their preferences for protocols. And, where some systems are designed to use coaxial cable, others use twisted pair wires or even fiber optics as their media. Furthermore, although many systems are mutually compatible, many more are not. Therefore, the potential user must somehow make a choice-and stick with it. But, how is the user to decide which is best? Even more relevant, which manufacturers will still be in business 10 or 15 years from now? Will future systems be compatible?

Does all this benefit the user? It is doubtful. Are all the varied topologies and protocols truly significant? Probably, yes. Yet, the user still suffers from the lack of firm standards. To aid the designers of still "in concept" data communication systems, a review article in this issue explains the debates between network suppliers and illustrates how at least a part of the scene is slowly coming into focus.

Complementing that staff written report are several other data communication articles from actual system designers, manufacturers, and users. Understandably, these articles argue for particular concepts. Yet, each in itself presents an important alternative.

Again, it is the designer's choice. Only that person can weigh all of the values, both positive and negative, involved in such decisions. We have presented much of the basic information-but the designer needs even more. Further details are available to the data communication system designer in National Bureau of Standards reports, in detailed studies by research organizations, and in the proceedings of relevant conferences. It's all there to find.


Sydney F. Shapiro<br>Managing Editor

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| RECORDING DENSITY (BPI) | 8,020 | 10,200 | 10,200 |
| TRACK DENSITY (TPI) | 254 | 300 | 300 |
| NUMBER OF CYLINDERS | 160 | 320 | 320 |
| NUMBER OF DATA HEADS | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| POSITIONING METHOD | Buffered Stepper |  |  |
| DIMENSIONS (HxWxD in.) | $3.3 \times 5.7 \times 8.0$ |  |  |



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# UNTANGLING LOCAL AREA NETWORKS 

## Competing local area networking schemes offer diverse characteristics that may or may not fit your specific application. But the issues are becoming clearer and standards are emerging.

by Richard Parker, Contributing Editor and Sydney F. Shapiro, Managing Editor

Despite the seemingly endless debates between baseband and broadband local area network suppliers, the local area network scene is coming into sharper focus. Both sides, each claiming superiority, use two totally different techniques. Broadband uses a carrier technique to support many different services, while baseband uses a single signal (information channel) to transmit information. Nearly completed local area network standards, international agreement on several networking issues, and a proliferation of integrated circuit and integrated circuit based interface products are hastening the application of local area networks.

Potential local area network (LAN) users are discovering that, contrary to manufacturer exhortations, both baseband and broadband LaNs are required to address vastly different needs, even though some performance overlap exists between the types of networks. Furthermore, baseband and broadband networks are not the only games in town. Existing and newer installations of private area branch exchanges (PABXS) are proving perfectly viable for networking applications and are starting to contend for many LAN applications. The result-the user has an ample choice of network hardware and software offerings.

Much of the activity in LANs is centered on cutting the cost of network interfacing through very large scale integration (VLSI) implementation, a development that necessitates some measure of standardization to be viable. Fortunately, such standards are forthcoming. Concurrently, LAN manufacturers are improving the performance of their products by offering more versatile workstations, terminals, and software packages, all designed specifically for local networking applications, and largely consistent with emerging LAN standards. Those standards are coming out of the IEEE 802 Committee (see the Panel).


The PLAN 4000 community microcomputing system simultaneously links up to $\mathbf{2 5 5}$ users of personal computers into a sophisticated and powerful business system.

## More support for standards

In December of last year, 13 electronics companies: Bridge Communications Inc (Cupertino, Calif); Data General Corp (Westboro, Mass); Fujitsu America Inc (Santa Clara, Calif); Hewlett-Packard Co (Palo Alto, Calif); Interlan Inc (Chelmsford, Mass); Intel Corp (Santa Clara, Calif); National Semiconductor Corp (Santa Clara, Calif); Siemens AG (Munich, W Germany); 3Com Corp (Mountain View, Calif); Ungermann-Bass Inc (Santa Clara, Calif); Xerox Corp (Palo Alto, Calif); Tektronix Inc (Beaverton, Ore); and Digital Equipment Corp (Maynard, Mass); endorsed P802.3, an emerging IEEE 802 standards proposal, as a single worldwide standard. Eventually, this development

## The Ieee 802 Committee

The Ieee Standards Project 802 was established by the IEEE Computer Society in February 1980, under the chairmanship of Maris Graube of Tektronix Inc. Its purpose is to standardize as much of the means of connecting digital computer equipment and peripherals within a local environment as possible. This standardization process is unfolding within the constraints of present and projected LAN hardware and software technologies. The term local area covers local settings such as office buildings, several closely spaced buildings, and campuses, usually denoting a geographic distance of not much more than a few miles.

The driving force for the committee's work is the belief that a single LAN standard (in the ideal case) will benefit equipment manufacturers, by allowing them to mass produce their wares (and thus theoretically offer them at lower prices). A single standard will also aid equipment users who would benefit from the resulting simplicity and low cost of the equipment they can apply. In addition, system designers will benefit by being allowed to specify standard products.

In reality, though, conflicting manufacturer, designer, and user requirements have not made it possible for the IEEE 802 Committee to come up with a single standard that suits all. Remember that the hundreds of IEEE 802 Committee members represent a wide range of interests. For example, those from realtime process control industries are much more concerned with determining the time it takes a message to go from one node on a network to another than those from office automation circles. Thus, the former group would want a network accessing scheme highly deterministic in nature-much like that of token passing-instead of the simpler and less expensive CSMA/CD accessing scheme favored by the latter group.

The committee has had to contend with varying requirements and has taken the route of standardizing on more than one LAN approach. It is attempting, however, to structure these standards in
such a manner that the drawbacks inherent in more than one standard (ie, limited manufacturer production runs, high equipment costs, more complex equipment to apply) are minimized.

The committee is working on standards that govern the interrelationship of computers and peripherals within a network, as well as from one network to another. It is also examining standards for networks that support such applications as file transfers, digital voice and data transmissions, graphics applications, word processing, electronic mail, video, process control, and accessing of remote data bases, all under a set of accessing protocols. As can be seen from these many different applications, data exchange over the network is different for each application, from short data bursts of large messages, to frequent data transfers of small messages, to massive amounts of data being transferred continuously, as in the case of mainframe computer to mainframe computer applications.

The ieee 802 Committee has attempted to standardize on three media accessing schemes: CSMA/CD, and token passing for both bus and ring topology networks. It has also included within its standards proposals such media as twisted pair wiring, both baseband and broadband coaxial cable, and fiber optic cable.

Draft A, the first draft of the 802 Standard, was completed in May 1981, when it was presented to the IEEE 802's parent committees: the Technical Committee on Computer Communications of the IEEE Computer Society, and the Computer Standards Committee of the IEEE Computer Society. As with any draft proposal, the committee reviewed and modified it as needed. Thus, by October 1981, Draft B was completed and by May of 1982, Draft C was done. At its October 1982 meeting, the committee reviewed Draft C and proceeded to produce a final version of the 802 proposed standard in a December 1982 meeting. The 802 parent committees are now in possession of that document which should, possibly this year, become a full-fledged official LAN standard.
will permit intercommunication between computers and office equipment, regardless of brand. This proposal, a carrier sense multiple access/collision detection (CSMA/CD) network accessing standard, represents a convergence of the IEEE 802 Committee's working drafts, Xerox Corp's Ethernet LAN specifications, and European Computer Manufacturers Association documents, with no substantial differences.

The IEEE 802 Committee has just finished wrapping up proposals for LAN standards under three major categories: P802.3 for CSMA/CD accessing on a bus topology, P802.4 for token passing accessing on a bus topology, and P802.5 for token passing accessing on a ring topology. CSMA/CD and token passing accessing, as well as bus and ring topology networks, represent the major LAN implementations within the IEEE 802 Committee's efforts. The Committee has also standardized the use of twisted pair wiring, as well as baseband and broadband coaxial cable.

Under the P802.3 proposals for coaxial cable media, both baseband (single-channel) and broadband (multichannel) operations are considered. In the former case, four data speeds of $1 \mathrm{M}, 5 \mathrm{M}, 10 \mathrm{M}$, and 20 M bps are considered, while under the latter case, 10M-bps speeds are considered, at $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ wide channels. Note that the $10 \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{bps}$ speed for baseband LaNs is the same as Xerox's Ethernet de facto industry standard baseband LAN.

Under the P802.4 proposals for token passing bus networks, broadband operation for coaxial cable media is spelled out at the T 1 (telephone standard) rate of 1.544 M bps , within both $4-\mathrm{MHz}$ wide and $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ wide channels. Also spelled out are data rates of 5 M bps within $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ wide channels, 10 M bps within $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ wide channels, and 10 M and 20 M bps within $12-\mathrm{MHz}$ wide channels. For token passing bus networks operating at baseband frequencies over coaxial cable media, data rates of 5 M and 10 M bps are specified.

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Under the P802.5 proposals for token passing ring networks, only baseband operation is considered for both shielded twisted pair wiring (at 1.4 M bps ) and baseband coaxial cable (at 4M, 20M, and 40M bps). (See Fig 1 for an outline of the IEEE 802 Committee's standards proposals.)

## Toward an open systems architecture

Though the IEEE 802 proposed standard is compatible with only the first two layers (physical and data link) of the 7-layer International Standards Organization (ISO)

Open System Interconnection (OSI) reference model (Fig 2 ), work is proceeding to eventually have LANs compatible with all seven layers. Remember that the ISO OSI reference model represents an ideal case, something few computer and peripheral equipment manufacturers can be expected to support completely. The first two layers, adopted by all LAN equipment suppliers and international standards organizations, are generally implemented in hardware. Layers 3 through 7 are software intensive, thus more difficult to implement readily at low cost.

| Network | Company | TABLE 1 |  |  |  |  | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Representative CSMA/CD and CSMA/CA Baseband LANs |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Media | $\begin{gathered} \text { Max } \\ \text { nodes } \end{gathered}$ | Max rate (bps) | Max distance (no repeaters) (m) | Topology |  |
| Cluster/One Model A | Nestar Systems | Ribbon, Twisted pair | 65 | 250k | 305 | Varied | Office automation Personal, engineering, small business computers |
| Ethernet | Xerox | Coax | 1024 | 10M | 500 | Bus | De facto industry standard Office automation Personal, small business computers |
| 1553 Net | VLSI Systems | Coax | 256 | 3M | 305 | Bus | Personal computer Two independent channels for command and data signals |
| HYPERbus | Network Systems | Coax | 128 | 10M | 732 | Bus | Laboratory, factory, office automation Satellite compatible |
| HYPERchannel |  | Coax | 16 | 50M | 1524 | Bus | Large mainframe and scientific computers Satellite compatible |
| Net/One | UngermannBass | Coax | 100 | 10M | 500 | Bus | Laboratory, office, factory automation Ethernet compatible |
| Omninet | Corvus Systems | Twisted pair | 64 | 1M | 1219 | Bus | Personal, small business computers |
| PACXNET | Gandalf Data | Twisted pair Coax Fiber optic | 8 | 5.3M | - | Varied | Office automation Word processing Resource sharing |
| Z-net | Zilog | Coax | 255 | 800k | 2000 | Bus | Office automation Small business computer |

Last year, nearly two dozen major manufacturers of computer systems, information retrieval systems, and network equipment from Japan, Europe, and the United States agreed to back layer 4-the transport layer-of the ISO OSI reference model. Standards for both layers 3 and 4 have been developed by the Defense Applied Research Projects Agency and adopted by the U.S. Department of Defense. Furthermore, Xerox has publicly defined layers 3 and 4 for its Ethernet LaN protocol.

Software compatibility for the ISO OSI reference model layers 3 through 5 is now available for up to 32 RS-232 compatible non-Ethernet devices, thanks to the CS/ 1 communications processor that Bridge Communications Inc made available last year. The CS/1 employs the higher level protocols of the Xerox Network Systems (XNS). XNS provides internetworking commands for dissimilar Ethernet devices.

Standardization of the first two layers of the ISO OSI reference model has also meant X. 25 protocol compatibility, assuring network to network transfers of data packets over the switched public network. Several products are available on the market that allow X. 25 LAN interfacing. One such product, the GS/ 1 XNS gateway from Bridge Communications, allows host to host, host to terminal, and terminal to terminal connectivity.


Fig 2 An ideal case for communications between computers and peripherals is governed by a 7-layer architecture protocol formulated by the iso. Known as the osi reference model, it represents a set of rules by which effective communications can be achieved.

In the meantime, LAN manufacturers have been busy cranking out record numbers of baseband and broadband LaNs, spanning a range of topologies, access schemes and transmission media (see Tables 1, 2, and 3 for a representative sampling).
Although there are accessing schemes besides CSMA/CD and token passing-schemes such as time

| TABLE 2Representative Token Passing Baseband LANs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Network | Company | Media | Max nodes | Max rate (bps) | ```Max distance (no repeaters) (m)``` | Topology | Comments |
| Attached Resource Computer | Datapoint | Coax Infrared optical links | 255 | 2.5M | $\begin{array}{r} 610 \\ 1609 \end{array}$ | Bus | Office automation, data processing Each processor node can participate in up to 6 ARCs |
| DOMAIN | Apollo Computer | Coax | - | 12M | 914 | Ring | Engineering, CAD/CAM, factory automation |
| LINC | Vector Graphic | Twisted pair | 16 | 750k | 3218 | Ring | Interconnects Vector 4 microcomputer family into a multi-user environment |
| Modway | Gould Modicon | Coax | 250 | 1.544 M | 4572 | Bus | Process control, data processing, office automation Satellite compatible |
| Omnilink | Northern Telecom | Coax | 20 | 40k | 1524 | Ring | Office automation, data processing |
| PLAN 4000 | Nestar Systems | Coax | 255 | 2.5M | 6437 | Varied | Personal computer ARC and Ethernet compatible |
| PLANET | Racal- <br> Milgo | Coax | 250 | 19.2k | 198 | Ring | Protocol, application transparent |
| Primenet | Prime Computer | Coax | 247 | 10M | 3048 | Ring | CAD/CAM, office automation, data processing |
| proNET | Proteon Associates | Coax <br> Twisted pair Fiber optics | 255 | 10M | 2414 | Ring | Process control Relays bypass faulty nodes |
| Xodiac | Data <br> General | Coax | 32 | 2M | 1609 | Bus | Office automation, word processing, electronic mail, data processing |

TABLE 3
Representative Coaxial Cable Broadband LANs

| Network | Company | Max rate (bps) | Max node to node distance (m) | Accessing scheme | Topology | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CableNet | Amdax | ```14M (switched) 56k (dedicated)``` | 80,467 | TDMA (switched) FDM (dedicated) | Bus | Office and factory automation, data processing, security |
| ContelNet | Control Information Systems | 10M/ channel | 305 | CSMAICD | Bus tree | Office automation, data processing |
| GEnet | General Electric | 1 M or 5M | 4828 | CSMAICD | Bus | Factory and office automation |
| Local/net $20$ | Sytek | 128k | 50,000 | CSMAICD | Bus | Distributed processing Design, factory, office automation |
| Local/net $40$ |  | 1.7 M | 4000 | CSMAICD | Bus |  |
| Net/One | UngermannBass | 5M | 16,093 | CSMA | Bus | Office automation, small business, data processing Functionally similar to baseband version |
| Token/Net | Concord Data | 5M | 16,093 | Token passing | Bus | Large data communications systems, factory automation, realtime applications |
| Videodata | Interactive Systems/3M | 5M | 32,186 | FDM/ TDM | Tree | Data processing, office automation, small business computers, security |
| Wangnet | Wang Labs | 64k | Several kilometers | CSMA/CD | Tree | Office automation, image and data processing, security |

division, frequency division, and space division multiple accessing-these two are the most common in commercially available LANs.

The CSMA/CD baseband approach is a random one conceived by Xerox Corp in 1973 for its Ethernet LaN. It is now used by Zilog Corp (Cupertino, Calif) for its Z-net network, and Ungermann-Bass Inc for its Net/ One network. Many others offering baseband LaNs do not use collision detection. Instead, carrier sense multiple access/collision avoidance (CSMA/CA) is employed. Token passing, which unlike CSMA/CD is a deterministic accessing method, can be found in applications for realtime process control applications. Proponents of this approach, led by IBM, include Datapoint Corp (San Antonio, Tex) for its ARC network, Gould's Modicon Div (Andover, Mass) for its Modway LaN, and a host of others. Table 4 compares three major criteria of LaNs: transmission medium, accessing method, and network topology.

As can be seen from Table 4, a wide choice of network tradeoffs is possible. For example, although CSMA/CD accessing is nondeterministic, it makes economic sense (since it is less expensive than a broadband network when all other factors including maintenance are considered) to use it for an office automation application. In such an application, whether a message gets
from one office location to another in a fraction of a second or a few seconds is of little significance. On the other hand, a token passing accessing scheme must be used to ensure that a valve in a process control loop is turned off at the critical moment, lest the entire process be ruined.

For many office automation applications in which video teleconferencing plays a large role, a broadband network, with its many more channels and wider bandwidth than a baseband one, can be the proper choice. Even here, there is room for disagreement, since some baseband systems, as well as PABXs, can transmit video information, though not simultaneously with data. For many applications in which some data but mostly voice information is transmitted, PABXs can prove to be useful choices, particularly when they are already installed in a building to service telephone communications, and only a minor addition is required to handle data.

## Comparing CSMA/CD and token passing

CSMA/CD is a random accessing scheme in which a network node transmits a message after listening to the network to make sure it is not busy. Should the network be busy, the node must wait until it is clear, before it can begin transmitting. Once it transmits a message, the
node continues to listen to the network to detect any collision with message packets being sent simultaneously by one or more other nodes on the network. In the event of a detected collision, all transmitting nodes abort their operations and back off a random amount of time before attempting to retransmit their packets. The waiting time is a random one and is influenced by such factors as network traffic volume, message length, and network physical length.

Besides being nondeterministic, a CSMA/CD message packet must be twice as long as the message's propa-
gation time to the most distant network station. This guarantees collision detection before transmission is completed.

A variation of CSMA/CD is CSMA/CA in which no collision detection is used. In fact, many experts contend that most of the cost of CSMA/CD interface hardware is in the collision detection circuitry, and that eliminating it would reduce that cost substantially. One example of this approach is the Omninet from Corvus Systems Inc (San Jose, Calif). Employing RS-232 twisted pair wiring, the baseband system can transmit messages on a


[^16]
network up to 4 km long. Omninet allows interfacing through a proprietary transporter circuit that conforms to the first four layers of the ISO OSI reference model (Fig 3). The transporter is based on a 6801 microcomputer and consists of just nine integrated circuits (ICS), only two of which perform the transceiver function. Its direct memory access hardware adapts to nearly any processor with a minimum number of extra parts. For example, interfacing the Apple II personal computer to Omninet through the transporter requires just five ICS plus the basic transporter.

A disadvantage of the CSMA/CA approach is that, should one or more packets on the network collide, the transmitting nodes will continue to send their messages, unaware of any collisions, and thus waste valuable data and time.

Token passing solves the CSMA/CD and CSMA/CA nondeterministic and message length problems. In token passing, a message in the form of a token is sent from one network node to another, in one direction, where each node examines it. Each node has a specific time during which it can remove the token and strip or add a message to it. At this time, all other network nodes can only listen to the network. This process continues until the original sending node receives the token from the last network node and acknowledges that the intended recipient node got the message.

Token passing thus guarantees access to each network node within a prescribed period of time, hence its highly deterministic nature, a critical quality for certain applications such as process control and other realtime tasks.

Some experts contend that token passing is more complex to implement in hardware and is thus potentially more costly, a point on which the jury is still out. Certainly Western Digital Corp (Newport Beach, Calif) has shown that building interface chips with token passing in mind is no more expensive to do than making CSMA/CD interface devices.

Furthermore, in a ring topology network, the token is passed along from one node to another, in one direction, and any break in the ring causes the node to lose accessing privileges. Being a synchronous scheme (CSMA/CD is an asynchronous scheme since it is a random one) makes token passing more vulnerable to
errors. For example, an access control message could be destroyed or even mistaken, requiring a node to make up another message or delete the wrong one, a difficult task to accomplish in a decentralized environment.
ibm (Research Triangle Park, NC) has developed a token passing ring network (Fig 4) in which the token may be recovered in the event of a node or ring failure. In IBM's design, the ring network includes two or more concentrators from which lobes of one or more stations radiate. The concentrators contain active subsystems that can locate a failure in a node by trial and error. Once a failure is located, the subsystems set up a bypass around the failed node or use a reverse channel parallel to the network's main ring to bypass the failed node. Proteon Associates (Waltham, Mass) uses relays to


Fig 4 This ring topology implementation from IBM for a token passing laN uses concentrators to simplify node interfacing. It is particularly effective for networks in which groups of nodes are geographically close to one another.

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## Although CSMA/CD and token passing are similar, each is more suitable for certain applications.

sense loss of signal and to bypass failed nodes in its pronet token passing network. One feature of the pronet system is that it uses coaxial cable twisted pair and optical fibers as the transmission medium.

Both the CSMA/CD and token passing accessing schemes can be used on baseband as well as on broadband LANs. For example, CSMA/CD is used on such broadband networks as GEnet from General Electric Co's subsidiary Intersil Systems Inc (Sunnyvale, Calif), Local/nets 20 and 40 from Sytek Inc (Sunnyvale, Calif), and Wangnet from Wang Laboratories Inc (Lowell, Mass).

A host of baseband local area networks are using token passing accessing as well (see Table 2). Two of the most recent are the Personal Local Area Network (PLAN) 4000 from Nestar Systems Inc (Palo Alto, Calif) and Local Interactive Network Communications (LINC) from Vector Graphic Inc (Thousand Oaks, Calif).

The plan 4000 system from Nestar is an interesting one. Employing a freeform and arbitrary topology (such as a bus, tree, star), PLAN integrates elements of three different LAN technologies: the ARC from Datapoint Corp, the Ethernet from Xerox Corp (Dallas, Tex), and Nestar's own Cluster/One Model A. The first provides the PLAN 4000's token passing network, the second adds the internetworking software, and the last one supplies software for the PLAN 4000 's design for personal computer interfacing. The PLAN 4000 has plug-in interface cards that allow the networking of IBM's personal computers, as well as Apple III personal computers, into a multi-user environment. The PLAN 4000 network is designed to support about 10 times as much data traffic as most low cost personal computer networks.

Twisted pair wiring is all that is needed for the LINC network from Vector Graphic. The low cost network connects up to 16 Vector 4 single-user microcomputers
into a flexible and expandable multi-user system. A LAN makes use of the integrated disk drives in each of the Vector 4 microcomputers to eliminate the need for expensive file servers and multiplexers. Interfacing any of the Vector 4 microcomputers is accomplished by inserting a SABER-Net controller board into the microcomputer's modified S-100 slots, and then attaching the Vector 4 microcomputer to LINC via a modular connector.

One of the first (the first deliverable network, according to its manufacturer) broadband LaNs using token passing accessing is Token/Net from Concord Data Systems (Waltham, Mass). The bus topology system is said to be totally compatible with upcoming IEEE 802 LAN standards and is designed for realtime factory automation and similar applications. The network transmits data at 5 M bps and can interconnect 2 more nodes up to a maximum distance of approximately 10 miles.

## A closer look

Though CSMA/CD and token passing accessing are similar in that they both are distributed control techniques, there are some important differences between the two, differences that render one or the other less suitable for certain applications. For example, to ensure that every CSMA/CD packet is detected when it collides with another, the packet is restricted to some minimum size, increasing its propagation time through the network and causing some delays. These delays become more noticeable in very lengthy lans. Token passing, on the other hand, is insensitive to network medium length and data transmission rate.

The two packets for CSMA/CD and token passing are similar at the physical and data link layers (the first two layers of the 7 -layer ISO OSI reference model). However, an access control field in the token passing packet is matched by a filler field in the CSMA/CD packet (Fig 5). The filler field is needed to ensure a CSMA/CD packet long enough to cause collision detection.

Low cost interface hardware and software products for tapping onto the Ethernet LAN are making the network more and more the de facto industry standard it

(a)

| PREAMBLE | ACCESS <br> CONTROL | DESTINATION <br> ADDRESS | SOURCE <br> ADDRESS | LINK <br> CONTROL | INFORMATION | FRAME <br> CHECK <br> SEQUENCE | POSTAMBLE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PHYICAL <br> LAYER |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Fig 5 Packet frames for the two most popular accessing techniques for LANsCSMA/CD (a) and token passing (b)are similar at the first two layers of the ISO OSI reference model, but differ at the access layer.


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The genuine alternative
has tended to be all along. One need only have been present at last year's National Computer Conference where Ethernet's capabilities were demonstrated to understand why this is so. There, about 10 major companies linked their computers together over a single $1500^{\prime}$ Ethernet cable to demonstrate electronic mail, word processing, and so on. Several manufacturers had controllers and transceivers on the Ethernet, and 3Com Corp provided the software for the top five layers of the ISO OSI reference model. The Unet network software runs on the UNIX operating system and its derivatives.

3Com is one of several interface communications component and subsystem suppliers for Ethernet and other LaNs. Other prominent companies include Interlan Inc, Bridge Communications Inc, Associated Computer Consultants (Soquel, Calif), and Perex Inc (San Jose, Calif).

Interlan recently introduced the NT10 transceiver, a $\$ 290$ product that allows immediate tapping onto Ethernet without interrupting the network's operations. The product is physically attached to the Ethernet cable by a tap mechanism that allows nonintrusive connections. The mechanism has two sets of probes that extend through the coaxial cable's insulation. One probe makes contact with the cable's center conductor and the other with its shield. A drill fixture and bit, provided by Interlan, allow two precisely located holes to be made into the cable. Triple protection watchdog circuitry in the NT10 isolates the product from Ethernet in the event of an NT10 malfunction.

## The chips are coming

One of the most important trends in LaNs is the integration of interface functions into silicon, allowing truly low cost networking. Ethernet's connection cost, for example, has dropped from about $\$ 5000$ per connection to about $\$ 2000$ for small-quantity orders, and under $\$ 1000$ for larger orders. And that is not the end of it. Experts claim that the price per Ethernet connection will drop by another factor of 2 this year, dropping down to about $\$ 500$, a trend they expect to continue as greater VLSI implementations are achieved.

This dropping connection cost trend is important in view of the fact that many LANs, including Ethernet, are designed to interconnect personal computers. In an era when the average price for desktop 16 -bit personal computers ranges from $\$ 3000$ to $\$ 6000$ (for useful configurations), it would be prohibitively costly if the average direct connection cost for networking were to constitute a third or more of the price of the personal computer it is to serve.

Over one-half dozen semiconductor IC manufacturers have either already delivered or are readying samples of large scale integration chips that will reduce interconnection costs for all types of LaNs. The basic system chip that makers are trying to integrate into silicon includes the medium tap (also referred to as the transceiver), the interface between the tap and computer or peripheral (driver), and the computer's controller-a task that is complex enough to warrant the use of two or more silicon chips. In the meantime, some companies are pursuing board level solutions as an interim measure.

