POWERful Stuff!

COMMENTARY

This issue focuses on the PowerPC Architecture™ and processor family that recently became available through the joint efforts of Motorola™, Apple®, and IBM. Although this topic is not exactly software, it certainly has, and will continue to have, a POWERful impact on AIX®, its application software, and those who work with AIX. For that reason, and because we know our readers like to keep up with the latest technology, we asked some of the designers who work with the PowerPC™ to contribute articles for this issue. You're sure to enjoy the result!

We would like to thank Prentice-Hall, Inc., for its cooperation in making this issue possible. Many of the articles on the PowerPC and its technology are excerpts from a soon-to-appear book from Prentice-Hall—*PowerPC and POWER2: Technical Aspects of the IBM RISC System/6000*—which will provide a more complete collection of articles and information about the PowerPC. It will be the sequel to *IBM RISC System/6000 Technology*. Be sure to look for the new book—coming soon to your Prentice-Hall book distributor.

We tried to cover the subject of the PowerPC from many angles to give our readers a fuller perspective on what the new technology means to them. Introducing the topic are two articles from different companies: "PowerPC Alliance" discusses the past and future of the PowerPC from the viewpoint of a couple of IBM developers, whereas "Apple and the PowerPC" looks at it through the eyes of an Apple participant. These articles provide a solid groundwork for the articles that follow.

Next comes a series of hardware-oriented articles, but programmers out there will find it valuable reading too. Especially if you are concerned with squeezing the most from your programs that run on the new architecture. For those who are programming for the new architectures—PowerPC and POWER2—be sure to catch up on all the latest compiler changes described in the XL Compiler article. Combine that article with "Performance Aspects of Portability," and you should be ready to get the most out of your program—no matter which of the three designs it runs on (POWER, POWER2, or PowerPC).

We also have a collection of articles that is not directly associated with the PowerPC. "Programming with OpenGL" explores the developments in the world of graphics; "Developing a Client/Server Application" provides tips for writing a server application without a client; and the article on the ARTIC card sheds some light on the often confusing job of developing a real-time application and choosing the correct interface.

For system administrators, we have an article on how to improve the performance of your system on a TCP/IP network. Of general interest, you can learn how IBM is helping software companies on the West Coast develop and port application programs to AIX, and an interview with Rod Cowan gives insight to the high end of the "palmtops to teraFLOPs" POWER architectures. The continuation of last issue's article on configuration management rounds out the roster.

Of course, there's still the popular Q&A section. This time we see a crop of new faces fielding questions, since the support function moved from Dallas to Austin. Thanks to Charlie Rundles for helping to collect and prepare that section.

It's a full issue—with something for everyone, but with an emphasis on emerging technology.

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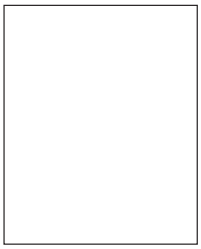

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