Theme Features

4 Firmware Engineering: The Interaction of Microprogramming and Software Technology
Guest Editors' Introduction Subrata Dasgupta and Robert A. Mueller

6 Automated Vertical Migration to Dynamic Microcode: An Overview and Example
Robert I. Winner and Edward M. Carter
We can achieve more optimal function assignments between microcode and software levels by applying techniques described herein to statically or dynamically microprogrammed processor design.

18 Progress in High-Level Microprogramming
Scott Davidson
A high-level microprogramming language would speed work on higher level microprogramming and firmware engineering and decouple algorithm design from microcoding. This article examines several approaches.

27 The AADL/S* Approach to Firmware Design Verification
Werner Damm, Gert Doehmen, Klaus Merkel, and Mathilde Sichelschmidt
If microprogramming aims to provide direct hardware control—allowing fast, reliable, and flexible implementation of higher architectural layers—how can high-level microprogramming languages be microarchitecture independent?

38 Formal Methods of Microcode Verification and Synthesis
Robert A. Mueller and Michael R. Duda
The influence of software design principles has helped transform a catch-as-catch-can bag of tricks into the emerging scientific discipline of firmware engineering.

49 Axiomatic Specifications in Firmware Development Systems
Subrata Dasgupta, Philip A. Wilsey, and Juha Heinanen
Some key ideas originating in the domain of software technology have been used in the design of the architecture description language S*M.

59 Microcode Optimization: Examples and Approaches
Steven R. Vegdahl
Firmware engineering strategies range from hand coding to the use of optimizing compilers. For fine-tuned microcode we often need the advantages of both ends of the spectrum.

Special Feature

70 Impact of Schedule Estimation on Software Project Behavior
Tarek K. Abdel-Hamid and Stuart E. Madnick
Efforts to develop better estimation tools must address two issues: First, are more accurate tools necessarily better? Second, how can we measure a new estimation method's accuracy?

Departments

2 About the Cover

3 From the Editor-in-Chief: USL's Repository for Firmware Engineering Materials

76 Software Standards: Compliant 86—New Horizons, New Standards • POSIX Report

78 Software Reviews: Visual Programming on the IBM PC... Now a Reality!

82 New Product Reviews: DAC Does It Again • Well-Done Schematics Capture System • Finally, a PC Version of the DEC Editor

85 New Products

88 Product Highlights

89 Soft News: OS Model • NRC Advisory Board • VDT Legislation • Software Pricing

91 Calendar • Call for Papers

92 Book Reviews: Computer Culture • New Computer Architectures • Interactive Programming Environments • Systems Software • Networking with Microcomputers

96 Advertiser/Product Index
Reader Service Cards, p. 96A