Seeq Technology Inc (Milpitas, Calif) is delivering samples of a single-chip interface device for Ethernet in its model 8001. Seeq and 3Com Corp codeveloped the 8001 with help from Silicon Compilers Inc (San Francisco, Calif). The N -channel metal oxide semiconductor (NMOS) IC is totally compatible with the second layer of the 7 -layer ISO OSI reference model. It contains the basic Ethernet interface control functions, including collision handling (retransmission), address generation, cyclic redundancy code generation and checking, and data serialization and deserialization. This is supplied on a chip $225 \times 225$ mils, through the use of 3-micron design rules. The 40 -pin plastic dual inline package operates from a single 5 -V supply and dissipates 1 W . It is being priced at $\$ 135$ in 100 -unit quantities.

This year, designers at Seeq Technology are readying an even smaller chip at $160 \times 160$ mils using 2-micron design rules. Incidentally, the Seeq 8001 chip differs from other interface IC designs in that it will totally interface to anyone's microprocessor (other designs are dedicated to specific microprocessors).

## An important influence on LANs is the integration of interface functions into silicon.

Yet another joint Ethernet interface development is the teaming up of Ungermann-Bass Inc and Fujitsu's U.S. subsidiary to develop a 2 -chip set from gate arrays, to be made available early 1983. One is the bipolar LAN-1 and the other complementary MOS LAN-2. The LAN-1 meets all specifications for layer 1, and the LAN-2 all specifications for layer 2 , of the 7 -layer ISO OSI reference model. The LAN-1 is designed to operate from 5 V and dissipate 750 mW , while the LAN-2 will operate from 5 V and dissipate 100 mW . The latter version will be placed in a 64 -pin grid array package. The LAN-2 is intended to mate with nearly any microprocessor bus structure.

Intel Corp, a member of the Ethernet triumverate that also includes Xerox and Digital Equipment Corp, has been busy developing a 2 -chip Ethernet interface set that it will also prepare for early 1983 sampling. The 2-chip set will offer all the basic Ethernet interface functions, including data encoding/decoding, line control, serialization, line driving, as well as system diagnostics.

In the meantime, Digital Equipment Corp, the second member of the Ethernet triumverate, is also busy with a joint 3-chip set for Ethernet interfacing that Digital Equipment has designed. The firm has teamed up with Advanced Micro Devices Inc (Sunnyvale, Calif) and Mostek Corp (Carrollton, Tex), in an effort that is expected to yield chips by late this year or early next year. Mostek will produce a single-chip NMOS local area network controller for Ethernet (LANCE) device (MK7990) that will act as the Ethernet controller, while AMD will produce two bipolar chips, one (Am87991) a serial interface adapter, and the other (Am7990) the Ethernet transceiver. The LANCE chip set has an onboard direct memory access channel and flexible buffer management.

Xerox itself has in design a single-chip NMOS Ethernet controller that it discussed at this year's International


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Solid State Circuits Conference (Fig 6). The device implements the first two layers of the 7 -layer ISO OSI reference model. A fully functional prototype of this chip has been demonstrated in Xerox's 8010 processor. An important aspect of the $6.6-\mathrm{x} 4-\mathrm{mm}$ chip is a selfcalibrated delay line that can be tapped at appropriate points to obtain delayed versions of input signals.

Rockwell Corp's Microelectronics Div (Newport Beach, Calif) is also actively developing an Ethernet interface chip. Early this year, the firm will have its R68802 ready. This chip has similar control functions to those used in the LaNCE chip set. National Semicon-


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ductor Corp also plans to make a single-chip Ethernet device available this year. Furthermore, National is planning to make available a token passing chip set.

Already, IBM's Communication Products Div and Texas Instruments Inc (Dallas, Tex) have announced their joint VLSI chip development for token passing LANs. The effort involves TI designing and building mOS chips on printed circuit cards to IBM's specifications, for the latter's token passing LaNs.

Standard Microsystems Corp (Hauppauge, NY) is now making available the COM9026, a single-chip token passing device that the firm built under an agreement with the Datapoint Corp for the latter's ARC LAN. The chip uses ARC's modified token passing protocol and transfers data at 2.5 M bps. The IC supports up to 255 nodes per network segment and reconfigures itself as nodes are added or deleted from the network.

Although it is slower-a top speed of 1.1 M bpsWestern Digital Corp's wD2840 for token passing networks performs a variety of functions. The controller connects 2 to 254 nodes and performs data framing, error checking, destination filtering, fair and adjustable transmission scheduling, network initialization, as well as fault recovery. The chip has two other speeds of 100 k bps and 500 k bps. Speeds higher than the highest 1.1 M -bps speed are also available on special order.

Besides all this activity among semiconductor manufacturers to produce interface CSMA/CD and token passing chips and chip sets, a multitude of other semiconductor manufacturers have already announced that they will produce many of the aforementioned chips as alternate sources. These developments, coupled with the nearly completed IEEE 802 proposed standards (which include CSMA/CD and token passing accessing as the two key accessing schemes), mean that the day when computer and peripheral equipment users can tie into local networks inexpensively is not too far off.

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# SINGLE-CHIP MODEM SLASHES SPACE REQUIREMENTS 

Among advancements in LSI modem chips is a single-chip frequency shift keying modem that provides full communication functions at 300 bps .

by Kerry A. Hanson

Data communications via the telephone is becoming more than a convenient option for many small computer users. In this era of distributed computing and processing power, data communications is essential. With the recent availability of large scale integration modems, designers can now incorporate data communications components into the smallest and most inexpensive computer hardware.

Today, incorporating one large scale integration (LSI) chip into a small computer system yields all the necessary modulation, demodulation, and filtering for implementing 0 to 300 bps , full-duplex data communications. Further, by using frequency shift keying (FSK) modulation, compatibility with the Bell 103 series data sets is possible.

A typical modem chip's functions exemplify the interface requirements between digital computers and analog telephones. For example, the block diagram of Texas Instruments' TMS99532 FSK modem chip (Fig 1) reveals

[^17]clock generation circuits, modulation circuits, demodulation circuits, and filter circuits. The clock generation circuits include a crystal oscillator that runs at 4.032 MHz , a pseudorandom shift register, and frequency dividers that generate the sampling frequencies used by the analog sections of the chip. There are three principal sampling frequencies: the antialias filters use 103 kHz ; the rest of the analog circuits use
 25.8 kHz ; and an $800-\mathrm{Hz}$ clock is used for update in the automatic gain control (AGC) circuit. These frequencies were specifically chosen to minimize the intermodulation products between the FSK signals and the sample clocks. An oscillator output at the master clock frequency is also available, providing a clock for other chips.

## Using the modem intelligently

To best understand how a system designer implements an intelligent modem into general purpose data terminal equipment (DTE), one must look at the functional elements of such an integrated, modem based system. Integrated modem functions can be divided into several areas. These encompass digital functions, analog functions, and line interface operations. Digital functions include synchronous/asynchronous conversion, encoding, and overall modem control. Analog functions

cover transmit modulation, receive demodulation, filtering, and carrier detection. Line interface circuits include the hybrid transformer, the data access arrangement (DAA), and the acoustic coupler.
These functional blocks represent the entire modem system and are independent of the integration level. The control circuit provides overall modem control and DTE interface functions for the modem. Mode control, low resolution timing, and DTE interface support are the three specific functions performed. The controller is most active during the initiation sequence and the terminating sequence, and also during intermediate special functions such as enabling remote loopback. The mode control checks for various inband carriers, sets or examines control signals to the DTE, and sets proper intervals in appropriate sequence.

Control functions can be implemented with a standard microcomputer that meets the following criteria

- 1 k to 2 k bytes of read only memory, depending on modem complexity
- 64 bytes of random access memory
- An interval timer with millisecond resolution
- Interrupt capability
- 5 to 15 bit-addressable output lines, depending on modem complexity
- 2 to 5 bit-addressable input lines
- Enough additional interface lines to provide the desired DTE interface

The clock circuits supply the master timing and frequency information for the modem. These circuits include an oscillator, sample clocks, and an FSK carrier clock. In the TMS99532 modem chip, the high frequency sample clocks are signals that drive all sampled data switching elements. Frequencies are dependent upon the operational mode. An FSK carrier frequency clock furnishes the four carrier frequencies needed by a Bell 103 J FSK modem. This circuit also provides the answer tone needed for the International Consultative Committee for Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) v. 25 specification.

Texas Instruments' FSK modem chip incorporates a clock oscillator using an external crystal to provide system timing information. This chip can also drive the DAA in all configurations. It has a separate analog signal input, EXI, which is summed with the output of the FSK transmitter. The result is filtered through a voice-band low pass filter before being sent out to the DAA. This allows convenient switching between the external tone mode and the FSK mode and results in simpler mode control.

## Designing the chip

For the FSK circuit to transmit Bell 103J compatible FSK data over the phone line, it must perform carrier generation, modulation, and output filtering. Frequency shift keying is a method of modulating a carrier frequency when two states of binary data are assigned to two different frequencies. In the Bell 103J modem, there are two pairs of each assignment. A logic 1 (mark) is assigned 1270 Hz and a logic 0 (space) is assigned 1070 Hz in the originate mode. Frequencies in the answer mode are almost twice these values-a mark is 2225 Hz ; a space is 2025 Hz . These frequencies can be used for any data rate from 0 to 300 bps .
To be totally asynchronous, data must be phase and amplitude continuous. In the energy spectrum of the transmitted signal, there must be essentially no energy outside the voice band or in the received data band. This requires band shaping in the modulator as well as a voice-band transmit, low pass filter. The FSK transmitter also generates the answer tone, 2100 Hz , which is required in v. 25 applications during the call initiation procedure. In addition, this tone is used to disable the echo suppressors.
On the receiver end, the FSK circuit accepts an FSK modulated carrier from the telephone line, demodulates it, and sends the data to the DTE. The circuit consists of an input filter, a demodulator, and a carrier detect circuit.
A voice-band low pass filter, the input filter acts as an antialiasing filter and prevents high frequency signals

## Single-chip modem call establishment sequence

 The following steps represent the procedure necessary to initiate communications in the TMS99532 modem:1. Call is placed to the remote modem
2. Ringing occurs at the answering end
3. Answering modem is enabled to answer the call by asserting DTR
4. Answering modem goes off hook at completion of ringing
5. Answering modem waits 2 s for the billing delay (tBD), specified in part 68 of the FCC's regulations
6. Answering modem turns on transmitter to send an answering mode mark ( 2225 Hz )
7. Mark ( 2225 Hz ) answer tone is received by the originating modem, and the originating modem is placed in the data mode
8. Originating modem activates its carrier detect (DCD) signal (by a logic 0 ) after its carrier detect delay (tDCD)
9. Originating modem unsquelches its transmitter, sends an origination mode mark $(1270 \mathrm{~Hz})$, and starts a 200 - to $350-\mathrm{ms}$ clear to send delay (tcTS)
10. Answering modem receives originate mode mark signal ( 1270 Hz )
11. Answering modem activates its carrier detect ( $D C D$ ) signal (by logic 0 ) after its carrier detect delay (tDCD)
12. Answering modem activates its clear to send signal (by logic 1). Answering modem can now start data communications
13. Clear to send delay of the originating modem expires. Originating modem can now start data communications
from entering the demodulator. The signal is then bandpass filtered. Once the demodulator accepts this frequency, it reduces the signal to the original mark/space data that were transmitted. The carrier detect circuit looks for inband energy. When it finds a valid carrier for a predetermined period of time, it indicates this by setting the digital carrier detect (DCD) signal high. The FSK carrier signal will not turn on unless it receives a mark carrier signal.
A circuit that connects between the data communications equipment (DCE) and the telephone network, the DAA's two principal purposes are network control and electrical isolation. A $600-\Omega$ transformer is normally used for this function. This DAA must be approved under part 68 of the FCC regulations. Part of the approval requirement is to limit the modem's transmitted signal power. If the DAA is FCC approved apart from the modem, it must have either a transmit clamp to shut off the transmitted signal in the event it becomes too strong, or an AGC function in the transmit signal path. DAA signaling functions include indicating an offhook condition, providing pulse dialing, and showing the presence of a ring signal.

An extra function that must be provided by the DAA circuit is a 2 -W/4-W hybrid transformer. This transformer separates the transmitted and received signals on
tip and ring lines and provides a return path for each of them. The hybrid allows the modem full-duplex capability in a 2 -wire configuration.

Electrically, the simplest way to connect to the communications network is with an acoustic coupler. Since there is no electrical path, signals are transmitted acoustically to a telephone handset. In this situation, the modem provides the transmit and receive signal lines separately-the termination points are a speaker and microphone. The hybrid transformer inside the telephone yields 4 -wire to 2 -wire conversion.

## Getting connected for communication

Before any data can be transmitted or received, a connection between two modems must be established. A call can be originated either manually or automatically (by an automatic calling unit). When the originating modem detects an answer, the modem is placed in the data mode. Similarly, a call can be answered either manually or automatically and the modem placed in the data mode at the appropriate time. The TMS99532 modem's call establishment sequence is described in the Panel, "Single-chip modem call establishment sequence."

During the call establishment sequence, logic must control the TMS99532 modem's squelch transmission (SQT) and the answer/originate (A/O) pins to ensure that the correct mode is selected and the billing delay requirement satisfied. Depending on a particular application's requirements, there are several call termination procedures. Modem manufacturers offer the user these options by means of jumper wires or switch settings.

The TMS99532 modem will terminate a connection (go on hook) when a received carrier energy loss is detected. This sequence begins when the received signal level goes below the carrier detect turn-off level. If the carrier is off longer than the turn-off time delay, the modem immediately clamps the received (RCVD) signal to a mark and deactivates the DCD pin (by a logic 1) to show the carrier loss. When this happens, the SQT pin should be activated (by a logic 1) to turn off the transmit carrier. The modem is then disconnected from the network.
For the modem to remain connected to the telephone line, the data terminal ready (DTR) signal must be activated. By placing the modem on hook, DTR will not be activated and the telephone connection will be terminated. This disconnection procedure is the only way the DTE can terminate a call.

Receive, transmit, and abort are the three long-space disconnect options. In the receive disconnect sequence, the received data must be monitored for the presence of a spacing condition (logic 0 ) that lasts at least 1.7 s . After 1.7 s of continuous spacing, the modem goes off hook. The TMS99532 modem requires external logic to monitor RCVD for 1.7 s of space before disconnection.
The transmit disconnect sequence is similar to the data terminal not ready sequence. When DTR is not activated, the modem transmits a spacing condition (logic 0 ) for 2 to 4 s before going to the on-hook condition. Transmitted data going to the TMS99532's XMTD pin must be controlled by logic to implement this termination procedure.

Usually not an option, the abort disconnect sequence is used when the data set ready (DSR) signal is activated.


Fig 2 Acoustically coupled pocket computer application for a single-chip FSK modem. One dual op amp package in conjunction with the modem chip results in an extremely compact modem package requiring no external control.

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If a valid carrier is not received in 10 to 18 s , the modem goes to the on-hook condition. This sequence should be implemented on automatic answer modems in case the modem is called by mistake (ie, the modem will not stay connected to the telephone line in anticipation of a received carrier).

## Cost-effectiveness across the gamut

The TMS99532 modem chip was designed to be costeffective over the complete range of low speed modem designs-from the very simple to the very complex. To show how the chip can be used, consider three applications: a simple acoustically coupled application for a pocket calculator or computer; a direct connect application for instrumentation diagnostics; and a complete automatic originate and answer modem to meet general purpose data communications requirements.

Pocket calculators and computers are becoming more intelligent, especially with the recent availability of high level languages for calculators. With such a modem based machine, a user can call up a central data base of stored software packages and downline load a particular program. The calculator or computer is then customized to a particular requirement. A user can also use the modem for general data access.

In this type of application, a modem must meet several conflicting requirements to be cost-effective. It must be small enough to carry in a briefcase with the calculator or computer; it must use little power to maintain long battery life; and, obviously, it must be very inexpensive. Finally, as acoustic coupling to a telephone is often a chancy enterprise due to distortion and ambient noise, the modem must perform well.

To meet these requirements, the TMS99532 modem (Fig 2) uses only two ICS (the TMS99532 and a dual op amp package). The modem's passive elements include one crystal, seven resistors, five capacitors, and one potentiometer (to set the transmit level). In this case, the modem is inside the DTE (the pocket calculator or computer); no external control signals are necessary.
The second application for an LSI modem package allows the modem to be electrically connected to the telephone network. As the cost of electronic instrumentation increases, downtime becomes an issue. One way to reduce field service downtime is to include a low cost modem in remote equipment, strictly for diagnostic and update purposes.

A circuit that can accomplish this places a manual, originate-only modem directly in the telephone network through a protective interface (Fig 3). If the user


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Fig 4 Automatic answer/originate modem circuit using a single-chip FSK modem. Modem chip, combined with auto dialer, interface, and control circuitry provides a full feature, 300-bps modem in a fraction of the space required by previous modem schemes. An external computer is required for control.
suspects equipment malfunction, he simply plugs the RJ11 jack into the telephone network connection. After dialing a service number and getting an answer tone, the user switches the instrument to data mode. Now the instrument can communicate directly with a central computer and run the appropriate remote diagnostics. When these are completed, the user switches back to the


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voice mode and disconnects the instrument. This application requires only three signals: transmit data, receive data, and carrier detect.

An example of a general purpose data communications application is an automatic answer/originate modem that includes local intelligence (Fig 4). In this application, the TMS99532 modem is used with a TMS99531 dialer chip, a hybrid circuit, a dial-tone detect; or a direct-connect protective interface (also called a DAA) and a general purpose microcomputer for control functions. The modem interface can be RS-232-C compatible, a data bus, or a general purpose interface bus.

The protective circuit includes a ring indicator signal for automatic answering and an off-hook control signal to connect to the switched network. The dial-tone detection circuit is simply a band-limited energy detector. With a slight addition, the user can also have busy tone detection. Because the microprocessor is in control, this entire function can be made user-transparent.

As the foregoing application examples have shown, the era of the cost-effective modem is at hand. Emphasis on portability and compactness in today's small computers also abets the single-chip modem. As lightweight, compact, powerful, and more aesthetically styled micros are cloned, the inclusion of modems will be commonplace. A single-chip LSI modem operating in an FSK mode can be very advantageous for tomorrow's portable computer users. From virtually anywhere, they will be able to reach out and connect with someone.

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# IN PRAISE OF RING ARCHITECTURE FOR LOCAL AREA NETWORKS 

## Incorporating the concept of wire centers and the wonders of fiber optics into a ring configured lan eliminates the traditional bugaboos associated with circular network schemes.

## by Howard C. Salwen

Ring networks boast several advantages over bus architectured networks. They are less complex and more flexible, and provide higher throughputs with guaranteed maximum access times.

It was once assumed that the carrier sense multiple access/collision detection (CSMA/CD) bus approach could provide higher reliability and would thus be adopted by the IEEE 802 committee. But the committee's initial ballots indicated that no single approach could be supported. The committee is now laboring to produce a standard document including separate sections for three techniques: token rings, token buses, and CSMA/CD buses. In the opinion of many designers, however, token rings are top achievers where reliability, maintainability, and availability are concerned.
Fig 1 illustrates three network topologies. Where many terminals desire access to a dominant central node, the star configuration (a) is applicable. A timesharing system is a good example of a star network. Obviously, such a system totally fails when the central

[^18]
node fails. The ring (b) and bus (c) network configurations are examples of decentralized networks that avoid the hazards of central node failures. However, they require more complex control and access strategies. ${ }^{1}$

## Trapping elusive reliability

For reliability's sake, each node in a ring network must be robust, since it must actively repeat each message. Bus topology does not require the message to be regenerated by each node. A node can fail without disrupting the bus if the failure presents high impedance to the bus. Of course, short circuits anywhere on the bus, or in the transceiver attached to the bus, cause the entire bus network to fail.

This reliability problem is often considered the major fault of ring topology. The argument against the basic ring design is that an open circuit anywhere in the ring, or failure of any repeater in the ring, disrupts service. While this is true of the basic ring design shown in Fig 1(b), most of the ring schemes in vogue are not basic


Fig 1 Three popular lan configurations. Star scheme (a) is totally dependent upon the integrity of its central node. Ring (b) and bus (c) schemes do not suffer from this weakness in reliability.
rings. Modern ring configurations use either redundant paths or fail-safe bypassing, thus avoiding first-level failure problems.

In a discussion of ring reliability, J. R. Pierce suggests that "simple circuits" can be used to bypass failed nodes. ${ }^{2}$ The wire center approach is one such circuit. ${ }^{3}$

A basic star shaped ring shown in Fig 2 is actually implemented in a wire center at the hub of a star configured network. The wire center is passive and provides a way for users to break into the ring. Attachment to the


Fig 2 Star shaped ring lan featuring a wire center. This configuration forgives failures in network nodes and its relay connections facilitate fault isolation. Many such rings can be connected by optical fiber data links.
ring is usually accomplished through a relay. Energization of the relay is accomplished by the user hardware through cable from the user to the wire center. The wire center itself does not have any intrinsic power requirement. When the user host is operating properly and desires to join the ring, it energizes its associated relay at the wire center. If the cable between the host and the wire center is broken, or if the host encounters software problems or power supply failure, the relay returns to its normal de-energized state, bypassing the user. In this way, most of the first-order failure mechanisms cause the automatic bypass of a misbehaving node.

Note that both baseband and broadband bus systems are vulnerable to a variety of single-point failures. For example, a short circuit anywhere in a bus system will disrupt the bus. Similarly, a transceiver that fails to stop transmitting jams the bus. Experience with both types of systems has shown that a duality exists between ring and bus systems. For instance, open circuits are detrimental to rings, while short circuits disrupt buses. Further, repeaters that fail to transmit disrupt rings, while transceivers that fail to stop transmitting disrupt buses.
The wire center concept applied to the ring topology results in a system with a graceful failure mode. That is, defective nodes are automatically bypassed without destroying the entire system. Current baseband and broadband bus topology systems are not designed with such devices. Consider, for example, the effect of a large mismatch (short or open circuit) on a bus system employing the CSMA/CD approach. In such systems, the user listens before transmitting. If the line is not busy, the user transmits a packet of data. The user continues to listen on the chance that someone else has started a transmission at the same time. Each of the users detects the collision of their packets in the ether and backs off for a short time.
Unfortunately, a user's signal that is reflected off mismatches can make the user think that a collision has occurred although it has not. The result is an aborted transmission. Digital Equipment Corp's Ethernet system includes the equivalent of a built-in time domain reflectometer at each node. This device facilitates the detection and location of short and open circuits on the

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bus network. None of the available bus systems addresses this problem. On the other hand, the star shaped ring facilitates graceful failure and built-in maintainability by means of very simple circuitry.

## Synchronous operation and fiber optics

Effective communication is another measure of the system's reliability. Most of the bus systems discussed so far operate in the asynchronous burst mode. Ring topology, on the other hand, with its circulating control signal, lends itself to fully synchronous operation. Synchronous operation in the local network environment is not really necessary at data rates below 1 M bps. At 10 M bps and above, however, synchronous operation is required for reliable performance. This point is clearly made by the performance curves of Fig 3. These curves illustrate the effect of synchronization error on error performance probability in a Manchester encoded system. Manchester encoding uses 2 transmitted bits/data bit transmitted; ie, a mark could be represented by a mark-space pattern on the communication channel and a space could be represented by a space-mark pattern. Manchester encoding is used in many communication systems such as Ethernet and Proteon's pronet and in other applications such as disk recording systems where ac coupling is required.


Fig 3 Effect of bit synchronization error on network performance. With jitter error of $5 \%$ (dashed line), unacceptable error rates are achieved even when $\mathrm{s} / \mathrm{N}$ ratios are high.

In Fig 3, the probability of bit error as a function of signal to noise ( $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ) ratio is plotted for two cases: the lower solid curve represents the ideal, and the upper dashed curve shows the effect of bit synchronization error. Note, for example, that a $5 \%$ root mean square (rms) bit synch jitter error (dashed curve) results in an
error probability of $10^{-3}$ when the $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio is 12 dB . In the absence of such synchronization error, 12 dB would provide extremely high performance.

If the results shown in Fig 3 are extended to higher $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ density ratios, marginally acceptable error rate performance can be achieved at $5 \%$ bit jitter when $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratios exceed 50 or 60 dB . When the system is running at 10 M bps, the estimate of bit synchronization must be less than 5 ns rms to achieve $5 \%$ bit synch jitter error. Such performance levels are difficult to achieve in the burst mode. Synchronous, phase locked systems easily achieve this performance level because more averaging time is used.

Severity of the phase jitter problem is not obvious from the Ethernet Phase I specification. DEC has a synchronization quality circuit built into their Ethernet system that automatically rejects messages when jitter levels threaten reliability. It is important to note that in a burst mode bus system, the synchronization error can be caused by noise, but it can also result from multipathtype reflections caused by impedance mismatches throughout the network.

Very soon, large local networks will probably use broadband techniques that employ fiber optic transmission technology. Current fiber optic technology allows the implementation of long transmission links with fewer repeaters when compared to similar links using coaxial very high frequency (vhf) technology. This means that fiber optic links will be more reliable. One important advantage of the ring design approach is its adaptability to existing fiber optic technology.

Specifically, all of the communication links in a ring network comprise a transmitter, a communication link, and a single receiver. This configuration is easily implemented with available fiber optic components. (See Computer Design, Jan 1983, p 75, "Effectively Link Microcomputers with Fiber Optics.') The bus approach requires an n-way coupler, which limits the number of users to around 10 per system if reasonable separations are to be achieved. The star shaped ring requires more fiber optic transmitter and receiver modules. But again, each link is an elementary simplex link.

## Maintaining reliability a must

Any reliable system must be decentralized. That is, operation of the system should not depend upon the performance or availability of unique system elements such as master clocks or token management hardware. Token ring systems with fully decentralized clock distribution plus token management and error recovery can, and are, being designed. The techniques employed are substantially simpler than those required by a token bus system.

As mentioned, the wire center concept allows the system to fail gracefully. This ability reduces the maintenance burden, since not all failures require an immediate reaction. The wire center scheme discussed provides an even more useful function in this respect-it enables rapid fault isolation. The wire centers play the same role in the communication network as a circuit breaker panel plays in a power distribution network. If a defective node tries to attach itself to the ring, the wire center causes that node to be bypassed without disrupting the whole ring. Wire centers also provide

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Fig 4 Performance comparison of CSMA/CD system versus token ring system. Given similar network parameters, token ring system offers higher performance and faster access.
centralized locations where signals can be monitored, and a manual means for dropping or adding nodes to the ring. Thus, the wire centers substantially reduce the mean time to repair the network.

