

It's no wonder that in this high-speed, intense, frantic race to market, server developers face critical decisions to "make or buy" network interfaces and intelligent I/O controllers. A decision to "make" might mean nothing but lost time and money. Employees have to be trained. Software needs to be written and debugged. Documentation has to be created. Your commitment to "make or buy" is serious business.

Many server manufacturers are rapidly expanding their product lines and achieving more balanced I/O performance by choosing to "buy" intelligent I/O solutions. Why? Because the increasing number of intelligent I/O suppliers offers everything you need to get to market fast with powerful, upgradeable products at competitive prices.

One thing that the network interface and intelligent I/O leaders have in common is that their top-of-the-line systems make use of the most powerful microprocessor available for these applications, the i960[®] microprocessor.

The advantages of the Intel i960 microprocessor are numerous. For one, there's a high performance i960 microprocessor member at a price point suitable for almost any application. And with the i960 architecture, Intel assures a growth path for your future needs too. Then, there's the ability to speed your development cycle with the Solutions960[®] software programming and debug tools, as well as engineering support that's second to none. It all adds up to an architectural decision you can stick with for a long time to come.

Intel designed the i960 processor with an abundance of on-chip features just right for the advanced requirements of network interfaces and intelligent I/O. The i960 microprocessor family integrates a wide range of options, including interrupt control, DMA and a waitstate generator. And the i960 processor has the ability to operate out of 8-, 16-, or 32-bit memory with no external logic. The i960 architecture is the first RISC architecture programmable to match the data and program paths to all widely used protocols and bus conventions, making it far easier to port code from other architectures. And the i960 processor is the only RISC processor to support big and little endian data types dynamically.

Intel uses the same world-class R&D and manufacturing techniques for the i960 processor family that is used for the Pentium[®] processor family. As a consequence, you get faster upgrades to higher integration and clock speeds while benefiting from the quantity and quality advantages of Intel manufacturing. That gives you room to explore faster and better applications of your technology without changing processor architecture and re-writing code.

To assist you in your "buy" decision the following pages feature companies which offer their customers the potential for leading edge server performance and value by tapping the i960 processor in their intelligent I/O products.

The i960 Microprocessor Intelligent I/O Source Guide will be updated as your range of options rapidly expands as a result of our current i960 processor design activity.