Michael Slater collection on microprocessors

Finding aid prepared by Bo Doub, Kim Hayden, and Sara Chabino Lott
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Title: Michael Slater collection on microprocessors
Identifier/Call Number: X4062.2007
Contributing Institution: Computer History Museum
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 10.42 Linear feet, 8 record cartons and 1 manuscript box
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1987-1999
Date (inclusive): 1977-2000
Abstract: The Michael Slater collection on microprocessors contains conference proceedings and other publications focusing on microprocessor technologies and industry trends. The collection spans 1977 to 2000, with most of the material dating from 1987 to 1999 when Slater founded and led the company MicroDesign Resources (MDR). The collection contains conference material, analyst reports, manuals, and specifications documenting microprocessors and microcomputers in the 1980s and 1990s. An expert in microprocessor equipment, Slater founded the well-known newsletter Microprocessor Report used by engineers and industry professionals. In 1999, Slater left MDR and it was acquired by Cahners, becoming part of the analyst group In-Stat.
creator: Slater, Michael, 1955-
Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], [Date], Michael Slater collection on microprocessors, Lot X4062.2007, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Biographical/Historical Note
Michael Slater was born in 1955 in Los Angeles. He attended UC Berkeley, earning his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1977. While at UC Berkeley, Slater developed an interest in microprocessors, and after graduating, he went to work at Hewlett-Packard, where he developed circuit designs for microprocessor-based systems and wrote training manuals. In 1980, Slater left HP to teach at various institutions, including University of Santa Clara, and started working on freelance electronic design projects under his company Gryphon Engineering. In 1987, Slater wrote Microprocessor-Based Design: A Comprehensive Guide to Effective Hardware Design, and founded his next company, MicroDesign Resources (MDR). That same year, Slater began editing and publishing the Microprocessor Report newsletter, which provided current microprocessor information and analysis, and in 1988 he founded the MDR conferences Microprocessor Forum and Embedded Processor Forum. MDR was acquired by Ziff-Davis in 1992 and Slater left the company in 1999, the same year it was acquired by Cahners. In 2010, the Linley Group purchased Microprocessor Report, which it still publishes as of March 2017. After leaving MDR, Slater continued his freelance work, now under the business name Topaz Web Solutions, and he founded Fotiva in 2000. After Fotiva was bought by Adobe, Slater worked as Adobe’s director of digital imaging research until 2006. In 2007, Slater founded Webvanta, a website development company, and ran it until his death on June 19, 2016.
Scope and Content of the Collection
The Michael Slater collection on microprocessors contains conference material, analyst reports, manuals, and specifications collected by Michael Slater, primarily during his time as principal analyst at MDR from 1987 to 1999. The collection as a whole spans 1977 to 2000. Topics that are prominent in this collection include microprocessors, microcomputer industry trends, RISC architecture, and transputers. A little over a third of the collection is made up of proceedings from conferences and other events -- especially the Windows Hardware Engineering Conference (WinHEC) and COMDEX (Computer Dealers’ Exhibition). Many of the events in this part of the collection were organized either by Microsoft or Intel. This collection also contains Slater’s collected newsletters, analyst reports, books, and technical papers. Analyst reports cover computer industry trends and forecasts for various technologies and the newsletter with the largest holdings in this collection is MDR’s Technology Roadmap. The last part of this collection comprises manuals, specifications, and product descriptions for microprocessor-related products, with equipment from Advanced Micro Devices and Intel being especially
well-documented.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into 3 series:
Series 2, Reports, books, and newsletters, 1979-2000
Series 3, Manuals and product descriptions, 1977-1996

Separated Material
Physical objects and ephemera were separated from the main collection. These objects are made up of binders and folders for MDR’s annual Microprocessor Forum with chips embedded in their covers. To view catalog records for the separated material search the CHM catalog at http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/search/.

Related Resources at CHM
Slater, Michael oral history, 2016-05-16, Lot X7807.2016, Catalog 102738141.