Rapid fault isolation and short mean time to repair improve the network's availability. The token approach further enhances availability by establishing a guaranteed maximum waiting time before access is granted. Fig 4 shows the normalized mean time to transmit as a
system loading function for CSMA/CD systems versus token passing ring networks. The CSMA/CD system depicted is assumed to be 2 km in length; the token ring is assumed to be 2 km in circumference. Both systems have 50 active nodes and an assumed 1000-bit average message length. Under these conditions, the maximum achievable throughput on the CSMA/CD system is about 6 M bps , achieved with infinite waiting times. Throughput on the token ring system asymptotically approaches a value just below 10 M bps. Typical token ring protocols impose a maximum packet size. Given a 50 -node network and a 1000-byte maximum packet size, the maximum time before access to the system is approximately 40 ms .

The pronET local area network (LAN) illustrates the various design concepts of ring network schemes. Pronet is a token arbitrated, ring local network operating at 10 M bps. Up to 255 users can be supported by each ring. The proneT configuration in Fig 5 is an extension of the star shaped ring concept. In fact, it is a string of stars or a "constellation." Short runs from a wire center to various computers in a computer room can be interconnected with twisted pairs. Long runs from one wire center to another can be implemented with dual fiber optic links. Note that the wire center attachment point for fiber optic links includes a bypassing relay. If the fiber optic link connecting the two wire centers were to fail, the system would automatically partition itself into two star shaped rings. In this case, no interconnecting fiber optic link exists between them.

At each node or host there are two hardware modules: a control board (CTL) and a host specific interface board (HSB). The CTL hardware module performs bitlevel network functions and signal modulation/demodulation required for data transmission through the transmission medium. The HSB module contains a fullduplex direct memory access (DMA) interface to the host. In addition, this board contains two separate

Fig 5 Network configuration of pronet. Wire centers achieve node interconnection within individual stars. Multiple stars can be interconnected for extended network topologies.


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Fig 6 Packet format in pronet. Maximum data field of 2044 bytes can be accommodated with 255 destination and source addresses.


2046-byte (1023-word) packet buffers, plus control and status registers. In short, all of the firmware needed for an automatic communications operation is supplied. This minimizes the host's software burden imposed by the communication network.
The wire centers shown in Fig 5 are passive. Control signals for the node relays are passed through the transmission medium to the wire center by each respective node. Maintenance switches included in each wire center override node relay control. This improves network fault isolation and reliability. Loopback testing is also implemented by the wire center. In this way, a host can check out the entire circuit right up to the attachment point before joining the ring.

Fig 6 illustrates the network's data link format and control characters. An important feature of the data encapsulation format is the absence of a word count field. Each packet can have a variable number of data bytes, since the end of message (EOM) control character serves as a data field boundary. Size of the packet buffer memory is the only restricting factor on the number of data bytes placed on the network. Pronet's HSB allows a maximum data field of 20448 -bit bytes, plus 1 byte each of destination and source address data.

Every node within the ring network is identified by means of its node address. An 8-bit switch on the CTL allows 255 -node address selection, with address 255 reserved as the network-wide broadcast address. An 8 -bit source address follows the destination address in the data encapsulation format. The source address is equal to the node address as set by the 8 -bit switch on the CTL card. Hardware automatically inserts this source address into the second byte of the message data received from the HSB.
Bit stuffing of the network data stream is implemented by inserting a 0 bit after detection of six consecutive 1 s in the outgoing data. Destuffing and control character decoding is accomplished on the CTL by detecting a 0 followed by six 1 s and then examining the 7th bit. A 0 here indicates the data stream contains a stuffed bit; a 1 indicates a control character (flag). If the sequence is a flag, the two bits following the flag are examined to determine whether the character is a beginning of message (ВОМ), ЕОм, or token. Since control characters consist of specific 8 - or 9 -bit patterns, they are rarely generated by accident.
Messages can be placed on the ring only if a valid token has been detected by the node wishing to transmit. At idle, the ring network circulates a token control character around the ring. If a node has a request to send
pending, the CTL will convert the next received token into а вом character by changing its last bit, marking a Bом. Converting the token into a BOM ensures orderly queueing among nodes wishing to place messages on the ring. A token sent at the end of the message will allow nodes that are downstream of the originating node to place messages on the ring.

This data communication technique allows for simple 1 -way communication between nodes. Low error rates are obtained on runs of several thousand feet between nodes at baseband parameters. The biphase modulation technique allows the nodes to be ac coupled. Frequency components below 1 MHz are rejected by filtering at each node so that the network is relatively immune to ambient noise. The communication medium for runs of under $300^{\prime}$ ( 91 m ) can be inexpensive twisted pair cable. Longer runs can be made with dual-axial cable. In addition, the network can be adapted to other transmission media, such as modulated radio frequency (rf) on coaxial cable or fiber optic links. In fact, $4-\mathrm{km}$ links using fiber optics are available. Such links can be employed between wire centers so that networks many kilometers in length are feasible. In addition, token architecture does not limit maximum propagation delay across the network as CSMA/CD does.

## Operational modes provide flexibility

In the network configuration described, four operating modes are available: repeat, copy, originate, and initialize. In addition, there are two possible test configurations: digital loopback and analog loopback. The CTL is usually found in the repeat mode, where the CTL repeats data on the ring. The data received from the adjacent node upstream are passed to the next node downstream.

The CTL automatically switches from the repeat mode to the copy mode if it determines that the message passing through it is intended for its associated host processor. Specifically, the message will be copied if the destination address in the message corresponds to the CTL's address. It will also be copied if the message has the broadcast address. Alternatively, the CTL can be strapped in the match-all configuration, allowing any message to be copied.

When copying or originating, the host's operations are similar in complexity to those required when writing to or reading from a disk. For example, when the host desires to transmit a message to another node, it carries out an originate operation. It begins when the packet to be sent is transferred from the host memory to an output packet buffer on the HSB. Then, upon recognition

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of the token, the CTL changes it to a BOM, transmits the message, and ends it with a token. Once the message circumnavigates the ring, the cTL removes it, leaving the following message or token intact. If the ring network does not have a valid token control character circulating it, the CTL module can create one by initializing the ring in response to an initialize request from the host processor.

The initialize mode is essentially the same as the originate mode, with one important exception: The CTL does not wait until an access control token passes into it before sending the message. In this way, the CTL module forces a message onto the ring. It removes the returning message, leaving only the valid token circulating on the ring.

Since every CTL module can initialize the ring in this fully decentralized network, it is important to avoid simultaneous attempts at initialization by two or more CTLS. Initialization of proNET is assumed to be random due to the random arrival of users. Typically, an originate request to the CTL is accompanied by an initialize request. However, if the CTL monitoring circuitry indicates that a valid token is circulating and flags are being seen at the required rate, the initialize request is blocked. If, at the instant of initialize request, the CTL indicates that the ring is not available, the origination is carried out immediately. Of course, it is still possible for two originators to arrive simultaneously at the network, causing each to think the ring is not available. As a result, each will attempt to initialize the ring, causing

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each CTL to drain the other's message. Each will then report a "message lost" to its associated host through the HSB, and the ring will remain without a token. The next originator who arrives at the ring will initialize it, while the first two are executing software-randomized timeouts.

In the normal mode of operation, the cTL receives data from its adjacent node upstream, and transmits data to the next node downstream. Two test configurations, digital and analog loopback, are also implemented under host control.

Digital loopback can be used to test all portions of the CTL/HSB, except for the modem and cable interconnection. All four modes of operation can be analyzed in digital loopback and all hardware associated with the operation can be tested without actually disturbing the existing network. Analog loopback is a special operation implemented with a wire center. It allows the user to test all CTL circuitry and cables leading to a wire center, without disturbing the existing network.

Fully decentralized, token arbitrated ring networks provide superior reliability, maintainability, and communication availability. For these reasons, they are becoming widely accepted by network users.

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# BIT ORIENTED DATA LINK CONTROLS 

# A bit oriented approach to network control is finding increased acceptance among many national and international standards organizations. The simplicity of the single-frame format is just one reason. 

by Alan J. Weissberger

TThe International Standards Organization's Open Systems Interconnection/Reference Model lays the foundation for data communications architecture. As a result, in an open systems environment, end-user hardware such as terminals, workstations, cluster controllers, and computers communicate via a 7 -layer peer to peer protocol. The data link layer is the second layer in the model. It provides one of the lowest levels of interconnect, provides services to the network layer above, and uses the services of the physical layer below.

As defined by the International Standards Organization (ISO), a data link control (DLC) is simply a set of rules for orderly information interchange between physically connected stations. Further, there can be one or more data link stations per data terminal equipment. Frontend processors, multiplexers, and remote data concentrators often handle several data links and thus contain many data link stations. Among the most popular dLCs are high level data link control (HDLC), advanced data communications control procedure (ADCCP), X. 25 and X. 75 link levels, IBM synchronous data link control (SDLC), DEC digital data communications message protocol (DDCMP), and IBM binary synchronous (bisync) communications.

[^19]

The three categories of dLCs appear in Table 1; Table 2 compares their features. Standards organizations and the U.S. Government have adopted bit oriented procedures as the preferred method of data link control. Similarly, computer manufacturers have adopted bit oriented DLCs for the link layer of their proprietary network architectures. Bit oriented procedures are distinguished from character oriented procedures by the absence of American National Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), extended binary coded decimal interchange (EBCDIC), or other information coded characters for link control. Unlike character oriented DLCs, the attributes of bit oriented DLCs-single-frame format, unrestricted information field length, use of any character code, and only three reserved bit sequences-simplify software design and maintenance.

| Three Categories of DLCs |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Character Control |  | Character Count |  | t Oriented |
| ANSI | $\times 3.28$ | DEC DDCMP | ANSI | X.3.66 (ADCCP) |
| ISO | $1745,2111,2628$ <br> 2629 (Basic mode) | Statistical Multiplexers | ISO | $\begin{aligned} & 3309,4335,6159, \\ & 6256 \text { (HDLC) } \end{aligned}$ |
| ECMA | $\begin{aligned} & 16,24,26,27,28, \\ & 29,37 \end{aligned}$ | Satellite Communications | CCITT | X. 25 LAP, LAPB <br> X. 75 link level |
| IATA | SLC |  | ECMA | $\begin{aligned} & 40,49,60,61,72 \\ & \text { (HDLC) } \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  | Federal Government | Fed Std 1003A FIPS 71 |
| IBM | BISYNC |  | IBM | SDLC |
|  |  |  | Burroughs | BDLC |
|  |  |  | Univac | UDLC |

## Operating across the spectrum

HDLC covers many applications including 2 -way alternate and 2 -way simultaneous data communications. Communications can occur between computers, cluster controllers, concentrators, and buffered terminals, and a wide range of physical data link schemes including point to point, multipoint, switched, and nonswitched. Various HDLC functions are specified in terms of logical DLC stations. A given physical station (computer, multiplexer, cluster controller, or frontend processor) can be composed of one or more logical stations. This is accomplished by HDLC mode setting commands. A physical station may provide simultaneous multiple logical station capability on different links. Typical of this is a multiplexer that serves several links. Alternately, a station may house multiple logical stations such as a cluster controller supporting several terminals over a single data link.

Of the three types of logical stations, only a primary station has link control ability. It transmits command frames to, and receives response frames from, the secondary station on the link. There is one secondary station on a point to point link and one or more on a multipoint link. A primary station maintains separate information transmitting/receiving ability with the primary station. It can be employed on a point to point or multipoint line. A combined station has a balanced link control capable of transmitting both command and response frames to and from another combined station and is therefore restricted to a point to point line. The three types of logical data link control stations, used in different logical link configurations, are shown in Fig 1.

In HDLC there are two basic logical data link configurations: unbalanced and balanced. An unbalanced configuration features one primary station and one or more secondary stations connected to a link (ie, point to point or multipoint, 2-way alternate or 2-way simultaneous, switched or nonswitched). The configuration is unbalanced because the primary station is in control of each secondary station and initiates link level error recovery functions. A balanced configuration consists
of two combined stations connected point to point, 2-way alternate or 2 -way simultaneous, switched or nonswitched. Both combined stations have equal data transfer and link control ability. The balanced configuration is used in X. 25 linked access procedure balanced (LAPB) and X. 75 link level.

Two independent point to point unbalanced logical station configurations can be connected in a symmetric manner and multiplexed on a single physical data link. This configuration may be 2 -way alternate or 2 -way


Fig 1 HDLC logic link configurations. Unbalanced system (a) has primary station and one or more secondary stations. Symmetrical configuration (b) features two unbalanced multiplexed links. Balanced system (c) uses two combined stations.

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TABLE 2
Feature Comparison of DLCs

| Feature | Character Controlled (Bisync) | Character Count (DDCMP) | Bit Oriented (ADCCP/HDLC) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Transmission format | Sync | Async/sync | Sync |
| Transmission mode | Half duplex | Half/full duplex | Half/full duplex |
| Framing: <br> Start end | 2 SYNs Terminating characters | 2 SYNs Character count | Flag <br> Flag |
| Frame formats | Numerous | 1 (3 types) | 1 (3 types) |
| Link control information | Optional header | Required header | 1 or 2 octet control field |
| Station addressing | Contention (point to point) of polling sequence (multipoint) | Address in header | Single or extended address field |
| Error checking | Text messages only | Header and info field separately | All frames between flags |
| Error detection/ generation | VRC/LRC-8 <br> VRC/CRC-16 <br> CRC-16 <br> CRC-12 | CRC-16 | CRC-CCITT V. 41 CRC-32 |
| Requests for retransmission | Stop and wait | Go back $n$ frames | Go back $n$ or Selected Reject |
| Maximum outstanding frames | 1 | 255 | 7 or 127 |
| Flow control | Control characters: write acknowledge, no acknowledge | None: data discarded | RNR frame, window mechanism |
| Character codes | ASCII, EBCDIC, SBT | ASCII for SOH, DLE, ENQ only | Any |
| Information field length | $\begin{aligned} & n \times 6 \text { (SBT) } \\ & n \times 8 \text { (ASCII/ } \\ & \text { EBCDIC) } \end{aligned}$ | $n \times 8$ | Unrestricted |
| Transparency | Transparent mode escape mechanism | Character count | Zero insertion/ deletion |
| Control characters/ bit patterns | Numerous 1 and 2-character sequences | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SYN, SOH } \\ & \text { DLE, ENQ } \end{aligned}$ | Lag, abort, idle |

simultaneous, switched or nonswitched. In this configuration there are two primary to secondary station logical channels with primary stations having responsibility for mode setting. Each of the four stations has an information transmitting line, one information receiving line, or both. This configuration is used in X. 25 link access procedure (LAP).

## Logical states and modes

Communication between any two stations is conducted in one of three logical states: information transfer state (ITS), initialization state, or logically disconnected state. While in the ITS, the secondary/combined station transmits and receives information frames. This state is entered after the logical link is set up in one of three possible modes: normal response mode (NRM), asynchronous response mode (ARM), or asynchronous balanced mode (ABM).

NRM is used in an unbalanced configuration in which the secondary station initiates transmission of frames only as the result of receiving explicit permission to do so from the primary station. Permission is obtained when a frame with the poll bit set is received. After the secondary station receives permission, it initiates a response transmission consisting of one or more frames, while maintaining an active channel state. The last frame of the response transmission is explicitly indicated by the secondary station setting the final bit. Following the indication of the last frame, the secondary station stops transmitting until explicit permission is again received from the primary station.

ARM is used in an unbalanced configuration in which the secondary station initiates transmission without receiving explicit permission from the primary station. Such an asynchronous transmission, containing single or multiple frames, transfers information or indicates


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status changes in the secondary station (eg, the number of the next expected frame, transition from a ready to a busy condition or vice versa, or occurrence of an exception condition). ABM is used in a balanced configuration in which a combined station initiates transmission without receiving permission from the other combined station. Otherwise, it is identical to ARM.
While in the initialization state, communications are under control of a system defined procedure outside the scope of hDLC. The system defined procedure causes the secondary/combined station to be initialized by receiving parameters from the remote primary/combined station. The logically disconnected state (LDS) prevents the secondary/combined station from receiving or transmitting information. Communications observe the constraints of one of two disconnected modes: normal disconnected mode (NDM) or asynchronous disconnected mode (ADM).
NDM is used in an unbalanced configuration in which the secondary station is logically disconnected from the link and not permitted to initiate or receive information. The secondary station can initiate transmission only as the result of receiving explicit permission to do so from the primary station. After receiving permission, the secondary station initiates a single-frame transmission indicating its status. ADM is used in an unbalanced or balanced configuration in which the secondary/combined station is logically disconnected from the link and not permitted to initiate or receive information. A station in ADM initiates transmission without receiving explicit permission from the primary/combined station and transmits a single frame indicating the station status.

## Classes of procedures

There are three classes of HDLC procedures: unbalanced asynchronous response mode (UA), unbalanced normal response mode (UN), and balanced asynchronous response mode (BA). Each class has a basic repertoire of commands and responses, plus functional extensions that can be selected as options. Classes UA and UN can be used on either unbalanced or symmetric configurations, although only UN can be used with a multipoint data link. Class ba is used on a balanced point to point configuration and generally operates with equal or better link efficiency than the UA class (ie, CCITT X. 75 link level and X. 25 LAPB).


Fig 2 HDLC frame formats. Each frame consists of opening flag octets and sequence of additional address and information octets. All frames must be enclosed by flag octets.

## All stations use the same frame format...independent of mode, class of procedure, and link configuration.

Because of the equal link control nature of combined stations, ba makes for more uniform equipment design. A station conforms to a given class of procedures if the receiving station can decode and respond to the control field in the received command/response: a primary station receives all responses in the class of procedures, a secondary station receives all commands, and a combined station receives both.
In HDLC operations all stations use the same basic frame format (see Fig 2). This format is independent of their mode, class of procedure, and link configuration. Each frame contains an opening flag, address field, control field, frame check sequence (FCS) field, a closing flag, and depending upon the frame type, an information field. Information frames and some unnumbered frames contain an information field; supervisory frames do not.
The flag is a fixed 8 -bit pattern, also known as an octet. One flag can be shared between contiguous frames such that the ending flag and opening flag are the same. Address fields can be one or more octets and can be recursively extended, by prior agreement, to accommodate addressing of any number of stations. A 1 in the least significant bit (LSB) of an extended address octet terminates the address field; a 0 extends it. The control field consists of one or two octets depending on whether basic or extended mode is specified. Depending on the frame type, the information consists of either user data or specially formatted data. An FCS field is the result of a 16 -bit CRC that is generated by the transmitting station and checked at the receiving station, using the CCITT V. 41 polynomial: $\mathrm{X}^{16}+\mathrm{X}^{12}+\mathrm{X}^{5}+1$. A 32 -bit CRC is being included in the next version of ISO 3309 and is already included in FED-STD-1003A and FIPS 71-1. Address and control fields transmit and receive with the LSB first. FCS transmits and receives with the highest order polynomial coefficient first. The order of bit transmission for the information field is application dependent.
Besides the flag there are two reserved bit patterns: abort $=01111111$ and idle $=111111111111111$. An abort terminates a frame prematurely. It is sent when the transmitting station has a problem, such as an underrun, or is required to take recovery action based on a frame received during transmission. Flags following an abort keep the link active so transmission can continue. The idle pattern identifies an inactive or idle link state. When a half-duplex station detects the idle pattern, it can reverse the direction of transmission (turn the line around) and then transmit. The idle may be an indication of physical level failure if flags are expected in the quiescent state when the transmitter has nothing to send.
A link is in an active link state when a primary station, secondary station, or combined station is actively transmitting a frame, an abort sequence, or interframe time fill. When the link is in the active state, the transmitting station may continue transmission at its discretion. Interframe time fill is accomplished by

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Fig 3 HDLC address field format. Basic address field (a) is one octet in length. Extended address field (b) is established by prior agreement of dLC stations. Zero in lSB position extends address field; 1 terminates it.
transmitting continuous flags between frames. An invalid frame is one that is not properly bound by two flags (thus, an aborted frame is an invalid frame) or one that is too short (ie, shorter than 32 bits between flags or address, control, and FCS fields not completed). A secondary station or combined station will ignore any invalid frame.
Transparency enables a DLC to treat all transmitted and received data, including normally restricted control characters, as a pure data stream. HDLC provides transparency for all data between opening and closing flags. The occurrence of the flag, abort, or idle sequences within a frame is prevented via a 0 -bit insertion/deletion technique (sometimes called bit stuffing). The transmitter inserts a 0 bit following five contiguous 1 bits anywhere between the opening flag and the closing flag of the frame. Inserting the 0 bit thus applies to the contents of the address, control, information, and FCS fields (including the last five bits of the FCS). The receiver continuously monitors the received bit stream; upon receiving a 0 bit followed by five contiguous 1 bits, the receiver inspects the following bit. If it is a 0 , the five contiguous 1 bits are passed as data and the 0 bit is deleted; if the sixth bit is a 1 , the receiver inspects the seventh bit; if it is 0 , a flag sequence has been received; if it is a 1 , an abort has been received. The inserted and deleted zeros are not subject to the FCS calculation.

## Address field formats

A unique address is associated with every secondary or combined station on a link. When a secondary or combined station responds, it will always utilize its own unique address. Additionally, a secondary or combined station may be capable of accepting frames that use a group or global address. An example of this might be a broadcast message to all secondary stations on a multipoint line. The address field in a command frame transmitted by a primary or combined station contains the address of the (remote) secondary or combined station. The address field in a response frame transmitted by a secondary or combined station contains the address of that station.

Two address encoding formats are defined for the address field: basic and extended (see Fig 3). These formats are mutually exclusive for any given secondary station or combined station on a link, and the addressing format must be explicitly specified. In basic address format, the address field contains one address octet, which may be a single secondary/combined station address. In extended address format, the address field is a sequence of octets that make up one address. This field may be a single secondary/combined station address, or a group or global secondary/combined station address. When the first (least significant) bit of an address octet is 0 , the subsequent octet is an extension of the address field (except for null address). The address field is terminated by an octet having a 1 in the first bit position. Thus, the address field is recursively extendable.

A single octet address of eight 1 bits is reserved as the global address in both basic and extended addressing. The global address is used if a specific secondary/ combined station address is not known (eg, switched connection) or is not relevant to the situation (eg, broadcast transmission). When the first octet of the address field appears as eight 0 bits, the address is considered to be a null (no station) address and the frame will be ignored. The null address frame might be used as an initialization or diagnostic procedure to verify that a DLC station is online.
Three types of HDLC frames are information, supervisory, and unnumbered. The frame type is specified by the first two (least significant) bits of the control field. Information (1) frames may contain an arbitrary number of bits of user data in the information field. (Some bit oriented DLCS such as SDLC and X. 25 require an integral number of octets in the information field.) I frames are sequentially numbered with a send sequence number $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})$ and allow piggybacking of acknowledgments of received frames through a receive sequence number $N(\mathbb{R})$. They also carry a P or F bit. Supervisory (S) frames are used to acknowledge correctly received I frames by their receive sequence number $N(R)$. $S$ frames can also request transmission of I frames in the event of transmission errors, or request a temporary suspension of the transmission of I frames. S frames also carry a P/F bit. Unnumbered (U) frames are used during link initialization or disconnection for additional link control functions. There are no sequence numbers; consequently, 5 modifier bits are available that allow definition of up to 32 additional responses. The type and number of these commands and responses depend upon the HDLC class of procedure.

## Parameters associated with frames

Each I frame is sequentially numbered and may have the value 0 through modulus -1 , where modulus is $i$ modulo of the sequence numbers. Modulus equals 8 for the basic control field format and 128 for the extended control field format. The sequence numbers cycle through the entire range and recirculate starting from zero. The maximum number of sequentially numbered I frames that a station may have outstanding (ie, unacknowledged) at any given time is called the window size. This number can never exceed one less than the modulus of the sequence numbers. The window size is determined by either the sending or receiving station storage capability; eg, the number of the I frames that

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Fig 4 Window operation. Assume basic control field, window size of 7 , and I frames with $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})=5,6,7,0,1,2,3$ have been sent without receiving an acknowledgment. At this point the window has closed; one or more i frames must be acknowledged by received $N(R) 6$ before the next I frame can be transmitted.
can be stored for transmission or retransmission (in the event of a transmission error). When I frames are acknowledged, the window is rotated and additional I frames can be sent. Fig 4 illustrates window operation.

Every station in the information transfer state maintains a send variable on the I frames it transmits, and a receive variable on the I frames it correctly receives. Each station capable of transmitting I frames has a send variable $S$ that indicates the sequence number of the next I frame to be transmitted. S takes on the value 0 through modulus 1 . S is incremented by 1 with each completed I frame transmission. For example, after the I frame with $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})=6$ is transmitted, $\mathrm{S}=7 . \mathrm{S}$ will not be incremented when an I frame transmission is aborted. Only I frames contain $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})$, the sequence number of the transmitted frame. Prior to transmission of an I frame, $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})$ is set equal to $S$. In the previous example, the next I frame to be transmitted would have $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})=\mathrm{S}=7$.

Each station capable of receiving I frames will have a receive variable $R$ equal to the expected $N(S)$ contained in the next I frame received. R is incremented by 1 upon receipt of an error-free I frame whose $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})=$ R. For example, if the modulus is 8 and the $I$ frame with $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})=7$ is correctly received, then $\mathrm{R}=0$. All I frames and S frames contain an $N(R)$, the expected sequence number of the next received I frame. Immediately before transmitting or retransmitting an I or $S$ frame, $N(R)$ is set equal to $R . N(R)$ thus indicates that the station transmitting the $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{R})$ has correctly received all I frames numbered up to and including $N(R)-1$. In the previous example, $N(R)=R=0$.

Poll (P) and final (F) bits are used for various operations. They indicate when a secondary station can begin and has finished a response transmission under NRM. The poll/final (P/F) bit can also aid in determining if error recovery is required or in obtaining a response
from the secondary/combined station. The P bit is set to 1 by the primary/combined station in command frames to solicit (poll) a response or sequence of response frames from a secondary station(s) or a combined station.
The F bit is set to 1 by a secondary station to indicate that the response frame was sent in reply to the receipt of a poll command. Additionally, the F bit indicates in NRM that the final frame has been transmitted as the result of a previous poll command. The F bit is set to 1 by a combined station to indicate, in ABM, the response frame sent in reply to the receipt of a poll command.

## Control field formats

The basic control fields consist of the single octet shown in Fig 5. For I frames, the $N(S)$ and $N(R)$ modulus is 8 , which allows up to 7 outstanding (unacknowlledged) frames. The window size is usually fixed at seven, but may be less in low cost HDLC terminals that do not have sufficient buffer storage to hold seven outstanding frames.
Extended control field consist of two octets. On long propagation delay links (eg, satellite or multiple microwave hop transmission) it is desirable for reasons of efficiency to have more than seven outstanding I frames. Extended control field extends the modulus of the sequence numbers for $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{S})$ and $\mathrm{N}(\mathrm{R})$ to 128 . The window size may be less than 127 in order to conserve buffer space. For example, if I frame length is 1 k bytes, a window size of 127 would require a 128 k transmit buffer (current frame plus 127 outstanding frames) and a 127 k receive buffer. An hDLC terminal probably would not have that much storage and would therefore select a much smaller window size.


