General Information

Language Tools

Our Software Source Code is developed using Microsoft C and MASM Versions 5.1 unless specified otherwise. Call us if you have questions on tools needed for using our publications.

License Fees

Some of our publications include source code whose use in a commercial product requires payment of a royalty fee. The publication price generally includes a royalty waiver for a specified number of units (usually 10). Other publications require no royalty fees for use of the source code. If you have questions about the fees, please give us a call.

Ordering and Shipping Information

We try to ship same-day, especially if you call us before Noon, Pacific Time. Unless you request otherwise, we ship UPS Ground, except for single copies of the Handbooks, which we send 1st Class Mail. UPS takes from 3-5 days for the contiguous US. UPS 2nd day delivery is normally only a small surcharge. Overnight is quite a bit more. Canadian orders are normally sent by Air Mail, but please ask about other options or preferences you may have. Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico orders are all shipped by UPS 2nd Day Air. For our Foreign customers, we try to determine the best compromise of time/cost to meet your needs - usually Air Mail Printed Matter or Air Parcel Post, depending upon the weight of the shipment.

Shipping Charges

Shipping charges are not included in the prices listed for the publications. They include a small handling charge + the specified UPS or other carrier charges.

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In most countries, textbooks (which is what we label our shipments) are duty-free. Usually, so is software. If the disk itself requires the payment of duty, we assign it a value of $1.00.

The most economical method of shipment is usually Air Mail Printed Matter (under 4 lbs.) or Air Parcel Post (over 4 lbs.). The heaviest of our books (the AT BiosKit) weighs 4 lbs.

Shipping costs for 4 lbs. are about $10 to Canada, $20 to Europe, $40 to the Far East, and $50 to India.

By far the easiest way for you to order is by credit card. Send us the card number, its expiration date, and the name on the card.

You may also wire transfer funds to our bank. Our account number at San Diego Trust and Savings Bank is 480102045, and the routing number is 122200526. The bank address is 7708 Regents Rd., San Diego, CA 92122.

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TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS FOR PC-COMPATIBLE ENGINEERING

"..engineers and programmers can literally roll their own BIOS..especially useful for embedded systems.."
Ray Weiss, Editor, EE Times

"..will allow designers to develop systems that more closely suit the user's needs."
Mark Brownstein, Editor, InfoWorld

"Great stuff! Well designed and documented."
C. W., Customer

AT BiosKit
XT BiosKit
Intel Wildcard 88 Supplement
SysKit
PromKit
DRAM SuperSpec
XT-AT Handbook

BiosKits

The BiosKits consist of 280 to 400 page manuals with disks. The books contain the listings of the Bios source files, mostly in C, plus the utilities we provide for you to create your own custom Bios. The disks contain all of the source code plus a binary file of a completed Bios that you can immediately program into Eproms. Each Bios contains a Rom-based debug called SysVue, which is very handy for those building diskless applications. The AT version also has a Rom-based Setup program, plus a set of default system parameters in the Bios (which, of course, you can change).

You will find our standard Bios without modification useful for applications in which you and your customer want the source code available for verification, validation, certification, and quality control. You may also leave our code unmodified to make use of SysVue.

You may modify our Bios to provide your system with a wide variety of custom features, such as special boot procedures, custom screens, special security features, and so forth. You may also modify the Bios to prevent error messages or boot failure due to missing system components, such as keyboards or displays. Having access to the Bios in a documented, understandable form can greatly enhance your systems capablilties. Placing a default system configuration in the Bios can eliminate the potential boot failure if CMOS Ram is lost in an AT System.

The XT BiosKit is $99, with a $2 production royalty.

The AT BiosKit is $199, with a $4 production royalty.

Coming Soon

Doctor Design's PC Bus Timing Book
MiniDOS
Objex Real-Time Operating System

Intel Wildcard Supplement

The XT BiosKit Intel Wildcard Supplement is available to XT BiosKit owners. This Supplement provides the source code and listings for six modified files needed to operate the new Intel Wildcard 88. The Wildcard disk also contains a completed Bios ready to program directly into an Eprom.

The Wildcard Supplement is $49.

Doctor Design's 1M DRAM SuperSpec

Here's the first of a series of books by Marco Thompson, aka Doctor Design. This newest Annabooks publication reveals information about DRAM chips that most of the manufacturers don't even know to tell you.

In addition to explaining in detail what specs really mean, the SuperSpec develops a composite specification covering all the popular manufacturers' chips. This means that if you design your memory using Doctor Design's methods, your design is guaranteed to work even if different vendor's chips are used later in production.

The SuperSpec covers 1 megabit page-mode chips in speeds varying from 80 to 150 nanoseconds. The book contains many timing diagrams, 70 pages, and has 30 fold-out tables.

Doctor Design's DRAM SuperSpec is $79.

XT-AT Handbook

This is a pocket-sized reference manual jam-packed with technical information (hardware, software, and firmware) about the PC family of computers. Ends running around to find the Technical References or the Intel books. The Handbook covers 38 topics in 70 pages, including I/O bus connectors, memory and I/O maps, hardware and software interrupts, peripheral chip registers, keyboard scan codes, screen codes, hexadecimal math tables, card and bracket dimensions, and more!

The XT-AT Handbook is $9.95 (or $5 each in quantity five or more). For every 10 Hand books ordered, we include one extra book.

PromKit

According to the number of requests, here is the book a lot of you have been waiting for. This Kit allows you to put anything into Prom that you can put on a disk--even DOS.

PromKit operates in two stages: first, you use DOS to create an application disk in the normal fashion that has the files on it that you want, including system files, data files, autoexec files, and so forth. You can check the operation of your target system from this disk, if you wish.

In the second step, PromKit takes the information from your application disk and creates disk image files--binary images of the Eproms that will operate like a read-only disk drive. If you use EEproms or Static Ram, you will be able to simulate a read/write drive.

PromKit also includes a filter to convert .bin files to .hex.

PromKit is $179.

SysKit A SysVue Spin-off

If you want to use SysVue, the Rom-based debug/monitor that comes with our BiosKits, in systems that don't (perish the thought) use our Bios, then SysKit is the thing. We configured our SysVue module so it would run as a Rom-scan or a TSR module with any PC-compatible Bios. On those machines with an extra prom-socket, we installed it as a prom. On other machines we simply loaded it during autoexec.bat. Now when we want to get to SysVue, we simply hit CTRL-ALT-Break and it magically appears.

This Standalone SysVue compiles into both an .exe file and a .bin file, and will run on both XT's and AT's. It dynamically determines the machine type and enables the CMOS setup commands in the AT mode, so we don't have to run the disk-based Setup program supplied with the machine.

SysKit is $69, with a $1 per copy royalty if you use it in production.