Related Collections at Other Repositories
Stanford University, Computer Science Department, HCI Group, CS547 seminar video recordings, Call Number SC1217.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Computer Industry
Microcomputers
MicroDesign Resources
Microprocessors

Series Scope and Content
This series comprises Slater’s collected proceedings, presentation material, and pamphlets from various microcomputer-related conferences, symposia, forums, seminars, and courses. Much of this material directly involves Slater as an attendee or speaker of the documented events. For instance, the MCS-86 seminar notebook has Slater’s name on the cover and in some of the notes. Also, this series contains material from a MicroDesign Resources course titled “Fundamentals of Microcomputer Technology: Personal Computers from the Inside Out,” which was taught by Slater. Events that are especially well-documented in this series include the Windows Hardware Engineering Conference (WinHEC), COMDEX (Computer Dealers' Exhibition), and the Hot Chips symposium held annually in Silicon Valley. Printed slides from Bill Gates’ presentation titled “Microsoft’s Vision for Computing” are included with material from WinHEC 1994. Some of the records from WinHEC and the Intel Developer Forum are accompanied by CDs containing audiovisual documentation of conference proceedings and samples of software applications. This series is arranged chronologically.

102773943 Microcomputer seminars 1978; 1989
102773944 COMDEX program and exhibits guides 1987-1999
102773945 Hot Chips symposium material 1989-1993
102773954 Transputer research and applications : proceedings of the first and second conferences of the North American Transputer Users Group (NATUG) 1990
102773946 The Semiconductor Outlook forum 1990-1991
102773947 PCI, Agenda, and ISA implementation conferences and workshops 1990-1995
102773948 Microsoft Win32 Professional Developers Conference 1992
102773950 Microprocessor Forum 1993 1993
102773951 Windows Hardware Engineering Conference (WinHEC) 1993-1998
102773952 Intel Analyst Forum : Intel Advanced Research and Development Labs 1997
102773953 Intel Developer Forum 1998
Reports, books, and newsletters, Series 2, 1979-2000

Series Scope and Content
This series is made up of analyst and technical reports, books, and newsletters that focus on microprocessors and the computer industry. Material dates from 1979 to 2000. Included are analyst reports that discuss computer industry trends, microprocessors, RISC architecture, and technology forecasts, and technical reports and papers about various technologies, including ethernet and microcomputing. Reports are from market research firms like Electronic Trends, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, and Price Waterhouse, and companies like Xerox PARC, Intel, and IBM. Newsletters include MicroDesign Resources’ Technology Roadmap reports series and the SPEC Newsletter. Books concentrate on RISC and other computer architectures and microcomputing. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

102773507 32-bit microprocessors 1986
102773505 Analysis of cache performance for operating systems and multiprogramming 1989
102773500 Computer industry : critical trends for the 1990s 1990
102773509 Data communications for microcomputers : with practical applications and experiments 1982
102773502 Design automation market study : a survey of current use and planned growth of CAE/CAD systems 1991-05
102773511 Ethernet local network : three reports 1980-02
102773510 Guide to RISC microprocessors, A 1992
102773506 High-speed memory systems 1983
102773493 IBM Power Personal Systems reports and articles 1993
102773498 Information appliance market 1998-1999
102773495 Intel microprocessor information kit 1985
102773494 Intel MMX Applications press kit 1996-1997
102773504 Microcontrollers : the next five years 1991-02
102773514 Microprocessors and microcomputers : selected reprints from Computer 1979
102773503 Personal computer design guide : a survey of integrated solutions 1993
102773508 Programmable logic devices : technology and applications 1988
102773513 Readings in computer architecture 2000
102773515 Reduced instruction set computers 1990
102773499 RISC analyst reports 1988-1989
102773491 SPEC newsletter 1992-03; 1992-06
102773496 Technology forecast 1993; 1998
102773501 Technology primer, The 1999
102773492 Technology roadmap reports 1995-1996
102773497 Ten-year forecast 1991-1992

Manuals and product descriptions, Series 3, 1977-1996

Series Scope and Content
This series contains manuals, specifications, and product descriptions for a variety of microprocessor-related products dating from 1977 to 1996. Included is material on Clipper, ISA, Micro Channel, and RISC architectures; microcontrollers; embedded processors; interfacing; microprocessors; and transputers. About half of this series is made up of material from Advanced Micro Devices and Intel. Other companies with material in this series include Fairchild, Fujitsu, Hewlett-Packard, Hitachi, IBM, Intergraph, Motorola, National Semiconductor, NEC, and Microsoft. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

102773516 AT&T 92K Hobbit family 1992
102773475 Clipper architecture 1986; 1991
102773477 Hewlett-Packard 1986; 1994
102773476 Hitachi 1985-1988
102773478 IBM 1989-1996
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