Fig 5 HDLC control field formats. First 2 bits of first octet specify frame type: information, supervisory, or unnumbered. In basic control field (a), up to 7 I frames can be outstanding. In extended control field (b), up to 127 frames can be outstanding. Maximum number of outstanding I frames is determined by user-specified window size.


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> Increased popularity of bit oriented protocols and HDLC interconnect formats is resulting in a proliferation of bit oriented data link controls.

In extended control field format, an HDLC transmitter sets the P/F bit in bit position 9 (ADCCP sets the P/F bits in positions 5 and 9) for unnumbered format commands and responses. A receiver in extended control field format interprets the $\mathrm{P} / \mathrm{F}$ bit in bit position 9. A receiver in basic control field format cannot receive an extended control field format frame.

## Comparison of bit oriented DLCs

The grandfather of all bit oriented DLCs is ISO HDLC. Subsets of ISO HDLC include the European Computer Manufacturers Association (ECMA) HDLC, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) ADCCP, the International Consultative Committee for Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) X. 25 and X. 75 link levels, the Federal Government's 1003A and FIPS PUB 71 and 78 standards, and IBM's SDLC. Federal standards, ISO ADCCP, and ECMA are basically equivalent. As an option proposed for ISO HDLC (3309) and ADCCP, federal standards allow for a 32-bit cyclic redundancy check (CRC). Note that ISO HDLC differs from ADCCP in that HDLC requires the poll/final ( $\mathrm{P} / \mathrm{F}$ ) bit to be set in only the second control octet (8-bit group), rather than both octets of an extended control field. The standard also disallows use

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of the four nonreserved unnumbered command/response frames in ADCCP, and adds, rather than deletes, a RSET command. ECMA HDLC encompasses ISO HDLC plus the TEST command and response frames. CCITT X. 25 LAPB and X. 75 link levels are point to point subsets of iso HDLC. The IEEE 802 logical link control is a bit oriented procedure for local area networks. It has a slightly different frame structure, a 32 -bit CRC, and provisions for a mandatory connectionless type of service as well as an optional connection oriented service.

IBM SDLC is roughly equivalent to the ISO HDLC UN class of procedure as specified in DIS 6159 and the NDM as specified in DIS 4335/DAD 1. All IBM SDLC products provide the minimum command/response repertoire of the UN class and particular products provide one or more of the available options.

However, IBM SDLC contains additional commands and responses not found in ISO HDLC. These include the TEST command/response for link testing purposes, the configure (CFGR) command, CFGR response, and binary coded number (BCN) response for SDLC loop mode. ISO HDLC does not include loop operation, which is a major feature of SDLC. In addition, IBM SDLC address and control fields are one octet each (ie, there is no provision for an extended address or extended control field). The sDLC information field is restricted, its length is a multiple of 8 bits, while the HDLC information field length is a system specified parameter. Finally, there is no option for a 32 -bit CRC in SDLC.

IBM products implement a subset of sDLC. For example, some IBM products do not allow use of the read (RD) response while the reject (REJ) command and response are used only in SDLC products that provide 2 -way simultaneous (TWS) information interchange. Two-way alternate (TWA) products such as the IBM 3274 and 3276 use $\mathrm{P} / \mathrm{F}$ bit checkpointing and a primary station timer for error recovery.

Increased popularity of bit oriented protocols and HDLC interconnect formats is resulting in a proliferation of bit oriented data link controls. For today's network designer, familiarity with this approach to protocols is becoming increasingly essential. This article is offered to make the minutiae of bit oriented HDLCs slightly less imposing. In Part II, an expanded discussion of the power and flexibility of bit oriented approaches to data communication control will be presented.

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# BROADBAND NETWORK DESIGN: ISSUES AND ANSWERS 

# Building a broadband local area network involves more than determining cable runs and calculating gain levels. The crucial work lies in the preliminary planning. 

by Edward B. Cooper

It happened only recently: data- and telecommunications managers finally decided on broadband as the preferred medium for their local area networks. Although this decision largely resolves this major issue, many new questions are being broached. Design engineers are eager to define their local area network parameters. Before they do so, however, they first must understand the key local area network design technologies available that offer cost and performance advantages.

Understanding the communications medium known as a local area network (LAN) is vital to its overall success. Without this understanding, network managers often must search for information from many sources* that may or may not be design compatible. Curiously, many broadband systems designed over the last 13 years are still in operation, and most have been converted to LANs without redesign or level readjustment. The reason is simple: broadband design parameters developed years ago are still valid because broadband communications design techniques have not changed radically. They have simply been refined and updated to reflect technological advancements.

[^20]For controversy's sake, one might ask about new network schemes such as LocalNet, CableNet, VideoData, or WangNet. In most cases these names merely reflect one particular application of an overall broadband scheme. If properly designed, all such applications, except WangNet, can be supported on the same broadband system. Thus, broadband systems are flexible utilities that can be planned, designed, and installed around the applications they are meant to support.

## Broadband design

In developing any advanced communications medium, one must remember the three Rs-redundancy, reliability, and repairability. Reliability and repairability eliminate the need for redundancy, since redundancy alone does not pay for itself unless the system is either poorly installed or poorly designed. Though redundancy and status monitoring can be incorporated into any network, properly designed and certified systems usually have few problems that can be solved by redundant hardware. For example, broadband systems commonly operate for several years without a single radio frequency (rf) component failure. In such cases, redundancy is a needless expense.

The case for redundancy is further weakened, since there are few inexpensive methods of providing diverse cable routes for backup trunk cables. To guarantee that redundant trunks are not damaged by negligence or catastrophe, a backup cable must be run far away from a primary cable. Further, since cable breaks can be repaired easily, and at a much lower cost than designing and constructing redundant trunk systems, cable redundancy is also a waste of money.

TABLE 1
Common Cable Frequency Splits

| Split | Frequency Assignment Bandwidth |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\overline{\text { Mid-split }}$ | Return path 5 to 116 MHz . Forward path 168 to $300 / 400 \mathrm{MHz}$. |
| Sub-split | Return path 5 to 32 MHz . Forward path 54 to $300 / 400 \mathrm{MHz}$. |
| High-split | Return path 5 to 174 MHz . Forward path 234 to $300 / 400 \mathrm{MHz}$. |
| Dual cable | Inbound and outbound paths from 54 to $300 / 400 \mathrm{MHz}$. |

As an alternative to cable redundancy, status monitoring can be incorporated into the system along with redundant amplifiers. Any status monitoring system, however, must allow the owner to monitor the entire length of each major cable trunk or branch. Status monitoring systems under development use remodulators assigned with unique addresses. With these systems, polling communication links that poll up to 512 units in 15 s can be incorporated. Through continual polling and responses, fault isolation of any cable branch or amplifier can be accomplished cheaply and quickly.

Another factor that demands attention in network design is topology. When addressing system topology, one must first choose between single- and dual-cable schemes. If single cable is chosen, mid-split, sub-split, or high-split frequencies should be implemented.

In this regard, four major frequency splits, or bandpass spectrums, are available to LaN designers (see Table 1). Three serve single-cable systems, and one is appropriate for dual-cable systems. Some community antenna TV system (CATV) equipment manufacturers display slight variances in the frequency splits since most mid-split filters are designed and installed in existing modules. For this reason, it is wise to consult each broadband vendor to determine the exact frequency split used. This ensures that filter skirts will pass the signals and desired data types.

Dual-cable systems are far more restrictive from design, and cost versus benefit, standpoints. In addition to twice the hardware and labor cost, dual-cable schemes require twice the maintenance. Further, it is not
easy to control dual-cable bandwidth or manage the large numbers of rf carriers present on wide spectrum, dual-cable networks.

Though single-cable networks are also notorious for distortion and have their own data carrier management problems, they do have decades of successful service to their credit. Moreover, the IEEE 802 and TR 40.1 standards committees favor the single-cable scheme for LANs. Although standards for mid-split and high-split schemes are being developed, the TR 40.1 committee has not yet completed its final report to the IEEE. Standards for dual-cable systems are even farther from finalization.

After choosing the network topology, the next step in LAN design is to determine the highest operational frequency. Today, most systems are designed for 300 MHz , although $400-\mathrm{MHz}$ systems are growing in popularity. To determine the optimum LAN design frequency for various services, most engineers use a frequency allocation chart similar to that in Fig 1. This chart graphically depicts the operating frequencies at which system services should function. Using this allocation procedure ensures that no conflicts occur between applications supported by more than one vendor. Designers should also provide for the reasonable expansion of each vendor's bandpass to facilitate growth without having to relocate any existing data or video traffic.

Tap placement is another traditional concern for system planners. Most LaNs enjoy growth patterns beyond their planners' highest estimates. Once a lan system is in operation, users fight for the chance to connect. Consequently, network designers activate portions of the system that were not originally scheduled for operation during the first phase of installation. Thus, it is often best to design for full tap coverage immediately. Such coverage should not only support a drop to each office but a $25 \%$ service expansion as well. This expansion factor can be accommodated simply by terminating one of the four rf ports available on each tap. In the case of eight port taps, two ports can be terminated.

How are expansions handled when multiple tap branches are required? First, unlike the restrictive expansion aspects of baseband systems, broadband system expansion does not require disturbing existing users. Second, LaN topology varies from one installation to another based on physical realities such as conduit runs, outlet locations, and the number of offices


Fig 1 In this typical frequency allocation chart used for broadband lan planning, WangNet allocations are shown. All frequency values are in megahertz.

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and buildings supported. The best expansion strategy is to place a splitting device with one of its ports terminated at each major branching point. This unused terminated port eliminates the need to disrupt services while new trunk lines or tap branches are added.

The next step in broadband LaN design is to select the cable. Loss and attenuation characteristics play major roles in this decision. In most cases, two frequencies for each path are desirable. For mid-split operation, the losses associated with forward path frequencies of 168 and $300 / 400 \mathrm{MHz}$ should be calculated. For the return path, 5 and 116 MHz frequency losses should be used.

Loss figures are directly influenced by the type of coaxial cable chosen-whether trunk, feeder, or drop cable. Whatever the choice, a basic rule is to use flooded aluminum cables within conduit or vault systems that interconnect buildings, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) jacketed cable for internal cable runs. In the drop classification, PVC and teflon multishielded drop cables are advisable. Cable selection is also dependent upon the internal building environment and local building codes.

## Head-end configuration

The head end of each cable termination is another area that demands advanced planning. The head end must be able to support the large bandwidth associated with broadband. Most designers miss this point when designing small or test bed systems that are eventually expanded to support a main network.

The standard head-end configuration shown in Fig 2 illustrates its design and support features. The two 8 -way combiners connect the mixed services in the system. This sample system has the ability to connect four 8 -way combiners in the forward path and two 8 -way combiners in the return path. Such an approach allows many services to be introduced later without reconfiguring or readjusting the video or data processing levels. Fig 2 also shows the forward and return paths combined in a system filter. Naturally, the type of filter used will be indicative of the system frequency split chosen.

As with any communications network, a test point is required to connect automated test equipment or spectrum analyzers. One way to provide this test point is to connect two directional couplers opposite each other. The need for this configuration results from the two major types of data/video traffic: forward and reverse. Since nontranslated systems have no frequency translator, they must look to the cable system's return path for status information. Hence, a coupler installed in reverse mode is provided.

Another directional coupler in Fig 2 is terminated on one leg. This coupler provides an expansion point for additional head-end devices or a point for trunk expansion to take place. The amplifier shown provides needed return signal gain and return frequency equalization. At least $75 \%$ of all systems require this amplifier to attain proper signal levels at the translator and TV processor inputs. This additional amplifier also ensures that those signals arrive at the data translators' input at equal amplitudes.

Finally, there are system trunks, each able to measure its own return signal independent of other branches. This is accomplished by installing taps in reverse whose


Fig 2 In a typical broadband laN head-end configuration, several 8 -way combiners, terminated test and expansion points, and redundant power supplies are included. These give the network the flexibility needed for expansion and provide users the reliability they require.
ports are connected to a test panel. Each trunk can thus be independently analyzed. Fault isolation, either by automatic or manual means, is also possible in such a scheme.

One head-end device shown in Fig 2 is the broadband system power supply, which can be located anywhere in the system. Most are found in the head end, however. Redundant power supplies are available with automatic switch-over units that operate similar to those provided for data translators. A $60-\mathrm{V}$ source is the standard for 2 -way system design since $30-\mathrm{V}$ systems are restrictive. The CATV community has, in fact, converted most of its systems to the $60-\mathrm{V}$ standard.

While head-end configuration appears simple, the broadband LAN's flexibility and splitting characteristics


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## System levels and specifications

After the topology, tap placement, cable type, and head-end configuration have been determined, the level at which the system is referenced should be considered. A level is the amount of rf signal present at the wall outlet, which is measured at the highest design frequency. Common level standards are based on peak root mean square (rms) video signals measured in $\mathrm{dBmV}(1000 \mathrm{mV}=$ 0 dBmV into a $75-\Omega$ load) within a $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ bandpass.

Clearly, LAN system levels are referenced to TV because TV video levels have always been the standard in CATV broadband system design. Data levels are referenced to narrower bandwidths, and the transmit and receive levels vary from one vendor to another. In addition, some vendors occupy each $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ TV assignment with 20 carriers, some with 56 , some with only 7 . As a result, the most consistent reference is TV video. Also, for the system to be transparent to applications such as video, data, audio, and control, TV levels prove to be the best overall yardstick.

Broadband systems can provide color or monochrome TV signals to any outlet. In addition, remote TV signals can originate from any system outlet. Using a variety of transmission techniques and access schemes, non-TV signals are also compatible with the broadband system. Signals such as data, control, and audio must conform to TV distribution standards, however. As a result, data carrier levels are based on the standard deration formula of $10 \log n$, where $n$ is equal to the number of carriers within a $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ assignment.

To determine the correct signal amplitude of each data carrier level, the resulting number is subtracted from the peak rms video levels. For example, Sytek Inc's LocalNet 20 has twenty $300-\mathrm{KHz}$ wide carriers within a $6-\mathrm{MHz} \mathrm{TV}$ assignment. If the formula $10 \log 20$ is applied, the result is 13.01 dBmV . These carriers are 13 dB below the equivalent system peak rms video levels. This relationship is also apparent when the deration formula is applied to specifications given in the product literature. The published rf output specification indicates a nominal output level of 42 dBmV and a nominal receive level of -6 dBmV . By adding the $13-\mathrm{dB}$ deration figure ( $10 \log 20=13$ ) to both parameters, the equivalent nominal peak rms video level of the system can be determined. Adding 13 dB to 42 dBmV yields a $54-\mathrm{dBmV}$ output level. The receive level is calculated in the same manner. A $-6-\mathrm{dBmV}$ level plus 13 dB yislds a $7-\mathrm{dBmV}$ equivalent video level.

Based on these known derations, the desired signal levels for transparent operations an be found. Every vendor's data modem has a nominal operation window relative to receiver sensitivity and transmitter output.

Similarly, TV processing equipment has an operational window relative to the equipment's sensitivity to rf levels.

Once all these specifications are known, the entire system's basic design levels can be determined. The system should be designed with a relative peak rms video level of 54 dBmV for any head-end video processing equipment injected into the system's forward path. This signal can be referenced to the design frequency and calculated throughout the system's cable, amplifiers, and directional taps until it arrives at each outlet at a $7-\mathrm{dBmV}$ level.

When that level has been established, data levels are easy to determine because the deration formula can be applied to calculate the actual data carrier level for each vendor. For instance, if LocalNet levels are used, then the relative nominal receive signal level will be -6 dBmV . If Amdax Corp's point to point modems are used, on the other hand, then fifty-six $96-\mathrm{kHz}$ wide carriers within a $6-\mathrm{MHz}$ assignment are found. Using the deration formula ( $10 \log 56=18$ ), data levels are 18 dB below the system video level. In our exah.ıple lan, -11 dBmV falls into the center of their eceiver operational window. When designs are based on video requirements and the deration formula, any system can be configured to support any vendor's LaN equipment as long as their freq' icy assignments do not conflict.
A summary of the standards used to design a midsplit transparent LAN system appears in Table 2. Though existing systems prove that these specifications work, each manufacturer should be consulted to ensure that the levels are consistent with proper modem operation. Based on the parameters of Table 2, the tap values, the number and value of all passive splitters and directional couplers, and the number and type of connectors required for any LAN can be determined.

Once a broadband system's design parameters are known, this information must be translated into a set of drawings. This design phase is crucial since the system's drawings are the most important tools used to develop the LAN. Without comprehensive and accurate drawings, troubleshooting would be extremely difficult as would be network expansion.
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## Drawing standards, symbols, and head ends

Several items should appear on every broadband system drawing. One is a list of symbols used and their associated part numbers. Another is the system design frequency (both forward and return), as well as the type of cables selected and their associated loss. It is also wise to include trunk and distribution amplifier levels, both forward and return, as well as the alignment method. (The Flat Output method is considered standard for broadband LAN alignments.) A complete drawing will also indicate the minimum outlet and tap levels based on the design frequency, and which outlets, if any, are to be terminated. Finally, a comprehensive drawing will provide detail of the head end and the calculated outputs of the TV processors and data translators, noting any vendor limitations in power levels. It is also good practice to note any items that block the ac power at the head end or at any amplifier location.
Aside from the network's obvious electrical aspects, several of its physical aspects must also be documented. Drawings should note extra cables pulled in conduits for redundancy or spares and should illustrate the trunk routings and their locations in the system. Also, the suggested pad values and equalizers for each amplifier should be noted, as should manholes, raceways, conduits, and trays. Documenting each cable's length and associated loss for the forward and return directions is especially important. On the cover drawing, the designer's name, telephone number, and address should be included, and a bill of material should be provided as part of the documentation.

Finally, an important and often overlooked issue in designing a LAN concerns the symbols used in system drawings to represent components. The need for written consistency throughout the entire process of designing and documenting a network cannot be overemphasized. Documentation is fundamental to the long-term success of a communications network.
Another factor essential to the broadband LAN's success is planning. The design, construction, and implementation of a broadband LAN is a multifaceted task. As a result, LAN designers cannot be content with merely sketching their systems' electrical or mechanical fundamentals. Instead, an approach to LAN design that incorporates everything from a judicious choice of topology to an exacting effort at documentation is required. Remember that the goal of any network is to provide users with reliable, uninterrupted service. A little extra time spent in the initial design phases can ultimately save time, for both the user and the designer, farther down the line.

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Memory is expandable up to 16 MBytes. Configurations include a four-board set with DEC-type backplane or fully packaged systems.

System integrators are finding Mini-MAP is the most cost-effective number crunching solution for image manipulation. Write for information or call on our applications engineers for assistance.

- 32-bit floating point precision
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- $1024 \times 1024$ 2-D real FFT in 8.8 seconds
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## Controller interfaces Unibus, versabus, and Ethernet products



By acting as a bridge between Digital Equipment Corp's Unibus products and Motorola's new generation versabus, the UNI/VERS gateway from Associated Computer Consultants allows high performance VERSAbus products to front end the slower Vax and PDP processors. The bridge is also a vehicle for subsequent high speed interfaces that will link Unibus processors to Ethernet, ARPANET, X. 25 packet-switched networks, IBM mainframes, and various other data communication systems.
To be previewed at "Interface ' 83 "' this month, UNI/VERS essentially acts as a high speed, transparent DMA controller between a Unibus processor and processors on the VERSAbus. VERSAbus architecture enhances overall system capabilities since it is 10 times faster than the Unibus, connects with multiple processors, and has a 16 M -byte address space (expandable by 8 more address bits) compared to the 256 k bytes allotted on the Unibus.

UNI/VERS furnishes cost-effective intelligent front ends for VAX and PDP. To prevent DEC processors from being saturated, users can offload such specific functions as protocol processing to the 68000 based VERSAbus CPUS, which have higher speed and faster throughput. In addition, while both Unibus and VERSAbus data paths are 16 bits wide,

VERSAbus data can be extended to 32 bits for increased addressing capability

Conversely, VERSAbus applications development is no longer restricted by limited hardware, operating systems, and applications programs when UNI/ vers is used. Any versabus system under development can be connected to the entire pool of DEC compatible products and software. The UNI/VERS bridge also operates as a fast DMA controller in all four inter- and intrabus permutations-VERSAbus to Unibus, Unibus to VERSAbus, VERSAbus to versabus, and Unibus to Unibus.

## Memory mapped DMA

All 256k Unibus memory locations can be memory mapped onto the VERSAbus in a transparent mode via UNI/VERS, without any system CPU setting up physical address pointers. The VERSAbus processor views the Unibus memory as part of its own, an advantage when examining control structures on either side of the gate. In transparent mode, the UNI/VERS detects a Unibus address, requests a Unibus cycle, obtains the required data, and presents it on the VERSAbus.

Although Unibus is a single-processor environment, with only one CPU fielding interrupts and having only one bus arbitrator, this is not the case with the

VERSAbus. Its enhanced architecture allows one or more 68000 CPU to gain access to the bus. By using UNI/VERS, a normal mode DMA data transfer can be set up between any two nodes within the four inter- or intrabus permutations. The board on the versabus side (with more intelligence than the board on the Unibus side) features a DMA controller with source and destination registers, transfer count register, data register, and control and status register. When transferring data blocks, the address and count registers are initialized by the active CPU, which then sets a Go bit and begins the DMA transfer process.
As the block transfer progresses, address sequences are monitored and decoded. If the current address lies within the Unibus address range, a request for a Unibus cycle passes to the board on the Unibus side. There, the Unibus protocol is monitored as soon as the Unibus grant has been issued. Upon completion of data transfers, the DMA controller interrupts the requesting 68000 to determine the gateway's status.
If potential transfer error conditions are detected, the data transfer is terminated and indicated by status bits. Each end of transfer interrupt will vector control back to the CPU that initiated the DMA transfer. An interrupt handler for that CPU assumes control and determines which subsequent activity to schedule.

## Intrabus DMA

On the versabus side of the gateway, multiprocessor, multitasking applications are facilitated as well. The gateway's design is based on fast, discrete logic implementations of registers, counters, and asynchronous control elements, thereby allowing it to direct very high speed memory to memory transfers along either bus (see Diagram). These transfers take place at speeds much faster than a programmed operation.

If numerous versabus processors are simultaneously and independently working on different tasks, and common operating resources such as buffers, tables, and I/O controllers need to be reallocated, the UNI/VERS' DMA controller can shift 16 bits from one memory port to another at speeds up to
(continued on page 220)

# 750 to 1500 Watt Switchers More than just a Power Supply ... a power system. 

This is the only multiple output power supply that has the reliability and low cost of modular construction and the versatility of 12
 it a "Power System" because it saves system design time and hardware costs. Options such as AC power fail detection, out-of-toler-ancemonitoring and margin checking etc. are available. Twelve submodules and twelve standard options provide over 7000 specific models.


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MODEL/OUTPUT CURRENT |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { OUT- } \\ \text { PUT } \\ \text { VOLT } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | MODEL/OUTPUT CURRENT |  |  |  |  |  |  | MODEL/OUTPUT CURRENT |  |  |  |  |  | MODEL/OUTPUT CURRENT |  |  |  |
| O | RE 751 | RE 801 | RE 101 | RE 151 |  | RE 752 |  | RE 802 |  | RE 102 |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { OUT- } \\ \text { PUT } \\ \text { VOLT } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { RE } 753 \\ \text { RE } 754 \\ \text { CH } 1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { RE } 103 \\ & \text { RE } 104 \\ & \text { CH } 1 \end{aligned}$ | CH 2 | CH 3 | CH 4 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { OUT- } \\ & \text { PUT } \\ & \text { VOLT } \end{aligned}$ | RE 803 |  | RE 804 |  |
| PUT |  |  |  |  |  | CH 1 | CH 2 | CH 1 | CH 2 | CH 1 | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | CH 1 | CH 2 | $\mathrm{CH3}$ | CH 4 |
| VOLT |  |  |  |  | 5 V | 1204 | - | 100A | - | 150A | - | 5 V | 120 A | 150A | 240W MAX. |  |  | 5 V | 100A | 360W MAX. |  |  |
| 2 V | 200 A | 200A | 300A | 400A | 2 V |  | 204 |  | 30A |  | 20 A | 2 V |  |  | 10A | 10A | 5A | 2 V |  | 15A | 15A | 5A |
| 5 V | 150 A | 160 A | 2004 | 300A | 5 V |  | 204 |  | 30A |  | 204 | 5 V |  |  | 10A | 10A | 5A | 5 V |  | 15A | 15A | 5A |
| 12 V | 70A | 70A | 83A | 125A | 12 V |  | 204 |  | 30A |  | 20A | 12 V |  |  | 10A | 10 A | $2.5 A$ | 12 V |  | 15A | 15A | 2.5A |
| 15 V | 55A | 55A | 67A | 100A | 15 V |  | 16 A |  | 24A |  | 16 A | 15 V |  |  | 8A | 8A | 2 A | 15 V |  | 12A | 12A | 2 A |
| 24 V | 35A | 35A | 42A | 63A | 24 V |  | 10 A |  | 15A |  | 10A | 24 V |  |  | 5 A | 5 A | 1.54 | 24 V |  | 7.5 A | 7.5A | 1.25A |
| 28 V | 28 A | 304 | 36A | 54A | 28 V |  | BA |  | 13A |  | BA | 28 V |  |  | 4 A | 4 A | 1 A | 28 v |  | 6.5 A | 6.5A | 1 A |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { MAX } \\ & \text { PWRR } \end{aligned}$ | 750W | 800w | 1000w | 1500w | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MAX } \\ & \text { PWR } \end{aligned}$ | 750W |  | 800w |  | 1000w |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MAX } \\ & \text { PWR. } \end{aligned}$ | 750W | 1000w |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MAX } \\ & \text { PWA. } \end{aligned}$ | 800w |  |  |  |
| Price | \$809 | \$875 | \$1068 | S1285 | PRICE | \$863 |  | \$929 |  | \$1133 |  | PRICE | 750W TRIPLE 750W <br> OUAD | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{5 8 9 1} \\ & \mathbf{S 9 2 3} \end{aligned}$ | 1000WTRIPLE1000WOUAD |  | $\$ 1143$ <br> S1185 | PRICE | $\begin{gathered} \text { TRIPLE } \\ \mathbf{\$ 9 5 7} \end{gathered}$ |  | QUAD \$989 |  |

(continued from page 218)


Although fewer devices are available for the high performance versabus than the Unibus, UNI/VERS gateways link the vast DEC compatible product lines to the versabus, while a wide range of high speed datacom bridges are made available to DEC users.

