About the cover: The merits of reduced instruction sets versus complex instruction sets in computer design are addressed in this month's lead article, "Computers, Complexity, and Controversy."


Coming Next Month:
Multimedia Communications

FEATURE ARTICLES

8 Computers, Complexity, and Controversy
Computer design should focus on the assignment of system functionality to implementation levels within an architecture, and not be guided by whether it is a RISC or CISC design.

21 Abstractions for User Interface Design
Joëlle Coutaz
Designers of the interface between users and computer systems need a toolkit of abstractions that embody human factors knowledge while automatically executing the low-level details of the interaction.

39 Enhancing Knowledge Representation in Engineering Databases
David J. Hartzband and Fred J. Maryanski
Engineers need more expressive power within database management systems than is currently available commercially. Enhanced data models with facilities for conceptual modeling and knowledge representation may be the answer.

53 Characterization of an Ada Software Development
The University of Maryland and General Electric monitored an industrial software development project in Ada at GE. The findings will aid in the training, tool support, and methodology for future Ada projects.

SPECIAL FEATURES

68 Computer and Information Technology in the Year 2000—a Projection
Stephen F. Lundstrom and Ronald L. Larsen
Computer and information technology advancement may be outpacing the ability of the aeronautics industry to assimilate it, yet these technologies likely hold the key to US aeronautical competitiveness.

83 Artificial Intelligence Research in Japan
Harriet Rigas, Taylor Booth, Fayë Briggs, Tadao Murata, and Harold Stone
To develop their "Fifth-Generation" computer systems, the Japanese have had to make some hard choices. Regardless of the outcome, the project has stimulated the industry.

92 First International Conference on Supercomputing Systems