



## Guide to the Michael Slater collection on microprocessors

**Creator:** Michael Slater

**Dates:** 1977-2000, bulk 1987-1999

**Extent:** 10.42 linear feet, 8 record cartons and 1 manuscript box

**Collection number:** X4062.2007

**Catalog number:** 102733965

**Collection processed by:** Bo Doub and Kim Hayden, 2017

**Finding aid prepared by:** Bo Doub, Kim Hayden, and Sara Chabino Lott, 2017

**Sponsor:** Processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant.

### **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.

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Languages

Collection material is entirely in English.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], Michael Slater collection on microprocessors, Lot X4062.2007, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Michael Slater, 2007.

### Repository

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## 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 1, Conference and symposium material, 1978-1998, bulk 1988-1998
- Series 2, Reports, books, and newsletters, 1979-2000
- Series 3, Manuals and product descriptions, 1977-1996

### **Indexing Terms**

Computer industry  
Microcomputers  
Microprocessors  
MicroDesign Resources  
Slater, Michael, 1955-

### **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.

### **Collection Contents**

#### **Series 1, Conference and symposium material, 1978-1998, bulk 1988-1998**

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.

### **Series 2, Reports, books, and newsletters, 1979-2000**

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.

### **Series 3, Manuals and product descriptions, 1977-1996**

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.

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Folder List</b>			
<b>Conference and symposium material</b>			
<b>Box 1</b>	102773943	Microcomputer seminars	1978; 1989
<b>Box 1</b>	102773944	COMDEX program and exhibits guides	1987-1999
<b>Box 1; 2</b>	102773945	Hot Chips symposium material	1989-1993
<b>Box 2</b>	102773954	Transputer research and applications : proceedings of the first and second conferences of the North American Transputer Users Group (NATUG)	1990
<b>Box 2</b>	102773946	The Semiconductor Outlook forum	1990-1991
<b>Box 2</b>	102773947	PCI, Agenda, and ISA implementation conferences and workshops	1990-1995
<b>Box 2</b>	102773948	Microsoft Win32 Professional Developers Conference	1992
<b>Box 2</b>	102773949	The Personal Computer Outlook	1992-1994
<b>Box 2</b>	102773950	Microprocessor Forum 1993	1993
<b>Box 2; 3</b>	102773951	Windows Hardware Engineering Conference (WinHEC)	1993-1998
<b>Box 3</b>	102773952	Intel Analyst Forum : Intel Advanced Research and Development Labs	1997
<b>Box 3</b>	102773953	Intel Developer Forum	1998

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Reports, books, and newsletters</b>			
<b>Box 3</b>	102773507	32-bit microprocessors	1986
<b>Box 3</b>	102773505	Analysis of cache performance for operating systems and multiprogramming	1989
<b>Box 4</b>	102773500	Computer industry : critical trends for the 1990s	1990
<b>Box 4</b>	102773509	Data communications for microcomputers : with practical applications and experiments	1982
<b>Box 4</b>	102773502	Design automation market study : a survey of current use and planned growth of CAE/CAD systems	1991-05
<b>Box 4</b>	102773511	Ethernet local network : three reports	1980-02
<b>Box 4</b>	102773510	Guide to RISC microprocessors, A	1992
<b>Box 4</b>	102773506	High-speed memory systems	1983
<b>Box 4</b>	102773493	IBM Power Personal Systems reports and articles	1993
<b>Box 4</b>	102773498	Information appliance market	1998-1999
<b>Box 4</b>	102773495	Intel microprocessor information kit	1985
<b>Box 4</b>	102773494	Intel MMX Applications press kit	1996-1997
<b>Box 4</b>	102773504	Microcontrollers : the next five years	1991-02
<b>Box 4</b>	102773514	Microprocessors and microcomputers : selected reprints from Computer	1979
<b>Box 4</b>	102773503	Personal computer design guide : a survey of integrated solutions	1993
<b>Box 4</b>	102773508	Programmable logic devices : technology and applications	1988
<b>Box 4</b>	102773513	Readings in computer architecture	2000

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	<b>Reports, books, and newsletters</b>		
<b>Box 4</b>	102773515	Reduced instruction set computers	1990
<b>Box 4; 5</b>	102773499	RISC analyst reports	1988-1989
<b>Box 5</b>	102773491	SPEC newsletter	1992-03; 1992-06
<b>Box 5</b>	102773496	Technology forecast	1993; 1998
<b>Box 5</b>	102773501	Technology primer, The	1999
<b>Box 5</b>	102773492	Technology roadmap reports	1995-1996
<b>Box 5</b>	102773497	Ten-year forecast	1991-1992

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Manuals and product descriptions</b>			
<b>Box 5; 6</b>	102773474	Advanced Micro Devices	1978; 1987-1992
<b>Box 6</b>	102773516	AT&T 92K Hobbit family	1992
<b>Box 6</b>	102773475	Clipper architecture	1986; 1991
<b>Box 6</b>	102773477	Hewlett-Packard	1986; 1994
<b>Box 6</b>	102773476	Hitachi	1985-1988
<b>Box 6</b>	102773478	IBM	1989-1996
<b>Box 6; 7; 8</b>	102773490	Intel	1988-1996
<b>Box 8</b>	102773479	Interfacing	1981; 1989
<b>Box 8</b>	102773480	ISA system architecture	1993
<b>Box 8</b>	102773481	Micro Channel	1992
<b>Box 8</b>	102773482	Motorola	1977-1992
<b>Box 8</b>	102773483	National Semiconductor	1980-1989
<b>Box 8</b>	102773484	NEC Corporation	1989
<b>Box 8</b>	102773485	Processors	1990-1992
<b>Box 9</b>	102773486	Rambus Technology	1993
<b>Box 9</b>	102773487	RISC architecture	1992-1994
<b>Box 9</b>	102773488	Transputers	1990-1993
<b>Box 9</b>	102773517	Western Design Center	1991
<b>Box 9</b>	102773489	Win32	1992