1 M words/s. Otherwise, programmed control elements limit the transfer speed. The gateway's control speed is limited only by Schottky TTL logic, making it much faster than semiconductor RAMS.

UNI/VERS' dual boards are joined by a standard $12^{\prime}$ ( $4-\mathrm{m}$ ) cable. On the Unibus side, the cable assembly connects with a circuit board occupying one slot of a DEC backplane. On the VERSAbus side, the cable assembly connects to a $9^{\prime \prime} \times 14^{\prime \prime}$ ( $23-\times 36-\mathrm{cm}$ ) board occupying one full slot in the VERSAbus backplane. Prior to insertion, the user defines base address assignments and range boundaries.
The bridge is immediately ready for transparent mode transfers. For DMA mode, host operating systems must initialize four registers on the VERSAbus side. Interbus protocol is supported by 16 dual-port registers and 16 userdefined registers.
UNI/VERS gateways are priced at $\$ 5000$ per set in unit quantity; OEM discounts are available. Associated Computer Consultants, 720 Santa Barbara St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.
Circle 260

## Collision free laN provides stability under all network loads


manufacturers endorse these guidelines. As equipment becomes standardized, network connection costs may sharply decrease.

Interface modules that support both synchronous and asynchronous devices connect data terminal equipment (DTE) into the LaN. The modules operate at all popular data rates, adding to vendor flexibility. Each Token/Net interface

Token/Net local area network system capitalizes on a token passing controlled access scheme via broadband CATV cable. The modularly designed, field upgradable LaN from Concord Data Systems operates at 5 M bps over virtually unlimited distances. Token/Net is claimed to be the first LaN to fully comply with IEEE 802 and ECMA standards for local networks and token passing schemes. Most datacom equipment
module (TIM) holds a modem, access unit, control unit, and optional function boards.

A form of distributed polling, the token passing controlled access method defines a set of rules for sharing high speed network bandwidth. This method is more stable under all network loads than the alternate carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) method. Out of band transmissions are strictly controlled to
allow adjacent channel operation. Since token passing does not foster signal collisions, intermodulation effects caused by such collisions, and which affect other CATV services on the cable, are eliminated.
Token passing prioritizes data awaiting media access. Four priority levels can be assigned to each data port. The highest priority frames are transmitted whenever a receiving node gains the token. Other priority classes have individual target times which, unlike CSMA systems, can be independently determined.
Each standalone, portable TIM connects to a common high speed cable serving as the broadcast medium to all other tims. High speed data packet messages are transmitted (invisible to the network user) over the shared communications medium, in a manner similar to time division multiple access. Data packets can also be optionally encrypted
(continued on page 222)


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Quickly becoming our most popular line of high resolution in-line gun
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Available in 13 V and 19 V analog or digital models, the compact-size CD Series is perfect for simulation, medical, CAD/CAM and other high resolution applications.

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Medium resolution, digital drive, color display monitors for business graphics systems. The Ikegami UD Series provides high performance ( $615 \times 240$ or more pixels interlace mode) at a very economical price.

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High performance, flicker-free monochrome CRT display units that bring Ikegami quality to word processing or on-line data entry systems. Available in green or white display and standard CRT sizes ( $5^{\prime \prime}, 9^{\prime \prime}, 12^{\prime \prime}, 14^{\prime \prime}$ and $15^{\prime \prime}$ ).

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## (continued from page 220)

before transmission for added security. The TIMS simultaneously monitor the medium for incoming messages. On arrival, messages are error checked and passed to other receiver functions within the interface module. Permanent virtual circuits are provided for dedicated point to point or multipoint configurations. Switched virtual circuits are also available for flexible phone-like dial-up of connections.

Three interface module configurations are available. The TIM-200 desktop unit interfaces to two DTE devices. Measuring $15^{\prime \prime} \times 12^{\prime \prime} \times 3.5^{\prime \prime}(38 \times 30 \times 8.9 \mathrm{~cm})$, it houses the radio frequency ( rf ) modem, as well as access and control units. It provides two $25-$ pin DB serial interface connectors and an F-type connector for attachment to the CATV cable.

TIM-220 adds two card positions to this basic design for optional boards and a larger power supply. The $15^{\prime \prime} \times 12^{\prime \prime} \times 5$ " ( $38-\times 30-\times 13-\mathrm{cm}$ ) unit lowers the cost
per connection by sharing the same rf modem, and access and control units among 10 user interfaces.

TIM-800 rackmount assembly, soon to be available, will fit in a standard EIA 19 " $(48-\mathrm{cm})$ rack. The unit will accept up to eight optional boards ( 34 serial ports total) that will share the module's modem, access unit, and 2-port control unit.

An accessory TIM-Keypad will allow the user to generate routing commands to the TIM. Its most applicable use will be with a digital device that operates with a protocol unfamiliar to the TIM connection services application software.

Optional boards include the quad serial port, the network management processor, and the soon to be marketed high speed serial port. The quad serial port provides interfaces for up to four data terminals and can be added to any base tim unit except the TIM-200. It presents RS-232/V. 24 interfaces to a data
terminal operating from 75 to 19.2 kbps in synchronous or asynchronous modes. Network management processor boards provide network functions such as software reload and/or privacy key management. Multiple management processors can be installed to distribute and share functional responsibilities and to ensure that these functions can survive any single interface module failure. The high speed serial port will provide a single RS-449/V. 35 serial/synchronous interface that will operate from 56 k to 230.4 k bps.

Among the network maintenance functions are local/remote diagnostics, integral signal level measurements, statistic utilities, monitoring facilities, and access control. The Token/Net LAN guarantees a stable network under all designated loads. Token/Net interface modules are priced from $\$ 500$ to $\$ 2000$ per connection, depending on configuration. Concord Data Systems, 303 Bear Hill Rd, Waltham, MA 02154. Circle 261

## Peripheral controllers provide high throughput for Multibus systems



Xylogics' 450 disk peripheral and 472 tape peripheral controllers join with the 440 disk peripheral Multibus SMD controller to provide efficient operating performance and low bus use overhead for MC68000, 8086, or Z8000 microprocessor based systems. Since many Multibus systems use large capacity tape and disk controllers to extend the host computer's onboard processing power, mass storage use becomes optimally efficient when main memory can be quickly accessed and peripheral devices and data transfer are controlled at high speeds.

The 450 peripheral disk controller is a single-height Multibus PCB implementa-
tion of the dual-board 440 controller. It addresses up to 16 M bytes of memory and controls up to four SMD drives per board at data transfer speeds up to 1.8 M bytes $/ \mathrm{s}$. When attached to four disks, the 450 can access 2.4 G bytes of disk storage. With appropriate memory, a full cylinder of data can be transferred to memory without losing a disk revolution.

Implementing channel control techniques improves bus operating efficiency and performance. Command chaining allows concurrent processor and peripheral operation without operating system intervention between commands. Each of several tasks can prepare its own command I/O parameter blocks (IOPBS) in system memory. The 450 controller then reads the command IOPB from system memory through DMA and performs the required function. When processing is complete, the IOPB is returned to memory via DMA with appropriate status data. Multiple IOPBS can be linked for optimal peripheral processor throughput. Scatter-read and gatherwrite functions can be implemented.

Support is given for 8 - and 16 -bit processors. The disk controller also features 32-bit ECC, overlapped seeks, a 2 k -byte

FIFO buffer, and onboard diagnostics. The 450 peripheral disk controller sells for under \$1500.

Peripheral tape controller 472, for streaming and start/stop tape drives, resides on a single-height Multibus PCB. It addresses up to 16 M bytes of memory and controls up to four tape drives per board, running at speeds from 12.5 to 100 ips at densities of $800-\mathrm{bpi}$ NRZI, 1600 -bpi PE, or 6250 -bpi GCR. This peripheral controller also uses channel control techniques for an optimal match to the multiprocessing environment of the IEEE 796 bus and the newer 16/32-bit microprocessors.

Xylogics' Multibus 472 is program compatible with the 440 and 450 peripheral controllers. Drivers for these disk controllers need only slight modifications to drive the 472 tape controller. Like the 450 , the 472 features 16 -, $20-$, or 24 -bit addressing, onboard diagnostics, programmable throttle, and support for 8 - and 16 -bit processors. A 1 k -byte FIFO buffer is provided. DMA circuitry transfers data at 2 M bytes $/ \mathrm{s}$. The 472 tape controller sells for under $\$ 1400$. Xylogics, Inc, 144 Middlesex Tpke, Burlington, MA $01803 . \quad$ Circle 262

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## Vendor independent small computer networking system


dual-processor models are available with 512 k -byte memory, flexible or Winchester disk drives, high speed monochrome or color graphics capabilities, and a $12^{\prime \prime}(30-\mathrm{cm})$ CRT display with $640 \times 400$ dot addressable resolution. All features are integrated into a small footprint, low profile cabinet and detached alphanumeric keyboard with 20 programmable function keys. System sophistication ranges from a

With the Decision Mate V series of microcomputers, and the Decision Net local area network system for linking small computers from various manufacturers into a resource sharing network, NCR Corp enters the lucrative OEM personal computer arena. Key to Decision Net is NCR's Modus file sharer, allowing personal computers to share a common file and peripheral pool.

Decision Mate $V$ computers are designed around industry standard hardware/software subsystems. Single- and
single 8 -bit Z80A processor running at 4 MHz to a coprocessing $\mathrm{z80} / 8088$ combination using either CP/M or MS-DOS.

Prices for an 8 -bit processor model with monochrome graphics start at $\$ 2800$. The dual-processor model sells for $\$ 3340$. Both systems include two $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ flexible, double-density/double-sided disk drives with 500 k -byte unformatted and 320 k -byte formatted capabilities, 64 k -byte RAM (upgradable to 512 k bytes), an operating system, and a high speed graphics subsystem. RS-232-C serial and

Centronics parallel interfaces provided. The computers can also be configured with one flexible disk and one $51 / 4$ " Winchester with 12.76 M -byte unformatted and 10 M -byte formatted capacities. Single-processor model deliveries begin immediately; the dual-processor model will be available in June.

With Decision Net, concurrently shared data among personal computers is accomplished via Omninet LAN and the Modus file sharer. Modus employs an I/O processor with onboard RAM and controlware, a $51 / 4$ " formatted flexible disk, a Winchester with 10 M - to 96 M -byte capacity, and an optional streaming tape drive.

Up to 64 computers can be linked into the carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) LAN. Data are transmitted at 1 M bps over twisted pair cable links up to $4000^{\prime}$ $(1.2 \mathrm{~km})$ in length. The network is user installable and field upgradable.

Decision Net deliveries are scheduled for June. Prices are $\$ 9995$ for the Modus file sharer and $\$ 500$ per personal computer networking. NCR Corp, Dayton, OH 45479.

Circle 263

## Linear predictive coding system synthesizes speech in real time


a $50: 1$ reduction in space requirements over directly digitized speech waveforms. Up to 12 s of speech can be accommodated in the system's 16 k bytes of available RAM. This data can be uploaded to, or downloaded from, a host computer.

Four microcomputer boards make up the systema custom processor board, a CPU, a memory board, and either the TMS5110A or TMS5220 voice synthesis pro-

The sDS50 speech development system processes linear predictive coding (LPC) synthesized-speech data in real time. Texas Instruments' SDS50 also allows users to edit LPC speech data via any RS-232-C compatible terminal. This system can record, store, and edit data for both prerecorded words and allophone strings. Pitch, energy, and vocal effects can be modified by the user, then immediately produced through the system's loudspeaker. Commands can also be issued to store results in EPROM via an optional built-in EPROM programmer.

Words and phrases require fewer than 1.8 k bps of memory space, representing
cessor (VSP) (Computer Design, Feb 1982, p 33 and July 1982, p 85). The 5110A VSP can be combined with standard 4-bit microcomputers, a TMS6100 or TMS6125 voice synthesis memory (VSM) chip, and a speaker to form a complete speech synthesis system. Processing LPC speech data that have been prerecorded and stored in VSMS or EPROMS, the 5110A outputs male, female, or children's voices, along with tones, chimes, and sound effects.

For applications based on 8- and 16 -bit microprocessors, the 5220 vSP features TTL compatibility, an 8 -bit bus, and a FIFO buffer. The 5220, in effect, handles all I/O and processing operations
needed to produce speech. It synthesizes the same sound effects as the 5110 A , and accepts speech data from VSMs, EPROMS, and the host processor. The 5220 processes LPC prerecorded speech data and can also process LPC allophone speech, providing the potential to develop an unlimited vocabulary.

Custom or semicustom vocabularies can be developed through the 6100 or 6125 voice synthesis rom chips, which hold the prerecorded custom vocabularies. The 6100128 k -bit ROM stores approximately 2 min of synthesized speech, while the 612532 k -bit chip stores approximately 30 s of speech. Both devices feature onchip address decode logic that allows any VSP to work with up to sixteen 6100 or four 6125 VSMS without additional address decoding circuitry. The 6100 or 6125 can also be supplied as a series of low cost prepackaged vocabulary ROMS that currently include industrial, numeric and time, avionic, weather and time, and military vocabulary sets.

The SDS50 LPC speech synthesis system is available for $\$ 16,000$, with a four to six week delivery time. Options are available. Texas Instruments Inc, Semiconductor Group, PO Box 401560, Dallas, TX 75240.
Circle 264

## PERIPHERAL TESTING: MORE THAN A QUESTION OF PASS/FAIL

Testing any rotating memory device involves more than the simple question of pass/fail. It is a complex set of questions encompassing the how's, when's and why's of testing. Applied Circuit Technology designs and manufactures final production and incoming inspection test equipment that answers the complex requirements of testing. Designed for volume throughput, ACT's equipment has solved the testing dilemma for many manufacturers. We've helped insure the reliable performance of rotating memory devices and assisted the manufacturers in achieving a low 2\% return rate of shipped product.
ACT's equipment has tested more $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ Winchester disk drives than any other system in the world. Our expertise, however, does not stop at Winchester drives. Today,

Applied Circuit Technology is involved in floppy systems test, tape systems test, fixed/ removable Winchester disk systems test as well as Servo Writers and Spiral Testers.
Whether you are shipping or receiving 10 or 10,000 units a month, Applied Circuit Technology provides the answer to high volume, in-depth, final production testing. If you realize that testing is more than a question of pass/fail, contact Applied Circuit Technology.


2931 La Jolla Street Anaheim, CA 92806
(714) 632-9230


## Time interval scope with picosecond accuracy and resolution


tion with a CRT and stable triggering circuits. This combination enables the scope to display the signal being tested, as well as to measure the designated interval with its 50-ps accuracy. Drawing timing measurements from a crystal referenced time base permits precise time interval measurements relative to the trigger event that synchronizes the waveform display.

First-pulse measurements can thereby be made with a $\pm 30-\mathrm{ps} \quad$ characteristic repeatability. The crystal

Offering $50-\mathrm{ps}$ accuracy and $10-\mathrm{ps}$ resolution, Hewlett-Packard's HP 1726A time interval oscilloscope makes fast, reliable timing measurements on complex, repetitive signals. Counter and oscilloscope technologies are combined to yield the viewing and measuring effectiveness of a $275-\mathrm{MHz}$ scope and the ease of use of a time interval counter.

Designed for precise timing measurements, the instrument is configured with a crystal referenced time base in conjunc-
referenced time base uses a horizontal sweep vernier out of calibration to extend the measurement range by a factor of three. For example, the scope can measure time intervals as long as $1.2 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ with $\pm 10$-ps resolution and 50 -ps accuracy. A dual-marker system supplies precise measurements from specific points on any waveform displayed. In addition, the unit's matched wideband preamplifiers allow a waveform's signal fidelity to be examined.

Overlap and triggered modes incorporate time interval averaging, which supports precise measurements on virtually any repetitive signal displayable on an oscilloscope. Overlap mode takes measurements from specific points on the displayed waveform. Time intervals are measured through two intensified markers that simultaneously appear on the scope's CRT and are displayed on successive sweeps. Measurements are calculated by the interval from the main trigger event to the start event, the time from the main trigger event to the stop event, and the time interval difference between the start/stop events.
For rapid, multiple timing measurements, triggered mode is controlled by set levels that the start/stop events should trigger. The difference between the trigger level of the start intensified marker to the trigger point of the stop intensified marker is then calculated. Results are repeatable to within $\pm 30$ ps. The oscilloscope also features fast mode operation that reduces the number of averages required for a measurement by a factor of 10 . HP 1726A is $\$ 7675$. A standard HP-IB interface is included on the unit. Contact local Hewlett-Packard sales offices.

Circle 265

## Token passing local area network system hooks to 500 devices



Each Token Ring configuration accepts up to 500 communications peripherals. The Planet Director PL3000, an intelligent desktop network processor, controls the communications link. The Director manages all connection paths, disconnections, system failures, queuing entries, port profile summaries, and transfers. The Director stores the LAN's data base, including the 500

Planet series of local area network products extends Racal-Milgo's long-haul communications products into resource sharing and networking of independent devices that operate in a totally protocol transparent environment. Although the series was introduced on the European market a year ago, the Planet Token Ring series is the first to be domestically available. It uses baseband coaxial cable in a twin ring configuration as the local area communications link. The system can operate in either full- or half-duplex modes.
possible user and port parameters per ring and the 250 simultaneous connections in nonvolatile RAM. Port selection and contention enable device contention for, and sharing of, a limited number of typically expensive computer ports by a greater number of low-cost terminals.

System interface is through the PL2000 Terminal Access Points (TAPS). Each of up to 250 TAPS has two RS-232-C ports that can operate synchronously, asynchronously, or in mixed mode at speeds up to 19.2 k bps per port, independent of user protocol. Once access to the net-
work is obtained from a TAP, the TAP acts as a packet assembler/disassembler, passing data into and from the network. The network can be easily expanded by adding more TAPs.
Pl1000 Cable Access Points (CAPs) interface the taps to the digital Planet ring. This coaxial cable interface consists of four standard connections, with each TAP connected through a 15 -pin D-type connector. Additional CAPS can be installed anywhere along the cable, without interrupting data flow.
The Planet series supports any combination of point-to-point, multidrop, or broadcast circuit plans, in permanent or switched modes that work simultaneously. Each virtual circuit appears to the user to be a dedicated line connection. Using any authorized terminal on the ring, this connection can be easily reconfigured without recabling, external switching, or special software. A failsafe mechanism allows the system to reconfigure itself, bypass a given problem, and automatically reestablish the communications link. Racal-Milgo, Ltd, 8600 NW 41st St, PO Box 520399,
Miami, FL 33152.
Circle 266


## EMM's SECS 80 Ruggedized Microcomputers Work Where Others Won't-We've Proved it Over 1000 Times!

## Tried and Tested Through the Years

When the going gets tough, you want rugged quality you can depend on - whether it's in today's military spirit or your microcomputer system.
Already, there are over 1000 SECS 80 units in use, serving in airborne, shipboard, and ground systems as well as tough industrial applications.
In short, EMM's Severe Environment Computer Systems have an extensive history of dependable performance - under the most hostile conditions.

## Complete Systems, Built to MIL Specs

The SECS 80 family is comprised of a variety of total microcomputer systems, each software compatible with Intel's ${ }^{\circledR}$ standard systems. Numerous support modules are available, including 8080, 8085, 8088 and 8086 CPU's, memory, and I/O expansion modules (PIO, SIO, A/D, D/A and 1553).

As for tough, each component of these 8 - and 16 -bit computers is built to Military Specs, meeting or exceeding the stringent requirements of MIL-E-4158, 5400, 16400 ...and more.

## Eases the Design Burden

Available software and field-proven components simplify the task of designing a ruggedized computer system. For example, compatible software includes the RMX-88® real-time multitasking Executive as well as Fortran, Pascal, PL/M and a MIL-STD 1589B Jovial (J-73) Cross Compiler.
Thus you develop software for your military computer system using off-the-shelf Intel commercial systems. Then you need only transfer the software to a ruggedized SECS 80 system.
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## Portable data/memory logger



MDL/600 CMOS portable data logger has 2 k to 65 k analog sample activity. One analog input channel and 1 analog output channel are provided. Twelve-bit digitizing resolution, internal or external triggering source, and operation from 8 -AA size batteries are featured. Std v. 24 provides interface to most any computer, terminal, or modem. Data/settings remain unaltered for 10 years or more, even during battery change. Unit combines data logging/online acquisition and memory recording capabilities. Geotek, Gesellschaft fuer Geophysik, und Datentechnik gmbH, Bluecherstr 32, D-1000 Berlin 61, West Germany.
Circle 267

## X. 25 compatible concentrator pad

Micros00/X. 25 concentrator pad packets data from up to 16 asynchronous terminals/ports for transmission over a single phone line to a public or private X. 25 packet data network. Certified for use on Telenet, Tymnet, and Uninet networks in the U.S. (international certification pending), the concentrator requires no changes to existing hardware or software. Unit stores user selectable, preprogrammed parameter channel profiles. Channel configuration data can also be downline loaded from a central site and stored in nonvolatile memory. Several add-on functions are available at no cost. Micom Systems, Inc, 20151 Nordhoff St, Chatsworth, CA 91311.
Circle 268

## Low cost X .25 concentrator accesses packet switched networks

A small scale X. 25 network interface processor for access to public or dedicated packet switched networks, the TP3005 concentrator supports CCITT X.3, X .28 , and X. 29 async terminals, as well as Telenet enhanced parameters. An X. 25 port provides a high speed access link to the network and conforms to CCITT X. 25 1980 or 1976 recommendations. The company's network control facilities
provide remote configurations, downline loading, alarm reporting, remote diagnostics, and port-by-port accounting information. Price of $\$ 2350$ includes a 3-year software license. GTE Telenet Communications Corp, 8229 Boone Blvd, Vienna, VA 22180.
Circle 269

## Async local distribution service unit

Asynchronous line driver model 8150, a local distribution service unit (LDSU), operates over distances up to 23 mi $(37 \mathrm{~km})$, at speeds to 19.2 k bps. For use with user-owned twisted pair cables or Telco Area Data Channels, the 8150 operates over loaded cable at 4800 bps max. Local/remote unattended diagnostic testing and a built-in test pattern generator are provided. The $\$ 335$ single-unit LDSU is available in both standalone and card versions. A nest enclosure can house up to 16 cards. Codex Corp, a sub of Motorola Inc, 20 Cabot Blvd, Mansfield, MA 02048.


Circle 270

## Networking system supports 800 or more ports

Two switching statistical multiplexers added to the Microplexer ${ }^{\circledR}$ family provide 96 or 144 local ports and are geared to networks requiring 800 or more total ports. User friendly features add reliability even in complex larger networks. The networking systems also provide dedicated or switched port assignment, camp-on facilities, password protection, and traffic balancing. The included Configurator subsystem, based on a 16-bit microcomputer, runs menudriven utility programs that simplify setup, reconfiguration, and network interrogation. Delivery is scheduled for the second quarter of 1983. Timeplex, Inc, 1 Communications Plaza, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662.
Circle 271

Effective immediately,System 2000 terminals are priced lower than ever before. In quantities of 50 , you can buy System 2000 black and white terminals for \$7,425.

Color terminals, in quantities of 50 , for $\$ 10,200$. To place your orders call (617) 663-8550.

## A new, improved way togive your competition headaches.

The Lexidata System 2000. In terms of price, it's the most affordable step forward in raster technology since the development of raster technology.

In terms of performance, System 2000 will outdo any terminal near it in price and many that cost considerably more.

The combination of which will give you an edge if you're an OEM. In fact, quite a considerable edge.

And what will it give your competition? Something to keep them awake nights. More OEM flexibility There are five processor option slots in a System 2000 terminal. They'll allow you to add more serial ports, and more program memory (up to 1.28 megabytes).

A detachable keyboard with integral joystick is standard with preprogrammed peripheral interfaces.

User code may be downloaded to augment the system's capabilities, off-load the host CPU, and increase system response time.

Low price. High performance. And a whole new bend in flexibility.

## A new ergonomic policy

On the screen, there are four hardware assisted work spaces. Each with a set of functions that
(System 2000 terminals, $\$ 8,250^{\star}$.)
you can call up with simple English commands.

These individual workspaces reduce the overall system cost by eliminating the need for a separate alphanumeric display and a menu space on the digitizer work surface.

This feature, plus the fact that the System 2000 has a multitasking operating system, contribute to two very important aspects of customer concern: Ease of learning and ease of use.
Improves Tektronix ${ }^{\text {w }}$ PLOT-10 ${ }^{\text {wiw }}$ four ways You can put the System 2000 in a PLOT10 environment very simply. And very quickly, you can improve that environment.

The System 2000 will give you a $62.5 \%$ higher resolution on a 1280 by 1024 line screen.

In black and white, the System 2000 will give you steady, flicker-free graphics. At a refresh rate of 60 Hz .
In color, the System 2000 can provide you with 16 simultaneous colors from a palette of 4096 shades of color.
There's more, too. Standard

What the 4 workspaces do:
W1 Supports pan and zoom. Ideal for interactive graphics.
W2 Accommodates system-select menus.
W3 Is perfect for processing text.
W4 Is used for logging messages or annotating keyboard function keys. Note: Each workspace has graphics and text cursors and is adjustable in size.



## WORLD'S SMALLEST $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ TAPE BACK-UP OFFERS REEL ALTERNATIVE TOTHE 1/4" CARTRIDGE



Providing low cost back-up for Winchester drives the miniature 2-speed EMISTREAMER 9800 is as easy to use as a cartridge, offers proven reliability and universal interchange.
The 9800 fits within a twin 8 " floppy enclosure and automatically loads the standard, multisourced $7^{\prime \prime}$ reel of $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ wide computer tape. The unformatted capacity is 15 Mbytes at 1600 bpi, PE, optional 30 Mbytes at 3200 bpi. With full IBM /ANSI format compatibility the world's smallest standard $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ tape drive with Industry standard interface is the REEL alternative you have been looking for. Also in the EMISTREAMER range are the autoloading 9900 with total capacity of over 60 Mbytes ( 120 Mbytes optional) and the high performance 8900. These low cost streamers provide reliable data interchange between the smallest micro and the largest mainframe. Contact us now for full details.

