A brief update

P1014, the Versatile Backplane Bus (VME), has passed its sponsor ballot. It was presented to the IEEE Standards Board in March and adopted as an IEEE standard.

P896.1, the Futurebus Backplane, is completing its sponsor ballot. It is expected to be at the IEEE Standards Board in June.

P1196, the Simple 32-bit Backplane Bus (Nubus), and P1296, a Full-Featured 32-bit Backplane Bus (Multibus II), and P1101, Mechanical Core Specifications for Microcomputers, are starting their respective sponsor ballots imminently. I expect that these three draft proposals will be on the agenda of the IEEE Standards Board in June along with P896.1.

At the March IEEE Standards Board, the TCMM requested and received approval to create a standard for Forth as a microcomputer programming language. The Working Group will heavily involve the Forth Standards Group and might become a joint committee with X3J14. See the Letters column in this issue for my response to a letter from Fletcher J. Buckley, which was printed in the last issue of IEEE Micro.

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MicroLaw

continued from p. 83

model in the foreseeable future. Until then, we will have to be satisfied with real or imaginary conversations like those suggested above. And that may drive us back to accepting the principle that one man’s fiat is as good as another. The remaining question then would be whether a fiat based on inexplicable legal considerations is better or worse than a fiat based on unknowable business/economic factors.

Additional reading


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