## 9800 is designed for high reliability practical features include: <br> Short tape path Autoload PCB access from the top -Three levels of diagnostics $\begin{gathered}\text { Alphanumeric display }\end{gathered}$

THORN EMI Technology Inc 8601 Dunwoody Place Suite 301 Atlanta GA 30338 tel: (404) 5870017 telex 8107662267 In Europe contact
THORN EMI Datatech Lid Data Products Division Spur Road Feltham Middlesex TW14 OTD England. tel 01-890 1477 telex 23995
THORN EMI companies

## 2400-baud, 212A compatible stat mux



Turbomux microcomputer based multiplexer doubles the throughput of a 1200 -baud modem to 2400 -baud fullduplex operation. The 2 -channel stat mux attaches via std RS-232-C interfaces to the 212A modem on one end, and to DTE on the other end. A proprietary data compaction algorithm guarantees $100 \%$ data reproduction fidelity. During data transmission, each unit receives and dynamically compacts messages. Errorfree detection and retransmission facilities are provided. Prices range from $\$ 995$ to $\$ 1275$. Chung Telecommunications Inc, 4046 Ben Lomond Dr, Palo Alto, CA 94306.
Circle 272

Low cost 212A type modem

vA212LC is a Bell compatible switched network originate/answer, 1200 -bps and 0 - to 300 -bps full-duplex modem. It features a combined microprocessor and LSI technology design configured on a single PC card. Modem is $1.5^{\prime \prime}(3.8 \mathrm{~cm})$ high. Voice mode disables the auto-answer function. Five leds display modem's operational status. Modem (\$550) uses an automatic detection algorithm to handle both $9-$ and 10 -bit char codes and an auto self-test routine. Racal-Vadic, 222 Caspian Dr, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Circle 273

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COMAPTMTER@

## Low cost UNIX system

A combined System III version of UNIX OS and a series of packaged NAKED MINI ${ }^{\circledR}$ computer systems provides multi-user, timesharing, 16 -bit superminicomputer capability for $\$ 7990$, quantity 200 . The system contains a Series 5 processor with memory management, 256k-byte ECC

RAM (expandable to 1 M byte), 1 M -byte floppy disk subsystem, 10M-byte Winchester, and 4 serial I/O ports. License price for the company's 16 -user UNIX is $\$ 789$; a 32 -user version is $\$ 1198$. UNIX is configured on several NAKED MINI Series 5 systems with prices of $\$ 7990$ to $\$ 94,875$. Computer Automation Inc, 18651 Von Karman, Irvine, CA 92713.
Circle 322


Franklin guarantees Uninterruptible Power System efficiency ratings down to $25 \%$ of full load . . . in writing. And backs it up . . . with cash.
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## Control circuits for switched mode power supplies

TDA 4700/4718 switched mode power supply regulator ICs provide voltage control of single-ended and pushpull applications. Integrated control components minimize total components count and provide the switcher controlled systems with feed forward control, double
impulse suppression, under/overvoltage protection, soft start, PLL operation for external synchronization, and symmetry inputs. TDA 4700 has an op amp for use in a control loop. TDA 4718 has no op amp. Versions are available in cerdips or plastic packages. Siemens Components, Inc, PO Box 1000, Iselin, NJ 08830.
Circle 274

## SYSTEM-MEADVMULTIBUS COMMUNICATIONS FROM ETI MICBO

 SAVESTIME...SAVES MONEYWe include sophisticated, userproven, communication processing firmware as a standard feature on our multibus-compatible communication controllers, to cut your time to market and save precious dollars.

Our 8103 and 8140 controllers feature:

- two Bell modem ports and two RS232C ports
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- performs real-time multiple communication tasks
- interrupt-driven communication processing firmware
- supports packetswitching protocal
- source codes listed for implementing custom protocols

Combine our 8183 (FCC approved) Direct Access Arrangement with the 8140 and get rotary auto-dial and autoanswer.

l. IIIII:


- 5nimimimimimimiminim


## Schmitt trigger optocouplers

Infrared optocouplers with Schmitt trigger output for coupling digital logic circuits eliminate need for comparators or other offchip wave shape circuitry. The series of 5 gallium arsenide couplers guarantees switching time suitable for high speed logic interface. Couplers provide high common noise immunity, restore the distorted bit stream to its original form, and pass the bit stream data from microprocessor to TTL with negligible distortion and delay. Packaged in a std 6-pin plastic DIP, price range is $\$ 1.55$ to $\$ 3.30$. Motorola Semiconductor Products Inc, PO Box 20912, Phoenix, AZ 85036.
Circle 276

## 12-bit DAC guarantees 900-ns settling time

AD7420 12 -bit CMOS DAC has 900 -ns voltage settling time $\max$ to $\pm 0.01 \%$. The DAC eliminates need for trim potentiometers with guaranteed total unadjusted error of $1 / 2$ and -1 LSB max. Power dissipation is 30 mW max. The DAC's current steering mode operates with an ac reference to give multiplying DAC performance. Output capacitance/resistance are code independent. Chip operates with a fixed positive reference voltage and requires a single op amp to develop bipolar output voltages from its $10 \mathrm{k}-\Omega$ output impedance. Three 18 -pin DIPs in 3 temp ranges with guaranteed monotonicity are available. Prices range from $\$ 9.90$ to $\$ 44.80$. Analog Devices, Inc, Rte 1 Industrial Park, PO Box 280, Norwood, MA 02062.
Circle 277

# youwont Billive rour eyter 



Introducing the Kratos KM1400 high-resolution color video display:

## 1024 lines, non-interlaced. 60 Hz refresh ( 64 kHz horizontal scan rate). 100 MHz video bandwidth.



- DC to 100 Kbaud

Asynchronous

- RS-232-C or MIL-STD-188-C
- DTE and DCE Versions
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- Tx Data, Rx Data, PWR ON LED Indicators
One pair of OPTELECOM's Model 4110 modems permit 100Kbaud full duplex communication between distributed terminals, peripherals, or telephone modems, and CPUs or communication controllers over spans to 1 Km . They require NO field termination kits, NO interconnecting EIA cables, and NO rack or desk top space.
These modems use standard fiber optic cables which can be pre-installed in existing cable trays, ducts, or air plenums. Since these cables are immune to electro-magnetic interference, they can penetrate screen rooms, pass through manufacturing areas, or run between locations of varying ground potential; ALL without line conditioning, shielding, or filtering.
Save time, money, and your data processing system with the OPTELECOM Model 4110 and associated cables.


15940 Luanne Dr. Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (301) 948-4232

## Bus arbitration module

A bipolar asynchronous bus controller, the MC68452 multiplexes local microprocessor buses onto a common global bus, allowing the local buses to share memory, I/O devices, and communications. A single module provides arbitration for up to 8 bus masters and can be expanded indefinitely to support more masters. The central arbitration function utilizes a separate request-grant pair for each user. Each module circuit has 8 data bus request and data bus grant pairs. Samples are available now for $\$ 25$ in quantities of 100 . Motorola Inc, MOS Microprocessor Div, 3501 Ed Bluestein Blvd, Austin, TX 78721.
Circle 278

## CMOS macrocell arrays

LL3000 series of Sigate CMOS arrays includes 10 devices with complexities ranging from 272 to 2550 gates, and pin counts ranging from 36 to 104. The 3.5 -micron arrays use single-level metal interconnection. Nominal delays are 6 to 8 ns through a 2 -input nand gate. The series is fully supported by the company's logic development system (LDS) and an extensive library of macrocells and macrofunctions. All array pads are completely bidirectional and can be configured as input, output, or bidirectional lines. Lines can be TTL or CMOS compatible, and are protected from static discharge. LSI Logic Corp, 1601 McCarthy Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035. Circle 279

## 64k static RAM

HM6264 8 k x 8 static RAM has $100-$, 120 -, and $150-\mathrm{ns}$ access times and a JEDEC 28 -pin package that is pinout compatible with std 64 k EPROMS. HI-CMOS technology provides high speed, high density, and low power consumption. The vLSI device includes a single $5-\mathrm{V}$ power supply, $10-\mu \mathrm{W}$ standby and $200-\mathrm{mW}$ operating power, 3 -state output, and full TTL compatibility. Hitachi America, Ltd, 1800 Bering Dr, San Jose, CA 95112. Circle 280

## Talk to the editor

Have you written to the editor lately? We're waiting to hear from you.

## Fast access 8k PROMs

93Z451 junction fuse TTL compatible 8192-bit bipolar PROM, organized as $1024 \times 8$, provides max commercial access time of 40 ns and mil access time of 55 ns . The 93Z451A grade features $35-n s$ commercial and $45-\mathrm{ns}$ mil access times. With max supply current of 135 mA , the chip claims the lowest power dissipation for any high speed PROM. The vertical NPN transistor is programmed via a self-adjusting current ramp. Programming yields are typ $98 \%$. Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp, 441 Whisman Rd, Mountain View, CA 94039.

Circle 281

## CMOS ADC with onchip sample and hold

Featuring a built-in sample and hold function, MSM5204RS CMOS 8 -bit ADC enables direct input of analog signals. The device has a latched 3 -state output register that facilitates use in bus oriented systems. Typ conversion time is $66 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ at a $500-\mathrm{kHz}$ clock rate; faster operation can be achieved at higher clock rates. Device provides $\pm 1 / 2$ LSB accuracy and employs a successive capacitor ladder conversion system. Typ power consumption is 4.5 mW . In an 18 -pin plastic DIP, price is $\$ 4.10$ each. OKI Semiconductor, 1333 Lawrence Expy, Santa Clara, CA 95051.
Circle 282

## RAM integrates refresh and arbitration functions

Family of integrated rams (irams) initially includes the 21868 k x 8 -bit device that integrates refresh and arbitration. The low cost ( $\$ 19.95$ ) static RAM is suited for microprocessor memory applications. Produced in a std 28 -pin package, 2186 based designs are functionally compatible with Intel's EPROMs. All normal dynamic memory refresh functions are performed internally, and onchip async refresh arbitration is provided. Max access time is 300 ns ; cycle time is 500 ns . Max active current requirement is 70 mA , and standby current requirement is 20 mA . Intel Corp, 3065 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Circle 283

# LOW COST MULTIPLEXING AND NETWORK MANAGEMENT 

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## PLUS INTEGRAL MODEMS

ACM9100 and ASM9200 models are also available with CCITT high-performance 9.6 Kbps and 4.8 Kbps integral modems featuring automatic speed fallback and return.

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## THE ONIY LTTLE 32-BIT COMPUTER EVEN WORTH DISCUSSING.

The problem with most low end 32-bit computers is that their usefulness is right down there with their price.

So we've come out with a low end 32-bit computer that has up to twice the performance and twice the memory of comparable machines.

Which means it can actually do the kinds of things you want a 32 -bit computer to do.

THE ECLIPSE MV/4000 ${ }^{\text {™ }}$ COMPUTER.
The ECLIPSE MV/4000 has $600 \mathrm{~K}-W$ hetstone compute power. And an

I/O bandwidth of 5 megabytes per second. And to make that performance easy to perform with, the ECLIPSE MV/4000 has virtual addressability, 16 KB of user microcode space, nine I/O slots, and a rack-mountable OEM chassis version. As well as the ability to handle up to 8 MB of memory, 4.7 Gigabytes of on-line storage and 64 terminals. All of which you don't usually find on a low end 32 -bit computer.

## THE SOFTWARE YOU NEED. <br> Unlike most low end 32-bit com-

 puters, the ECLIPSE MV/4000 gives you a choice of compatible operating sys-tems: AOS/VS (our interactive advanced operating system with virtual storage). Or AOS/RT 32 (our lean, deterministic, real-time operating system). Plus a wide variety of industry and international standard communication protocols. As well as our XODIAC" network management system, SNA, CEO ${ }^{\text {nic }}$ (office automation) and data base management software. And an array of commercial and technical languages, productivity tools, and third party software packages.

## THE COMPATIBILITY YOU EXPECT.

Should you one day need even more of a computer, you can take all your code (and all your peripherals) onto the bigger members of the ECLIPSE family. Because the ECLIPSE MV/4000 is fully compatible with the entire Data General

Should you find yourself staying with the ECLIPSE MV/4000 system,
you'll find it stays with you. Partly because of our worldwide network of field service engineers. And partly because of some inherently reliable design considerations. Like extensive self diagnostics on power up. The simple, two board implementation. And the $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ burn-in test it goes through. In fact, we're offering an uptime guarantee of 96 to $99 \%$. And a remote diagnostic program.

The way we see it, making a little 32-bit computer is no excuse for making any less of a computer.

Want to discuss the only little 32-bit computer worth discussing? Call your local Data General office. Or write us TPD, F134, 4400 Computer Drive, Westboro, MA 01580. ECLIPSE MV product line.

## 4.DataGeneral



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In every issue of Computer Design you'll find a bound-in survey questionnaire entitled "Designer Preference Survey." Your participation in these surveys is important. Your answers are significant. They tell our editors what's going on in the marketplace, what kinds of systems you are designing, how your product choices are shaping up, what products, subsystems, equipment and components you are using or would like to use.

The answers you supply can guide our editors in selecting the topics, features, and technical data that will be on target with the kinds of projects you are working on.
The questionnaires also alert manufacturers to your needs. The inputs you give us help them to develop products with the speeds, ranges, capacities, etc. that you require.
As an added incentive, each questionnaire returned gives you a chance to win a valuable prize. Drawings are made each month, with a grand prize drawing at year end.


## MONTHLY DRAWING HP 41C

 PROGRAMMABLE CALCULATORThe HP 41C offers advanced problem-solving power yet is easy to use. Communicates in words as well as numbers. Can be programmed to meet your specific needs. Fifty-eight popular functions, 130 total operations in function library You can add peripherals and extension modules to expand capabilities.


## ANNUAL DRAWING HP 85 DESK TOP COMPUTER

This portable (20\#) unit includes an alphanumeric keyboard tape drive, thermal printer, built-in 56 K byte memory, CRT screen, and 150 built-in HP BASIC language commands. You can add peripherals and software packages to expand system capability. A $\$ 2800$ value!
COMPUTER DESIGN

## Invest \$729.95 in Zilog's Peripherals Kit and get what you paid for out of the 68000.



So, you picked the 68000 for your new design only to discover the manufacturer doesn't offer all the peripherals you need to back it up. What now? Order Zilog's handy new Z8500 Peripherals Evaluation Kit today to help bring your designs to reality. Only Zilog has the peripherals and foresight to develop this unique kit. And only Zilog can make you this special offer.

You get the most advanced peripheral chips available to enhance the performance of your 68000 CPU in addition to interface applications notes and complete documentationall for \$129.95!

Zilog peripherals feature

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- Two full-duplex channels
- Asynchronous and synchronous data communications modes Z8030 FIO
- 128-byte asynch bidirectional FIFO buffer
- Mailbox registers
- Pattern recognition logic Z8536 CIO
- Three I/O ports
- Four handshake modes
- Three independent 16-bit counter/timers


## Zilog

Pioneering the Microworld. An affiliate of EXON Corporation

## SYSTEW COMPONENTS/TNTERCOWNEGTION B PABKABTNE

## Mini flex cable connector

The $7583-\mathrm{CN} 0.1^{\prime \prime}(0.3-\mathrm{cm})$ center flat flex cable connector has an envelope size of $0.15^{\prime \prime} \times 0.26^{\prime \prime}(0.38 \times 0.66 \mathrm{~cm})$. It terminates membrane switch tails and other high impedance circuitry to PCBS. With the connector's dual-beam terminal design, contact can be made on either
side of the mylar tails. Housing is $94 \mathrm{~V}-0$ polyester with standoff base. Terminals are tinplated copper alloy. Circuit sizes are 5 to 21 , in straight and right angle versions. Low insertion/withdrawal force allows 10 mating cycles. Current rating is 1 A . Molex Inc, 2222 Wellington Ct, Lisle, IL 60532. Circle 284

## Hybrid cable



A hybrid cable for voice, data, and video communications contains twisted pairs, shielded twisted pairs or shielded miniature coaxial cable, and dualwindow optical fibers. The 100 -micron dual-window fiber has $300-\mathrm{MHz}$ bandwidth and $6-\mathrm{dB} / \mathrm{km}$ max attenuation. The fiber optic cable is buffered by Hytrel for crush resistance, shielded with Kevlar for tensile strength, and jacketed with polyurethane for nonplenum applications. Shielded twisted pairs use 22-gauge solid copper conductors and handle data rates to 16 M bps. Impedance is $150 \Omega /$ pair, and attenuation on crosstalk is $58 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{km}$. Brand-Rex Co, West Main St, Rte 32, Willimantic, CT 06226.

Circle 285

DEC, MULTIBUS compatible mass storage and backplane modules
StacPac individually packaged mass storage modules have their own power supply and can stand alone as an add-on memory system. The modules can also be stacked together as a system by adding CPU, I/O, and memory boards to the StacPac backplane module. Available in either DEC or mULTIBUS compatible versions, the modules have an interlocking design that prevents tipping. Individually packaged units include slimline floppy module, tape module, $8^{\prime \prime}$ Winchester module, and processor module. Data Systems Design, Inc, 2241 Lundy Ave, San Jose, CA 95131. Circle 286

Division of CAW<br>Control Corp.<br>148 New York Avenue<br>Halesite, NY 11743<br>(516) 423-3232



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- Use synchronous / asynchronous / isosynchronous protocols
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- Remote programmable control standard
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- IBM bi-synchronous protocol supported up to 56 K baud
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# Cut your cable costs up to <br> Connect yourself with Digital right now and save up to $75 \%$ in our mid-winter sale. On just about every cable we offer. All brand new. And fully warranteed. <br> To order, simply call toll-free 800-258-1710. In New Hampshire, Alaska and Hawaii, call 603-884-6660. But call now, supplies are limited. Offer ends April 3. <br> All orders must be placed through Digital's Accessories and Supplies Group. Standard A\&SG terms and conditions apply. Prices are net. You must agree to immediate delivery. Minimum order $\$ 35$, unless charged to MasterCard or VISA. Digital reserves the right to limit order quantities. Maximum order by phone $\$ 5,000$. Larger orders must be accompanied by purchase order and mailed to: Digital Equipment Corporation, P.O. Box CS2008, Nashua, NH, 03061. 

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Part Number \& Description \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Regular \\
Price
\end{tabular} \& Sale Price* \& \[
\begin{gathered}
\% \\
\text { Off }
\end{gathered}
\] \& Part Number \& Description \& Regular Price \& Sale Price** \& \[
\begin{gathered}
\% \\
\text { Off }
\end{gathered}
\] \\
\hline BCO1V-25/8F \& Cable Assy DP8-EA 25 FT \& \$126. \& \$82. \& 34 \& 4A-LOTCB-AABF \& Lot of 5, BCO1V-25 (25 'Cable) \& 540. \& 375. \& \\
\hline BCCO2M-25/BF \& WO21-W22 Ribbon, 25FT \& -150. \& 45 \& 74 \&  \& Lot of to BCOIV-25 (25 \({ }^{\text {a }}\) Cable) \& \({ }_{616 .} 89\). \& 695
425 \& 22
31 \\
\hline  \& Cable, Woz3-W0 23 TU5555F \& \begin{tabular}{l}
180. \\
250 \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& 45.
110. \& 75
56 \& 4A-LTCB-AG/BF \& Lot of \(5, \mathrm{BCO3M-A0}\left(100^{\prime}\right.\) Cable)
Lot of \(10, \mathrm{BCO3M-A0}\left(100^{\prime} \mathrm{Cable}\right)\) \& r 61.16. \& 725. \& 31
35 \\
\hline \({ }^{\text {BCOLSMMAO/BF }}\) \& \(100^{\prime}\) Null Modem Ext Cable \& 140. \& 88. \& 32
42 \& \({ }^{4} \mathrm{~A}-1 . \mathrm{OTCB}\)-AJ/BF \&  \& 2,748. \& 1,695. \& \({ }_{36} 38\) \\
\hline BCO3N-A5/BF \& Special Built Cable 150 FT \& \begin{tabular}{l}
1400 \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& 100. \& 50 \& 4A-LOTCB-ADA \({ }^{\text {a }}\) \& Lot of 5, BCO5C-25 (25' \({ }^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 4,93. \& 425. \& \({ }_{21}\) \\
\hline BCO3P-AO/BF \& Null Modem, 2 Fem Ends, 100FT \& \({ }^{150}\) \& 90. \& \({ }_{31}^{40}\) \& \({ }^{\text {4A-LOTCBARARF }}\) \&  \& 1,015. \& 795. \& 21 \\
\hline BCO4R-121BF \& Mate- - -Lok to 4 Rings, 12FT \& 34. \& 24. \& 29 \& 4A-LOTCB-AT/BF \&  \& 4,375. \& 3,595. \& 17 \\
\hline BCO4R-AO/BF \& Special Cable 100FT, \& 100. \& 70. \& 30 \& 4A-LOTCB-BC/BF \& Lot of 5, BCO5D-25 (25' Cable) \& 648. \& 475. \& 26 \\
\hline  \&  \& 48. \& 130.
26. \& 35
45 \&  \& Lot of 10, BCO5D-25 (25' \({ }^{\text {cable }}\) ( \({ }^{\text {a }}\) \& \(1,197\).
\(2,742\). \& \({ }^{8955}\) \& 25
20 \\
\hline BCO4Z-06/BF \& H856,40 Conductor Flat (6) \& 50. \& \({ }_{30}{ }^{20}\) \& 40 \& 4A-LOTCB-EF/EF \&  \& 5,152. \& 3,950. \& 23 \\
\hline BCO4z-1018F \& H856,40 Conductor Flat (10) \& 52. \& 35. \& 32 \& 4A-LOTCB-BG/BF \& Lot ot 5, BCOSD-50 (50 \(0^{\circ} \mathrm{Cabable)}\) \& 695. \& 525. \& 24 \\
\hline \({ }_{B C 042-25 / 8 F}\) \& \({ }^{\text {H8565,40}}\) Conductor Flat (25) \& 80. \& 45. \& 50 \& 4 A -LOTCB-BJ/BF \& Lot ot 25, 8 CO5D-50 ( 50 ' Cable) \& 3,115. \& 2,375. \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 24 \\
\& 23
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline BCO5C-09/BF \& Cable Modem 9FT \& 112. \& 80. \& \({ }^{28}\) \& 4A-LOTCB-B/KBF \& Lot of 50, BCOSD-50 (50' Cable) \& 5,750. \& 4,495. \& 21 \\
\hline BCO5D-1/BF \& \({ }_{\text {BS232 }}\) Male-Fem, 25 Cond, 15FT \& \({ }_{125}\) \& 99. \& \({ }_{28}^{25}\) \& \({ }_{4}^{4} 4\)-LOTCB-CB/BF \& - \& -1,186. \& \({ }_{8}^{4350}\). \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 30 \\
\& 28
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline BCOSD-20/8F \& RS232 Male-Fem, 25 Cond, 20 FT , \& 130. \& 95. \& \({ }^{26}\) \& 4 A -LOTCB-CJ/BF \& Lot of 25, BC11A-02 (2, Cable) \& \(2,800\). \& 1,995. \& \({ }^{28}\) \\
\hline BCO5D-50/BF \& \({ }^{\text {ASS232 Male-em, }}\) \& 140.
150. \& \begin{tabular}{l}
100. \\
10. \\
\hline 10.
\end{tabular} \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 28 \\
\& 26
\end{aligned}
\] \& \({ }_{4}^{4} \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{LOTCO}\) \&  \& 5,276. \& 3,895. \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 26 \\
\& 26
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline BCO5D-75/BF \& RS232 Male-Fem, 25 Cond, 75FT \& \({ }^{225}\) \& 160. \& 28 \& 4A-LOTCB-CM/BF \& Lot of \(10 . \mathrm{BCC114-10}\) ( \(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\) Cable) \& 1.603. \& 1,200. \& 25 \\
\hline BCO5J-06/BF \& Cabie Interace LA \& 150.
100. \& 65. \& 35
35 \& \({ }_{4}^{4 A-L O T C B-C N / B F ~}\) \&  \& \({ }_{\text {l }} \begin{aligned} \& 3,785.125 .\end{aligned}\) \& 5,595. \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 22 \\
\& 21
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline BCO5L-15/BF \& H855 TO H855 Flat Reverse 15 \& 80 \& 40. \& \[
50
\] \& 4A-LOTCB-C0/BF \& Lot of 5, BC11A-15 ( \(5^{\prime}\) ' Cable) \& 996. \& 775. \& 22 \\
\hline BCO5M-20/BF \&  \& 42.
62. \& 40. \& 52
35 \& \({ }_{4}^{4 A-L O T C B-C C / B / B F ~}\) \&  \& 4, \(1,884\). \& \(1,495\).
3,650 \& 20
18 \\
\hline BCO5M-25/BF \& Cable H856 to M-N-Lock 25, \& 65. \& 45. \& 30 \& 4A-LOTCB-CTIBF \& Lot of 50, B11A-15 (15' ' Cable) \(^{\text {a }}\) \& 8,384. \& 6,995. \& \({ }^{16}\) \\
\hline BCOSN-50/BF \& Cable H856 to M-N-L-2ck \(55^{\prime \prime}{ }^{\prime \prime}\) \& \({ }_{85}^{90 .}\) \& 60
45 \& 33
47 \& \({ }_{4}^{4 A-L O T C B-D B / B F ~}\) \&  \& \({ }_{436 .}^{228 .}\) \& \begin{tabular}{l}
140. \\
260. \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 38 \\
\& 40
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline BCO5W-25/BF \& 50 Conductor Signal Cable 25' \& 160. \& 85. \& 46 \& 4A-LOTCB-DD/BF \& Lot of \(25, \mathrm{BC} 22 \mathrm{~A}-10\) (10, Cable) \& 1.038. \& 600. \& 42 \\
\hline  \& M908 TO Compstar 191, 25 FF \& \({ }^{425 .}\) \& 225.
50 \& \({ }_{50}^{47}\) \& \({ }_{\text {4 }}\) 4A-LOTCB-DF/EF \&  \& \({ }^{1,962 .}\) \& \({ }^{1} 1909\). \& 23
27 \\
\hline BCO6S-25/BF \& Round Massbus Cable, 25 FT \& 1,040. \& 425. \& 59 \& 4 A - LTOCB -DG/BF \& Lot ot 10, BC22A-25 (25 \({ }^{\text {c }}\), Cable) \& 498. \& 360. \& \({ }_{28}^{27}\) \\
\hline BCO7A-25/BF \& Cable H856 1-End 20 TW PR \(25^{\prime}\) \& 154. \& 120. \& \({ }_{22}\) \& 4A-LOTCB-DJ/BF \& Lot of \(50, \mathrm{BC} 224-25\) (25' Cabie) \& 2,235. \& 1,495. \& 33 \\
\hline BCO7B-25/8F \& Cable H856 1-End 11 TW PR 25' \& 200. \& 90. \& 55 \& 4A-LOTCB-DKBF \& Lot of 5, BC228-10 (10 \(0^{\prime}\) Cabie) \& \({ }^{257}\) \& 145. \& 43 \\
\hline BCO7D-15/8F \& \({ }^{\text {H856 2-20 COND Ribbons }} 15^{\prime}\) \& 140. \& \({ }^{85}\). \& 39
37 \&  \& Lot of \(10, \mathrm{BC228-10}\left(10{ }^{\text {c }}\right.\) Cable) \& \({ }_{1}^{487}\) \& 270. \& \({ }_{43}^{44}\) \\
\hline BCOBA-02/BF \& M903 to M903 Dual Mylar \({ }^{\prime}\) \& 150. \& 40. \& 73 \& 4A-LOTCB-DN/BF \& Lot of 50, BC228-10 (10' Cable) \& 2,166. \& 1,150. \& 46 \\
\hline \(8 \mathrm{BCOBA}-0.5 / \mathrm{BF}\) \& M903 to M903 Dual Mylar 5' \& 200. \& 50.
55. \& 75 \&  \&  \& 580. \& 195.
380. \& 36
34 \\
\hline BCO8A-09/BF \& (M903-M903) 1.25"'M Mylar (9') \& 235. \& 60. \& 74 \& 4A-LOTCB-DR/BF \& Lot of 25, BC228-25 (25' Cable) \& 1,367. \& 900. \& 34 \\
\hline \(8 \mathrm{BCOBA}-10 / \mathrm{BF}\) \& M903 to M903 Dual Mylar 10 \& 250. \& \({ }^{65} 5\) \& 74 \& 4 A -LOTCB-DS/BF \& Lot of \(50, \mathrm{BC228-25}\) ( \(25^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 2,568. \& 1,650. \& 35
31 \\
\hline BCOOA-25/BF \& M903 to M903 Dual Mylar \(25^{\prime}\) \& 350. \& 99. \& 74 \& 4A-LOTCB-DU/BF \& Lot of 10, BCO4R-12 (12'Cable) \& 307. \& 199. \& 35 \\
\hline BCO8F-06/BF \& Cable Module \& 300. \& 100. \& \({ }_{36}^{66}\) \&  \& Lot of 5, BCO42-10 (10 Cabie) \& 243. \& 165. \& \({ }_{3}^{32}\) \\
\hline BCOBJ-10/BF \&  \& 180. \& \({ }_{90} 9\) \& 50 \& 4A-LOTCB-DX \({ }^{\text {a }}\) ( \({ }^{\text {a }}\) \& Lot of 5, BCO4Z-25 (25' Cable) \& 419. \& 215. \& 48 \\
\hline BCOOL-1.1/8F \& \(\mathrm{H}^{\text {H856 to M } 9533440 \mathrm{CND} 3 \mathrm{M} 15^{\prime}}\) \& 215. \& 100. \& 53 \&  \&  \& 777. \& 410.
350 \& \({ }_{61}^{47}\) \\
\hline BCO8J-50/BF \& Cabie IOPDPPE \({ }^{\text {che }}\) \& 300. \& \begin{tabular}{l}
110. \\
135. \\
\hline 105
\end{tabular} \& 55 \& 4A-LOTCB-EC/BF \& Lot of 10.8 BCO5F-AO (Cable in) \& 1,708. \& \({ }_{650}\) \& 61 \\
\hline BCOBk-06//EF \& H8556 to M \(955540 \mathrm{CNO}^{\text {CN }} 3 \mathrm{M} 6^{\prime}\), \& 250. \& 100. \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 60 \\
\& 60 \\
\& 50
\end{aligned}
\] \& \({ }^{\text {A }}\) A \(-10 T C B C-E D B F\) \&  \& \({ }^{200}\) \& 95. \& 52
53 \\
\hline BCO8M-M/BF \& H856 to M955 \(40 \mathrm{CND} \mathrm{3M} 15^{\prime}\) \& 350.
250. \& - 125. \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 58 \\
\& 58
\end{aligned}
\] \&  \& Lot of 5, BCOES-25 (25' Cable) \& 4,875. \& 1,995. \& 59 \\
\hline BCO8R--08/BF \& \({ }^{\text {H556-H856 3M M }}\) MEV \(8^{\prime}\) \& 68. \& 35. \& 48 \&  \&  \& 9,176. \& 3,750. \& 59 \\
\hline (esers-20/BF \& H856-H853M Cable (20) \& \({ }_{60} 90\). \& 55.
30. \& 38
50 \& \({ }^{4} \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{LOTCO}-\mathrm{CO} / \mathrm{BF}\) \&  \& 1,128. \& 1,095. \& 2 \\
\hline (eoseob/BF \& H856-H856 40 Cond, Cable 6 F
Cable M912 12FT \& 1,936.
1 \& \(\begin{array}{r}32 . \\ 800 \\ \hline\end{array}\) \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 48 \\
\& 58 \\
\& 58
\end{aligned}
\] \& 4A-LOTCB-ET/BF \&  \& 649.
\(1,198\). \& 395. \& \({ }_{35}^{39}\) \\
\hline BCO9B-01/8F \& I/IOBus M912 Cable 10FT \& \({ }^{1} 1,963\). \& \({ }_{825} 8\). \& 57 \& \({ }^{4} \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{LOTCB}\)-EVVIBF \& Lot of 5, BCO7D-25 (25 \({ }^{\text {a }}\) Cable) \& 7.758. \& 495. \& 34 \\
\hline BCO98-12/BF \& \({ }^{1 / O}\) Bus 2 M912 12101 M912, XXFT \& 2, 2 , 000. \& 85. \& 56 \&  \& Let of \(10, \mathrm{BCO7D}-25\left(5^{\prime} 5^{\prime}\right.\) Cable) \& \(\begin{array}{r}1,397 \\ \text { 298. } \\ \hline\end{array}\) \& 950.
140. \& 31
53 \\
\hline BC \({ }^{\text {BCKK}}\)-10/BF \& 10 MEM BUUS Cable 10 FT. \& 2,551. \& 1,500. \& \({ }_{41}^{4}\) \& 4A-LOTCB-FASB \& Lot of \(10.8 \mathrm{BCOBS}-06\) ( \(6^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 566. \& 275. \& 51 \\
\hline  \& 10 MEM BUS Cabie 15 FT \& 退, \& 1,650. \& 39 \& \({ }^{4 A-L O T C B-F D / B F ~}\) \& Lot of 5, BC11S-25 (25' \({ }^{\text {c }}\) Cable) \& -647. \& \({ }_{795}^{425}\) \& 34
33 \\
\hline BCTOK-35/EF \& 1 PDP 10 MEM BUS Cable \& 3,443: \& 2,100. \& 39 \& 4A-LOTCB-FF/BF \& Lot of 5, \(\mathrm{BCH1S}\)-50 (50' Cable ) \& 8811. \& 595. \& 26 \\
\hline  \& AMP Quick Latch to (5) W021 Cable \& 2,750. \& 800 \& 70
3 \& \({ }^{4 A-L O T C B-F G / B F ~}\) \& Lot of 10, BC11s-50 (50' Cable) \& 1.510. \& 1,995. \& 27
28 \\
\hline  \& Exxernal Unibus \({ }^{\text {a }}\) \& 155. \& \({ }_{110} 90\). \& 29 \& 4A-LOTCB-FJ/BF \& Lot of \(10, \mathrm{BC} 111\)-AO(100' Cable) \& 2,415. \& 1,795. \& 25 \\
\hline  \& External Unibus \(6^{\prime}\) \& 160. \& 115. \& \({ }^{28}\) \& 4A-LOTCB-FK/BF \& Lot of 5, 70-11212-25 (Cable) \& -900. \& 875. \& 47 \\
\hline BC11A-10/BF \& Exxernal \& 182. \& 130. \& \({ }_{28}\) \& \({ }^{4} \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{LOTCG}\)-FM/BF \& Lot of 5, 70-11212-50 (Cable) \& 1,134. \& 625. \& 44 \\
\hline BC1A 1 -15 \({ }^{\text {BCF }}\) \&  \& 210. \& 160. \& 23 23 \& \({ }_{4}^{4 A-L O T C B-F N / E F F}\) \& Lot of 10,70-11212-50 ( Cabal ) \&  \& \(1,195\).
6,750. \& \({ }_{39}^{43}\) \\
\hline BC11A-20/BF \& External Unibus \(20^{\prime}\) \& 220. \& 175. \& 20 \& 4A-LOTCB-FY/BF \& Lot of \(10, \mathrm{BCO} 10 \mathrm{~K}\)-05 ( \(5^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 20,570. \& 12,750. \& 38 \\
\hline BC11A-25/BF \& External Unibus \(25^{\prime}\) \& 230. \& 180. \& 21 \& 4A-LOTCB-FZ/BF \& Lot of 25, \(\mathrm{BC} 10 \mathrm{~K}-055^{\text {(5 }}\) ' Cable) \& 46,150. \& 29,875. \& 35 \\
\hline 仿A-50/BF \& Exernal \& \({ }_{450}\) \& 350. \& \({ }_{22}^{25}\) \& \({ }_{4}\) A-LOTCE-GB/BF \& Lot of \(10,3 \mathrm{BC10K}-10\) ( \(10^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 22,109. \& \(13,995\). \& 39 \\
\hline 11K-25/8F \& H856 1 End 20 Pair \(25^{\prime}\) \& 180. \& 90. \& \[
50
\] \& 4 A -LOTCB-GC/BF \& Lot of 25, BC \(10 \mathrm{~K}-10\) ( \(100^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 49,604. \& 33,125. \& 33 \\
\hline (113-50/BF \& H856TO H856 18 TW PR \(50^{\prime}\) \& \({ }_{173} 138\). \& 125. \& 34
27
27 \&  \& Lot of \(10, \mathrm{BC} 10 \mathrm{~K}-25\) (25 ' \({ }^{\text {c abiele }}\) \& 14,679. \& 17,900. \& 32 \\
\hline 115 -A0/BF \& \({ }^{\text {H856 TO H856 }} 18\) TW PR 100' \& 277. \& 190. \& 31 \& 4A-LOTCB-GF/BF \& Lot of 25, BCC10K-25 (25 \({ }^{\prime}\) Cable) \& 59,856. \& 39,750. \& 33 \\
\hline 202-25/BF \& TU58 Cable, 25 FT . \& 120. \& \({ }_{45}^{45}\). \& 622 \& \({ }_{4}^{4}\) A-LOTCE-GH/BF \& Lot of \(10, \mathrm{BC} 10 \mathrm{~K}-35\) (35' Cable) \& 29,837. \& 18,950. \& 36 \\
\hline BC21S-25/8F \& VK170 10 Pin Comm Cable \& 120. \& 40. \& 66 \& 70-06267-00/BF \& Cable Module PCO4 \& 148. \& 100. \& 32 \\
\hline  \& Nulll Modem RS \(232 \mathrm{C} 10^{\prime}\) \& 48. \& \({ }_{40 .}\) \& 37

27 \& 70-109562-00/BF \&  \& 20. \& 100. \& 50 <br>
\hline BC22A-35/BF \& Null Modem RS $232 \mathrm{C} 35^{\prime}$ \& 65. \& 50. \& 23 \& -1212-50//8F \& 11 interacee Cab \& 250. \& 130. \& 48 <br>
\hline  \& RS232C Male to Fem 14 CND $10^{\prime}$ \& 85
55. \& ${ }_{30} 0$. \& ${ }_{45}^{25}$ \& 70-1217-25/BF \& Cable Card Reader Intertace \& \& \& <br>
\hline $8 \mathrm{BC228-25/BF}$ \& RS232C Male to Fem 14 COND 25', \& ${ }_{75}^{65}$ \& 40.
55. \& 38 \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline ${ }_{\text {BCC } 228-50 / B F ~}^{\text {c }}$ \& RS232C Male to Fem 14 COND 50' \& 99. \& 60. \& ${ }_{33}$ \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline ${ }_{8}^{\mathrm{BC} 24 \mathrm{C}-10 / \mathrm{BF}}$ \& ${ }^{\text {Null Modem Cable }}$ 25PIN Fem-10PIN Null Modem 25' \& 75.
100. \& ${ }_{85}^{50 .}$ \& $\begin{array}{r}33 \\ 15 \\ \hline\end{array}$ \& \& \& \& 1 \& <br>
\hline BC242-A0/BF \& Long Line Cable Kit: 100 FT \& 500. \& 350. \& 30 \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline ${ }^{\mathrm{BC} C 242-E 0 / 8 F}$ \& Long Line Cable kit 500 FT \& \% $\begin{array}{r}1,350 \\ 1,750\end{array}$ \& -975. \& 27
24 \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline BC268-01/BF \& Vk100 Y-Cable 1FT \& 85. \& 50. \& ${ }^{41}$ \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline ${ }_{\text {BCV1B-06/BF }}$ \& 6 Foot Cable Ass.
6 Foot Cable Ass. $(1-2)$ \& ${ }_{350}^{250}$ \& 160.
175. \& 36
50 \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline Digul \& \& \& , \& \& d \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

## Multibus boards interface 512 analog inputs

DT712 high level and DT714 low level Multibus analog input boards have capacities up to 128 single-ended analog inputs ( 64 differential inputs) on 1 board or up to 512 single-ended input channels ( 256 differential inputs) on a 2-board set. DT713 high level and DT715 low level
expander boards are also available. The boards reduce power and backplane space requirements, and with a single ADC , ease software programming requirements. Screw terminal panels facilitate connection of several user input signals. Data Translation, 100 Locke Dr, Marlboro, MA 01752.
Circle 287

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Plotter module adds graphics to HP- 41 computers


HP-41 handheld computers can be linked to the HP 7470 color graphics plotter for chart, graph, and bar code plotting capabilities. The plotter module ( $\$ 75$ list price) and computer connect to the graphics plotter via the HP interface loop (HP-IL). An HP-IL compatible plotter version (HP 7470 option 003) is currently available with the plotter module. Remote and benchtop data acquisition applications are accommodated. The 15 -ips plotter lists at $\$ 1575$. Plotter module allows users to create HP-41 bar code on the HP 82162 thermal printer. Contact local Hewlett-Packard sales offices.
Circle 288

## Controller for $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ drive compatibility with OIC hardware

C160-90A-B single-board intelligent controller makes the D160 $1 / 2$ " streaming tape drive hardware/software compatible with any $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ tape cartridge drive using the proposed Quarter Inch Cartridge (QIC) interface standard. The controller provides an 8 -bit parallel connection to the host processor and handles data separation, tape formatting, and error correction and control. It supports nonstop streaming file backup and restores at 90 ips . Any $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ tape cartridge with QIC interface can be configured with a 160M-byte D160 $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ streaming device. Evaluation versions will cost approx $\$ 600$. Rosscomp Corp, 16643 Valley View Ave, Cerritos, CA 90701.
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## Ada compiler for iAPX 86 microprocessors

Ada 86 family of computer language translators compiles the Ada language for Intel's iAPX 86 series of 16 -bit microprocessors. The compiler will meet U.S. DoD standards and will be hosted on vax minicomputers as well as on other

Intel based products. Similar introductions include Ada 432 Version 1-an Ada compiler for the iAPX 432 micromainframe computer, and imAX-an IAPX 432 operating system written entirely in Ada. Intel Corp, 3065 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95051.
Circle 293


## The GrafBar* sonic digitizer from Science Accessories.

You've waited for a low cost, featurepacked sonic digitizer free from the restrictions of a solid data tablet. Now your patience has been rewarded: The Science Accessories' GrafBar digitizer is here with built-in ORIGIN, LINE, METRIC, STREAM, and CANCEL programs!

A compact $19^{\prime \prime} \times 6^{\prime \prime} \times 13 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ assembly, the SAC ${ }^{\circledR}$ GrafBar digitizer incorporates two point microphones to unencumber the work area, to accommodate left or right hand digitizing, and to allow the utilization of any work surface rather than a prescribed digitizing tablet. And the $18^{\prime \prime} \times 24^{\prime \prime}$ active area is the largest of any low cost digitizing system currently available; most other digitizers only offer $11^{\prime \prime} \times 11^{\prime \prime}$ active areas.

Mobility and the large active area of the GrafBar microphone assembly mean interaction with a variety of images, including CRTor plasma displays, projections from x rays or films, maps, or drawings on drafting tables

The GrafBar sonic digitizer features builtin microprocessor conversion of slant ranges into absolute cartesian ( $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{Y}$ ) coordinates. Available outputs include RS-232 serial ASCII, parallel ASCII packed binary, or $B C D$, allowing virtually universal interfacing.

The output is selected with a jumper on the output connector. The RS-232 baud rate is selectable at 150-19,200 in eight steps. Both stylus and cursor compatible, the GrafBar digitizer provides a built-in 115 VAC power supply, $0.01 \mathrm{inch} /$ centimeter output resolution, and 100 point per second slant range digitizing rate. And the new SAC low cost digitizer offers a built-in, fivefunction menu which is operational in a $2^{\prime \prime}$ margin between the GrafBar assembly and the active area.
The SAC GrafBar sonic digitizer. At under $\$ 900.00$ list, it's the most compact, portable, user-oriented digitizer yet, perfect for microcomputer systems, interactive graphics, and data entry.
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## SAC SCIENCE ACCESSORIES CORPORATION

## Ladder diagram translator for programmable controllers

A ladder diagram translator for GE's Series Six programmable controllers automates production of the controller's program documentation. The software allows the translator system to program the GE data processor unit, a function normally provided by the GE program development terminal. The package is also available for programmable controllers from Allen-Bradley, Gould Modicon, and Texas Instruments. XYCOM, Inc, 750 N Maple Rd, Saline, MI 48176.
Circle 294

UNIX based DBMS for 16 -bit micros
Unify UNIX based relational database management system for 16 -bit microcomputers incorporates pointers, hashing, and B-tree access methods to increase hardware performance. The software system requires 1.5 M -byte disk storage and 100 k -byte main memory. Applications can be developed without programming via integrated fully relational, nonprocedural development tools. These include interactive menu handler, command line functionality, online help features, and full-screen data entry that interfaces through an online data dictionary. Package is $\$ 2995$. North American Technology, Inc, 9570 SW Barbur Blvd, Portland, OR 97219.
Circle 295

## Ethernet software

Fusion software package supports file transfer, remote program execution, and electronic mail between VAX, PDP-11, 68000, 8086, and other CPUs across a 10M-bit Ethernet lan. Process to process data transfer rates in excess of 100 k bytes/s are achieved. Versions also accommodate file transfers between UNIX, DEC VMS, IBM PC-DOS, and several other operating systems. Multiple communications protocols are also handled. Binary licenses are priced from $\$ 500$. Network Research Corp, 1964 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025.
Circle 296

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## SYSTEM COMPOMENTS/




## 8-bit EPROM microcomputer unit

MC1468705G2 and MC1468705F2 CMOS EPROM microcomputers feature static operation, single 3 - to $5-\mathrm{Vdc}$ power supply requirement, internal 8 -bit timer with software programmable 7 -bit prescaler, external timer input, external timer and interrupts, and onchip oscillator. The 1468705 G 2 has 40 pins and contains 112 bytes of Ram, 2106 bytes of UVEPROM, and 32 bidirectional I/O lines. The 1468705F2 will have 28 pins, 64 bytes of RAM, 16 bidirectional I/O lines, 1080 bytes of UVEPROM, and be an EPROM version of the mask ROM 146805F2. The $\$ 250 \quad 1468705 \mathrm{G} 2$ is being sampled now; 1468705F2 will be available during mid-1983. Motorola Inc, MOS Microprocessor Div, 3501 Ed Bluestein Blvd, Austin, TX 78721.
Circle 297

## CPU board accesses 16M-byte nonsegmented memory

Able to directly access a full 16 M bytes of nonsegmented memory on the IEEE $696 / \mathrm{S}-100$ bus, the $10-\mathrm{MHz}, 68000$ based CPU board handles 8 - and 16-bit memory and allows simultaneous mixing of both types. The CPU 68 K board ( $\$ 850$ ) includes the 68000 processor, a socket for the 68451 MMU, and sockets for up to 16 k bytes of EPROM. Onboard sockets accept 2716, 2732 , or 2764 type EPROMS, and provision is made for power-on jump using EPROMS. Onboard wait state generator and interrupt structure are included. Up to 5 waits can be added to any cycle. Software support includes the CP/M-68K and a Forth os. CompuPro Systems, Oakland Airport, Oakland, CA 94614. Circle 298

## 16-bit supermicro with Winchester, multi-user capabilities

Sage iv 16 -bit supermicrocomputer, accommodating up to 6 simultaneous users, is based on the $8-\mathrm{MHz} 68000$ processor. System performs 2 M operations/s. It comes std with 128 k main memory expandable to 1 M byte. A 5 M - to 30M-byte fixed or removable Winchester disk is built-in next to a $5^{1 / 4^{\prime \prime}}$ floppy backup. Since there are no wait states, a 20 k program loads from the floppy in 1 s , and from the hard disk on 0.1 s. Sage Computer Technology, 35 N Edison Way, Reno, NV 89502.
Circle 299

## Desktop micro



DTC desktop microcomputer includes keyboard/CPU, screen, and disk drive. It comes standard with 64 k -byte RAM, 32 k -byte ROM, and dual 320 k -byte floppy disk drive. Facit DOS, CP/M 2.2 , and a $15^{\prime \prime}$ ( $38-\mathrm{cm}$ ) $80-\mathrm{col}$ nonglare screen with amber phosphor chars are also included. Two RS-232-C serial communications ports and a BASIC interpreter are provided. Several software packages are available, in addition to a wide selection of CP/M applications. Facit, Inc, 235 Main Dunstable Rd, Nashua, NH 03061.

Circle 300

## 16 -bit CPU board for STD bus

RSD-8088 single-board STD bus computer ( $\$ 390$ ) features the 8088 4.77-MHz microprocessor with internal 16 -bit wide registers, 16 -bit ALU, and a set of 16 -bit instructions. Twenty programmable parallel I/o lines are usable with/without handshaking, and onboard interrupts for serial and parallel I/O are included. Five 28 -pin byte-wide memory sockets are jumper configurable for 24 - or 28 -pin EPROM or RAM, and 256 -byte additional RAM reside onboard. Wait state generator, programmable memory and I/O map decoder, 1M-byte address range and 64 k I/O range, and CPU status bits available on STD bus interface are featured. Robotrol Corp, 1250 Oakmead Pkwy, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Circle 301

## Micro delivers low cost minicomputer/UNIX performance

A 68000/UNIX based multi-user mULTIBUS configured microcomputer, the CODATA 3300 comes std as an 8 -user system with integral $51 / 4$ " 33 M -byte Winchester drive for $\$ 9600$. A 2 -user version with 12 M -byte Winchester is priced at $\$ 7800$. An $8^{\prime \prime} 84 \mathrm{M}$-byte Winchester configuration is $\$ 13,500$. System has 320 k bytes of parity protected RAM, expandable to 1.5 M bytes with memory management. Backup is via quad-density floppy disk, cartridge tape, or 9 -track tape drives. Codata Systems Corp, 285 N Wolfe Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Circle 302

## Digi-Data Cartridge Systems Don't Care Which Bus You're On.

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CIRCLE 155

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CIRCLE 169


SYSTEM COMPOMENTS/

## Network tester emulates DEC protocol



Dyna-Test 2000B troubleshoots networks using the DEC DDCMP protocol, displaying the header, block check chars, and text in a DDCMP message. Transmit signal is shown in reverse video and the receive signal in normal video. Noninterrupt mode monitors all interface signals and displays transmit/receive signals. With the interface open, unit can simulate a terminal, modem, or frontend processor port to the DDCMP network. Full keyboard, 200k-char tape, and external video and printer outputs are provided. All programs are stored in nonvolatile 1 k -byte memory and can be transferred to tape. Dynatech Data Systems, 7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153.

Circle 303

## Logic analyzer adds performance measurements to timing/state analysis

Models HP1630A (35 input channels) and HP1630D (43 input channels) logic analyzers work as 8 - or 16 -channel timing analyzers, 35 - or 43 -channel state analyzers, interactive state/timing analyzers, and software performance analyzers. Performance measurements provide realtime distribution of execution times and software events. All modes have 1024 -word sample memory. State measurements up to 25 MHz and timing measurements up to 100 MHz are made in real time and nonintrusively. Units are compatible with the HP-IL, HPIB, HP's minicassette drive, and most 8and 16-bit processors. Contact local Hewlett-Packard sales offices.


Circle 304

# TOP OF <br> <br> THE <br> <br> THE <br>  (2) 


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Circle 305


## D-size plotter

DMP-41 drafting quality graphics plotter (\$2995) for micro- and minicomputer CAD applications accepts D-size (55.88- x $86.36-\mathrm{cm}$ ) formatted media and plots a $50.8-\mathrm{x} 81.28-\mathrm{cm}$ area. Drive mechanism accepts fiber, ball-point, and ink pens on bond, vellum, or mylar media. Intelligent plotter can scale drawings up or down, vary aspect ratios, clip, and viewport/window portions of a drawing. Firmware automatically generates circles, ellipses, arcs, and portions of curves. Bausch \& Lomb, Houston Instrument Div, 8500 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX 78753.


Touch-sensitive display terminals
Model TT-150 touch-sensitive display terminal with tilt and swivel base has all switches, adjustments, and cable connections accessible through a key operated panel to prevent tampering. With program selectable 2-page display memory, the microprocessor based terminal also has a high resolution $15^{\prime \prime}(38-\mathrm{cm})$ CRT and $10 \times 14$ dot matrix display. Full upper- and lowercase ASCII char set with normal/reverse attributes are standard. Graphics char set, additional video attributes, and keyboard are optional. Terminal is $\$ 2000$. Interaction Systems, Inc, 24 Munroe St, Newtonville, MA 02160.


Circle 307

## VT-132 emulating terminal



TS-132 terminal emulates DEC's VT-132 unit and includes a video display, keyboard with $80-$ and $132-\mathrm{col}$ formats, block mode for local editing, local RS-232-C printer port, 14 programmable function keys, and 128 -char set. Programs written for the DEC machine can be directly transported without modification. Local storage is increased by memory management that converts unused horizontal area into additional vertical storage. Lines with repeated chars are stored in packet format for increased buffer storage. Price is $\$ 1650$. Falco Data Products, Inc, 1286 Lawrence Station Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Circle 308

## Upgraded color graphics terminals

Added versions to the Colorgraphic terminal series include rackmount R6211, $40-\mathrm{Hz}$ interlaced LP phosphor 6211-03, and the 6221 Colorgraphic terminal with complete VT100 compatibility. R6211 rasterscan terminal (\$3995 without monitor) communicates with any host computer via RS-232-C interface. Its $640-\mathrm{x} 480 / 512$-pixel resolution allows simultaneous display of up to 16 colors from a 64 -color palette. The $6211-03$ terminal ( $\$ 4995$ ) is for applications that do not need video peripheral support provided by the $6211-01$ and $6211-02$ terminals. Ramtek Corp, 2211 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

## Circle 309

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# On the perception of elegance 

 alike can't help but share a passionate appreciation for the forms of nature. Regard the exquisite symmetry of the nautilus shell. It is only one of nature's expressions of grace in shape and line. And it was achieved through a development program aimed entirely at function.Around Honeywell, Underseas Systems Division scientists occasionally speak warmly of the elegance of algorithms encountered along the way to significant breakthroughs in software design. We do enjoy working with people who find pleasure in technical solutions embodying that special simplicity called elegance.

Right now we're searching for a few such software specialists with a BS/MS and background in structure design, field testing, or real time/time-control applications for test and diagnostic hardware. Experience with UYK-20, AYK-14, or CMS-2 would be most welcome.

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MENDRMV SYSTEM

## Quarter-inch cartridge tape drives with $51 / 4$ " footprint



Microtape ${ }^{\circledR}$ family of $1 / 44^{\prime \prime}$ digital start/stop cartridge tape drives fit into std 51/4" Winchester or floppy disk package dimensions and are available with either end-loading or side-loading cartridges. Initial family member is a 17.3M-byte, 4 -track drive that is media and interface compatible with "The Funnel" digital cartridge tape used for Winchester backup. An equivalent, Funnel compatible, serpentine version requires no rewind time between tracks. Streaming 30- or 60 -ips members have capacities to 10 M bytes. Prices range from under $\$ 400$ to approx $\$ 870$. Data Electronics, Inc, 10150 Sorrento Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92121. Circle 310

## Self-contained 512k x 24 memory array

Single memory array çard MK8064 features 64 k dynamic RAM technology, capacities up to 512 k at 16 to 24 bits/ word, and includes all logic circuitry to perform read, write, split cycle, and refresh operations. Inverting or noninverting data option and byte control are featured. Customer controlled timing options are available. Price is $\$ 6415$ for the $512 \mathrm{k} \times 24$ version in single-unit quantities. Mostek Corp, a sub of United Technologies Corp, 1215 W Crosby Rd, Carrollton, TX 75006.

Circle 311

## Half-height $51 / 4{ }^{\prime \prime}$ floppy

Pico RFD 485 500k-byte, 48-tpi and Slimline ${ }^{\circledR}$ RFD 965 1M-byte, 96 -tpi doublesided drives measure $1.61^{\prime \prime}(4.09 \mathrm{~cm})$ behind the bezel. Self-centering clutch and spindle design improves media to spindle registration. Advanced LSI circuitry reduces logic board size. Bezel is interchangeable with 3 sizes. R/W heads are loaded onto and unloaded from the media surface; head load solenoid is eliminated. The ANSI compatible RFD 965 (\$260) drive has 3-ms track to track access and RFD 485 ( $\$ 210$ ) is rated at 5 -ms access. Ex-Cell-O Corp, Remex Div, 1733 Alton St, Irvine, CA 92713.
Circle 312

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## 16k pseudo PROM board

DCM 16 16k CMOS memory module has a 4 k block increment write protect feature, accepts up to eight 2 k 6116 CMOS RAMS, and can be addressed in 8 k blocks. During software development, a program can be written/executed in RAM and later protected like rom. Optional onboard NiCad rechargeable battery supplies module with over 1 k h of backup. Eurocard sized with DIN connector, board is RM 65 and AIM 65/40 bus compatible. Module operates from $5-\mathrm{V}$ and draws less than $50 \mu \mathrm{~A}$, fully populated. Prices range from $\$ 295$ to $\$ 379$.
Dynatem Inc, 22600-D Lambert St, El Toro, CA 92630.
Circle 313

## EDC enhances $512 k$-byte <br> Multibus memory

Compatible with Multibus systems using 8086, 68000, and Z8000 microprocessors, MM-8086E (\$1695) chip provides up to 512 k bytes plus error detection and correction. Circuit uses a modified Hamming code with 6 check bits for correction of single-bit errors (transparent to the processor) and detection of double-bit errors. Double-bit errors can be sent to the host computer for further processing via a jumper selectable interrupt line. Onboard control and error status registers are accessible under software control. Access time is 300 ns and cycle time is 500 ns . Battery backup is provided. Micro Memory Inc, 9436 Irondale Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311.
Circle 314

## Quarter-inch streamers give 45M-byte Winchester backup

Series $5000{ }^{1 / 4} 4^{\prime \prime}$ streaming cartridge tape drive measures $1.62^{\prime \prime} \times 5.75^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime}(4.11 \mathrm{x}$ $14.61 \times 20 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) and has $90-\mathrm{ips}$ tape speed. To ensure interchangeability, it employs a single-action loading mechanism to positively register a std 3M-DC3000XL $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ tape cartridge on aNSI defined data. Series is fully compatible with the QIC II intelligent interface and the QIC IIC recording formats. Series 8000 streamers are compatible with form factors of $8 "$ floppy or Winchester disks and with QIC recording formats. The series stores 20 M or 45 M bytes and provides 30 - or $90-\mathrm{ips}$ speed. OEM price for either tape is $\$ 800$. Wangco, Inc, 5835 Uplander Way, Culver City, CA 90230.

## 

## Thermal line printer mechanism

Thermal line printer mechanisms in $8^{\prime \prime}$, $4^{\prime \prime}$, and $2^{\prime \prime}(20-, 10-, 5-\mathrm{cm})$ models include model KSC252-N $2^{\prime \prime}$ mechanism that features $56-\mathrm{mm}$ printhead, head driver, and stepping motor. In addition, 2.5 dots $/ \mathrm{mm}$, graphic print speed of $60-$ dot lines/s, paper feed speed of 78 $\mathrm{mm} / \mathrm{s}$, and paper set by moveable magazine at platen are included. Model measures $104.6 \times 134 \times 75 \mathrm{~mm}$. KSC Electronics, Inc, 543 West Algonquin Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Circle 316

## Sealed contact keyswitch



Keyboard contact switch has two $1-\mathrm{mm}$ balls held in line between concave conical faces of right angle switch terminals by a flexible silicone tube. Lateral pressure by the actuating plunger on the external tube wall displaces the balls to a "make" position with the terminal faces. Tube provides an atmospheric seal for the silver plated contacts and a restoring force to return contacts to an open condition. Low bounce closure with contact resistance of $15 \mathrm{~m} \Omega$ and a life rating of 15 M cycles results. Contamination protected switches can be water washed after wave soldering. Contact element is a removable subassembly of the company's DN series keyboard switch line. Mechanical Enterprises, Inc, 461 Carlisle Dr, Herndon, VA 22070. Circle 317

## Low current LED lamps for battery powered applications

CMOS/MOS and TTL compatible red and yellow lamps, available in T1-3/4, T-1, and subminiature packages, operate at $2-\mathrm{mA}$ current. Suitable for portable, battery powered applications, the lamps allow a longer battery life while providing a typ luminous intensity of 2 mcd . Both lamps have low forward voltage. Two red lamps can be driven in series from a $5-\mathrm{V}$ supply. Contact local Hewlett-Packard sales offices.

Circle 318

## Dome membrane keyboard



Polydome, a dome membrane keyboard, provides consistent tactile feel of keys and is a low cost sealed assembly alternative to mechanical switches. Switch travel is $0.03^{\prime \prime}$ to $0.038^{\prime \prime}(0.08$ to 0.097 cm ) with a 10 M -operation life expectancy. The custom designable keyboard is assembled with an optional dome or flat overlay over a domed upper circuit, with a middle insulating spacer layer and a lower circuit. Dorman Bogdonoff Corp, Shetland Industrial Park, Andover, MA 01810. Circle 319

## DIP switches with coded outputs

Line of DIP switches that provide BCD and hex coded outputs are available in 10 and 16 station lengths. The switches can be provided as a 1 of 10 circuit switch, a 1 of 16 circuit switch, a 10-position Tap switch, or a 16-position Tap switch. Common bus versions can be mounted side by side as an alternative to matrix switching. Prices range from $\$ 2$ to $\$ 2.35$ in 1 k -piece lots, depending on circuitry and number of stations. Grayhill, Inc, 561 Hillgrove Ave, La Grange, IL 60525.

Circle 320

## Miniature infinite resolution potentiometers

Model 5010 10-turn potentiometer is $1.5^{\prime \prime}$ long and $0.5^{\prime \prime}$ in diameter ( 3.8 cm long and 1.3 cm in diameter) and has a resistance range of 5 k to $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Linearity is $0.1 \%$. The wiper travels $3^{\prime \prime}(8 \mathrm{~cm})$ along a helical resistance element. Model 55 single-turn rotary potentiometer measures $0.5^{\prime \prime} \times 0.5^{\prime \prime}(1.3 \times 1.3 \mathrm{~cm})$ and has a resistance range of 500 to $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Linearity is $2 \%$ to $0.5 \%$. Model 125 linear motion potentiometer is $1.5^{\prime \prime} \times 0.28^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{x}$ $0.3125^{\prime \prime}(3.8 \times 0.71 \times 0.7938 \mathrm{~cm})$ with an electrical stroke of $0.5^{\prime \prime}(1.3 \mathrm{~cm})$. Resistance range is 1 k to $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and linearity is $2 \%$. All three devices employ proprietary conductive film resistance element and precious metal alloy wipers. Vernitron Corp, Vernitech Div, 300 Marcus Blvd, Deer Park, NY 11729 Circle 321


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## CONFERENCES

APR 4-8-Tutorial Week East (including sessions on interactive computer graphics; robotics; data communication; and software design, development, management, and testing), Orlando, Fla. INFORMATION: IEEE Computer Society, PO Box 639, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Tel: 301/589-8142

APR 5-8-Communications Tokyo, Tokyo Ryutsu Ctr, Tokyo, Japan. INFORMATION: Clapp \& Poliak Internat'I, PO Box 70007, Washington, DC 20088. Tel: 301/657-3090

APR 5-7-Internat'I Reliability Physics Sym, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix, Ariz. INFORMATION: Richard Moss, Hewlett-Packard, 3000 Hanover St, BIdg 20DQ, Palo Alto, CA 94304.
Tel: 415/857-4278

APR 6-8-Internat'l Optical Computing Conf, Cambridge, Mass. INFORMATION: S. Horvitz, PO Box 276, Waterford, CT 06385. Tel: 203/447-4270

APR 13-20-Hannover Fair, Hannover, West Germany. INFORMATION: Hannover Fairs Information Ctr PO Box 338, Whitehouse, NJ 08888. Tel: 201/534-9044; 800/526-5978 (outside NJ )

APR 18-21-Internat'I Sym on Industrial Robots/Robots 7 Conf and Expo,
Conrad Hilton Hotel and McCormick PI, Chicago, III. INFORMATION: Society of Manufacturing Engineers, One SME Dr, PO Box 930, Dearborn, MI 48128.
Tel: 313/271-1500
APR 19-21-Electro, New York Coliseum and Sheraton Ctr, New York, NY. INFORMATION: Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc, 999 N Sepulveda Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tel: 213/772-2965; 800/421-6816 (outside Calif)

APR 19-21-Mini/Micro-Northeast, New York Coliseum and Sheraton Centre Hotel, New York, NY.
INFORMATION: Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc, 999 N Sepulveda Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tel: 213/772-2965; 800/421-6816 (outside Calif)

APR 27-29-Satellite and Computer Communications Internat'I Sym, Versailles, France. INFORMATION:
T. Bricheteau, Secretariat du

Symposium, Domaine de Voluceau,
Rocquencourt, BP 105, 78153 Le Chesnay Cedex, France. Tel: 3/954.9020; Poste 600

MAY 2-5-Test and Measurement World Expo, San Jose Conv Ctr, San Jose, Calif. INFORMATION: Meg Bowen, 215 Brighton Ave, Boston, MA 02134. Tel: 617/254-1445

MAY 9-13-SID (Society for Information Display) Internat'I Sym, Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. INFORMATION: Lewis Winner, 301 Almeria Ave, Coral Gables FL 33134. Tel: 305/446-8193

MAY 10-12-Mini/Micro-Northwest,
Portland Coliseum, Portland, Ore. INFORMATION: Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc, 999 N Sepulveda Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tel: 213/772-2965; 800/421-6816 (outside Calif)

MAY 10.12-Northcon, Portland Coliseum, Portland, Ore. INFORMATION: Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc, 999 N Sepulveda Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tel: 213/772-2965; 800/421-6816 (outside Calif)

MAY 16-18-Electronic Components
Conf, Contemporary Hotel, Orlando, Fla. INFORMATION: Don L. Willyard, Bendix Corp, Dept 867 MF39, PO Box 1159, Kansas City, MO 64141

MAY 16-19-NCC (National Computer Conf), Disneyland Hotel and Anaheim Conv Ctr, Anaheim, Calif. INFORMATION: AFIPS, 1815 N Lynn St, Arlington, VA 22209. Tel: 703/558-3624

MAY 18-20-MIPRO (Microprocessors/ Microcomputers Course/Conf), Congress Ctr, Hotel Adriatic, Opatija, Yugoslavia. INFORMATION:
P. Dragojlović, MIPRO Secretariat, Trg P. Togliatti 4, 51000 Rijeka, Yugoslavia. Tel: + 385131211 X424 (am); +3851741494 (pm)

MAY 25-Automating Intelligent
Behavior: Applications and Frontiers, Nat'l Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, Md. INFORMATION: Marvin Denicoff, Trends and Applications 83, PO Box 639, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Tel: 202/696-4302

JUNE 13-16-Internat'l Conf on Computer Architecture, Stockholm, Sweden. INFORMATION: H. W. Lawson, Jr, Linkoping Univ, S-581 83, Linkoping, Sweden

JUNE 14-16-Ohmcon, Cobo Hall, Detroit, Mich. INFORMATION: Jerry Fossler, Electronic Conventions, Inc, 999 N Sepulveda Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tel: 213/772-2965; 800/421-6816 (outside Calif)

JUNE 19-23-Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (formerly Pattern Recognition and Image Processing) Conf, Crystal City Hyatt, Arlington, Va. INFORMATION: IEEE Computer Society, PO Box 639, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Tel: 301/589-8142

JUNE 19-22—Internat'I Conf on Communications, Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Boston, Mass. INFORMATION: C. William Anderson, New England Telephone \& Telegraph, 350 Cochituate Rd, Framingham, MA 01701.
Tel: 617/879-9000
JUNE 26-30—NCGA, McCormick PI, Chicago, III. INFORMATION: Nancy LeFebvre, Nat'I Computer Graphics Assoc, 8401 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031. Tel: 703/698-9600

JUNE 27-29—Design Automation Conf, Fontainebleau Hilton, Miami Beach, Fla. INFORMATION: Charles E. Radke, IBM Corp (ZIP-47A), Rte 52, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. Tel: 914/897-4682

JULY 25-29-SIGGRAPH (Assoc for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics), Detroit, Mich. INFORMATION: SIGGRAPH Conf Office, 111 E Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60601. Tel: 312/644-6610

SEPT 19-23-IFIP (Internat'I Federation for Information Processing) World Computer Congress, Paris, France. INFORMATION: Philip H. Dorn, Dorn Computer Consultants, Inc, 25 E 86th St, New York, NY 10028. Tel: 212/427-7460

## SEMINAR

APR-MAY-EMI Problems and Design Solutions, various cities and dates. INFORMATION: R \& B Enterprises, 1050 Colwell Ln, Conshohocken, PA 19428. Tel: 215/828-6236

## WORKSHOPS

APR 25-27-Software Engineering Technology Transfer, Miami Beach, Fla. INFORMATION: Richard Morton, General Systems Group Inc, 6849 Old Dominion Dr, McLean, VA 22101.
Tel: 703/734-4915

## APR 27-28-Strategic Planning for Office Automation, Watergate Mall, Washington, DC. INFORMATION: Nancy Anderson, Micronet/KSI, 2551 Virginia Ave NW, Washington, DC

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## Glass fiber optic component

Bulletin specifies PVC jacketed Luxicon ${ }^{\circledR}$, which comes in continuous or terminated lengths with $0.043^{\prime \prime}, 0.063^{\prime \prime}$, $0.079^{\prime \prime}$, or $0.09^{\prime \prime}$ diameter. Dolan-Jenner Industries, Inc, Woburn, Mass.
Circle 410

## Local area network

Short-form catalog examines PACX data switching systems, modems, multiplexers, and other laN products. Gandalf Data Inc, sub of Gandalf Technologies Inc, Wheeling, Ill.
Circle 411

## Winchester backup

Brochure contains specs for quarterinch, 20M-byte Intelligent Sidewinder and 45M-byte Super Sidewinder and compares factors involved in floppy disk and streaming cartridge tape backup systems. Archive Corp, Costa Mesa, Calif.
Circle 412

## Eight-bit selector guide

Product reference details features and functions of m6800 microprocessors, microcomputers, and peripherals; also covered are CMOS M146805 processors, preprogrammed ROM based microcomputers, and development systems for the 8 -bit line. Motorola Inc, MOS Microprocessor Div, Austin, Tex.
Circle 413

## Reaction injection molding

Booklet describes plastics production technique using Bayflex and Baydur high performance polyurethane, and comments on product design applications. Mobay Chemical Corp, Polyurethane Div, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Circle 414

## International emi/rfi filter specs

Wall chart selection guide classifies filters that suppress rfi generated from equipment and rfi generated from power lines, and illustrates an electrical network for each filter. SFE Technologies, San Fernando Electric Div, San Fernando, Calif.

Circle 415

## Microprocessor peripheral chips

Booklet gives technical overview including communications and I/O support circuits, as well as peripheral and DMA controllers that operate with commonly used CPUs; functional descriptions, architectural diagrams, and pinouts for Z8000, Z8500, and Z80 peripherals are rendered. Zilog, Inc, affiliate of Exxon Corp, Campbell, Calif.
Circle 416

## Thin film disk drive

Technical data sheet describes STC 8380 drive, which has 2.5 G -byte storage, $16-\mathrm{ms}$ average access time, and 3M-byte/s data transfer rate; read/write technology allows a per-actuator capacity of 630M bytes. Storage Technology Corp, Louisville, Colo.
Circle 417

## Trimming potentiometers

Product reference contains complete electrical/mechanical specs for low cost and sealed single- and multiturn models; open type potentiometers with carbon, conductive plastic, and cermet resistive elements are also covered. Murata Erie North America, Inc, Marietta, Ga. Circle 418

## $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{R}$ to digital converters

Data sheets outline series 5209 (14-bit) and 5210 (12-bit) models, which take continuous demodulation rather than peak sampling approach. Transmagnetics, Inc, Farmingdale, NY.

Circle 419

## Data conversion

Catalog gives general technical and detailed product information for data converters, hybrid modules, synchro instruments, and data bus products. ILC Data Device Corp, Bohemia, NY. Circle 420

## Digital telecommunications test

Brochure presents test instruments for fiber optics, satellite communications systems, and digital modems; bit error rate test instruments for DS1, DS1C, DS2 and DS3 testing and interface noise test set are also described. ScientificAtlanta, Inc, Atlanta, Ga.
Circle 421

## Data communications switching

Booklet introduces line of hard contact and solid state electronic equipment from low cost switching and patching modules to prepackaged and more sophisticated configurations that mount in computer-grade cabinets. T-bar Inc, Wilton, Conn.
Circle 422

## Uncommitted logic arrays

Product guide describes over 50 bipolar gate arrays with chip complexities from 100 to 10 k gates and performance from CMOS power levels to ECL speeds; also covered are Digilin ULAS, which combine linear and digital functions, and ulas developed to accommodate custom linear LSIs. Ferranti Semiconductors, ULA Design Center, Commack, NY. Circle 423

## Fiber optic cables and connectors

Brochure details crush-resistant simplex and duplex cables, a patented connector that eliminates grinding and polishing of fiber ends, and versatile PCB/bulkhead receptacles. Mohawk Cable Co, Optical Group, Leominster, Mass.
Circle 424

## Portable network analyzer

Booklet introduces Encore 200 data communications diagnostic system, which acts as intelligent monitor, interactive simulator, storage device, remote controller, and network performance analyzer. Digitech Industries, Inc, Ridgefield, Conn.
Circle 425

## Motion control systems

Folder presents control motors/drives and preset indexers that fit a wide range of instrumentation, industrial control, automation/robotics, and laser/fiber optics applications. Compumotor Corp, Petaluma, Calif.
Circle 426
Linear ICs for measurement and control Catalog gives overview of product line, including basic specs and performance data as well as multiple-source cross reference. Precision Monolithics Inc, Santa Clara, Calif.
Circle 427

## Data communications events

"Sherry Says" wall calendar for 1983 lists significant moments in communications history and major industry conferences/exhibitions. Racal-Milgo, Miami, Fla.
Circle 428

## Realtime digital image processors

Short-form catalog illustrates standard line of image processing equipment, including table that compares features and specs of different models. Quantex Corp, Sunnyvale, Calif.
Circle 429

## Custom integrated circuits

Brochure gives an overview of facilities, equipment, and custom ICS, along with CMOS and bipolar charts outlining process parameters for wafer fabrication plant. Silicon Systems inc, Tustin, Calif. Circle 430

## Switching power supplies

Data sheet examines KRL series low cost, single-output power supplies, including I/O specs, dimensional drawings, and product photos. KEC Electronics, Inc, Torrance, Calif.

Circle 431

# "hallesigner's Bookcase 



## New Directions in Computer

Design: Systems, Software and Architectural Trends for the 80's Volume 1, by Saul Dinman

Some 20 years of technological innovation have created dramatic developments and changes in the computer systems industry. The book presents systems, software, and architectural trends for the 80's through a collection of articles covering Minicomputers, Microcomputers, Memory Systems, Software, and Data Communications. PennWell Books, 1982, 135 pages, ISBN 0-87814-209-6, \$19.95.

Circle 455

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## Microcomputer Systems by Ivan <br> Flores and Christopher Terry

Until now, microcomputer books simply told how to buy a microcomputer and then summarized what was available, discussed specific computer language and operating systems, or described families of integrated circuits. But this one-of-a-kind guide on microcomputer systems clearly explains both how each part of the system works and how they all fit together.
$208 \mathrm{pp}, 6 \times 9, \$ 22.50$, April
Circle 456

## Musical Applications of Microprocessors by Hal Chamberlain

Immediately acclaimed as a classic! Covers all current electronic and computer music performance techniques as they apply to microprocessors. Signal-processing techniques are presented in nonmathematical language and applied to newer, more powerful 16 -bit microprocessors.
\#5753-9; 688 pages; Hayden Book Co, Inc.; $\$ 26.95$
Circle 457

## The S-100 Bus Handbook by David

 BurskyExclusively discusses S-100 bus computer systems and how they are organized. Covers computer fundamentals, basic electronics and the parts of the computer. Explains all operating details of commonly available S-100 systems. Each major system board detailed as to its operation and how it connects to the rest of the system.
0897-X, 272 pages; Hayden Book Co., Inc. $\$ 15.75$ Circle 458

## Operating Systems A Pragmatic Approach by Harry Katzan

Computer pro Harry Katzan provides here authoritative coverage of the construction, functions, and terminology of operating systems. He fully explains such areas as dynamic loading and address translation, use of public and private storage, and virtual memory, data sets, and access methods. "A valuable addition to any computing library."
374 pp, $6 \times 9, \$ 10.95$, February
Circle 459

## DATA COMMUNICATIONS a user's guide by Kenneth Sherman.

A BRAND NEW quick and effective source for pinpointing and eliminating system malfunctions, discovering new, more efficient data movement, learning effective troubleshooting, ensuring strong, clear signal transmission and achieving maximum performance and value. Put these all new ideas and many others to work for you!
348 pages; 95 illustrations; Reston Publishing Company Inc; \$21.95. 1981.

Circle 460


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CIRCLE 489

## 52 PAGE INDICATOR DESIGN GUIDE

New 52 page indicator light design guide/technical manual. Covers off-theshelf and custom products - virtually every indicator design need-relampable, nonrelampable, and LED's: bare LED's, LED assemblies and LED packages. Contains full size photos, specs, ratings and mounting drawings. INDUSTRIAL DEVICES, Inc,


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[^9]:    Session 10: VLSI Solutions for Local Area Networks

    ## Wed 9 to 11 am, Georgian B

    Chair: S. R. Naqvi, Intel Corp
    10/1 "VLsI Circuit Provides Complete Controller for Token Pass Systems"
    B. Cayton, Standard Microsystems Corp

    10/2 "Protocols and Chips: Can There Be a Synergism?"
    S. Joshi and V. Iyer, Advanced Micro Devices

    10/3 "Programmable vLsı Controller for Local Area Network"
    S. Naqvi, Intel Corp

[^10]:    Session 14: New LsI Circuits Enhance
    Voice/Data Telecommunications
    Wed 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Royal A
    Chair: H. Laswell, Intel Corp
    14/1 "Partitioning Digital Telecommunications Systems for Implementation in Silicon"
    L. Thurlow, Mitel Inc

    14/2 "Voice/Data Economies Arrive with New vLSI Components"
    F. H. Cherrick, Intel Corp

    14/3 "Total Silicon-Subscriber to Subscriber"
    A. Ugge, sGs-ATES Inc

    14/4 "Digital Telephone Integrated Circuits Handle Both Voice and Data"
    A. Olesin, Motorola, Inc

[^11]:    U.S.A., Asia, Australia, Central \& South America, Japan Tektronix, Inc., P.O. Box 4828, Portland, OR 97208 , Phone: 800-547-1512, Oregon only 800 452-1877, Telex: 910-467-8708, Cable: TEKTRONIX

[^12]:    *Program sessions are subject to last-minute changes.

[^13]:    Michael J. Miller was employed by Advanced Micro Devices, where he developed the Am29203 and Am2901C 4-bit slices, when this article was prepared. Currently, he is a software manager at Step Engineering, 757 Pastoria Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

[^14]:    Cedar Yoram is manager of the electrical engineering design group at Israel's Ministry of Defence, Haifa, where he is responsible for the design of multiprocessing computers. Mr Yoram has a BSEE from the Technion, Haifa, Israel. He is presently working on his MSEE at the Technion.

    Meir Ben-Nun is a senior electronic design engineer at Israel's Ministry of Defence, where he is working on the design of multiprocessing computers. Mr Ben-Nun has a BSC in electrical engineering and a BSC in electronic teaching from the Technion.

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[^16]:    *Excluding installation cost
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[^17]:    Kerry A. Hanson is a telecommunications design manager at Texas Instruments, Inc, Data Systems Group, PO Box 1444, Houston, TX 77001, where he is responsible for integrated modem design. Mr Hanson has a BSEE from Montana State University and an MSEE from the University of Minnesota.

[^18]:    Howard C. Salwen is president and cofounder of Proteon Associates, Inc, 24 Crescent St, Waltham, MA 02154, where he is responsible for the design of communication and tracking systems. Mr Salwen is former chairman of the IEEE Communications Society, Boston Section, and holds BSEE and MSEE degrees from MIT.

[^19]:    Alan J. Weissberger is technical director of advanced technology at Memorex Corp, 18922 Forge Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014. Mr Weissberger is responsible for planning, systems architecture, and systems integration of data communications products. He is a participating member of ANSI X353.7 and a senior member of the IEEE.

[^20]:    Edward B. Cooper is manager of the Cable Design and Consulting Group at Sytek, Inc, 1225 Charleston Rd, Mountain View, CA 94043. He is currently working in the area of worldwide cable and LAN engineering. Mr Cooper holds a BSEE from San Jose State University.

