

ECE 477 Digital Systems Senior Design Project

Module 1
General Guidelines

Outline

- Lab Notebook Guidelines
- On-Line Documentation Guidelines
- Patent Liability Guidelines
- Microcontroller Selection Guidelines
 - Memory Requirements / Types
 - Development Environment
 - Interfacing / Bus Expansion
- Motherboard Selections Guidelines
- Prerequisite Review Guidelines

Lab Notebooks – *Individual*

- Used to keep track of all observations, modifications, "buggy behavior", etc., for a product under development
- All observations, modifications, redesigns, comments, notes to yourself, etc., should be <u>documented as they occur</u>, <u>NOT</u> "after the fact"
- Each <u>individual</u> will be required to maintain an on-line lab notebook on their team's project webpage
- This is <u>NOT</u> a BLOG !!!!

Individual Lab Notebook Entries

Entries will be done in HTML, but may include scanned sheets and digital pictures as well as links to hardware or software source files - most important thing is to keep it current!

October 24, 2013, 2 hours:

The I2C fuel guage (MAX17043) was connected to the STM32F4 discovery board and tested. After a few attempts, battery voltage and state-of-charge (SOC) data was retrieved from the Maxim chip. Tests with the Agilent volt meter confirmed that the voltage reading was well within the datasheet's tolerance of 5 mV (0.005 V), but further testing is required to verify that the SOC estimate is correct. Charging and discharging of the battery will need to be performed while the fuel gauge is connected and powered.



During development of the fuel gauge code, overflow errors occurred on the ITM print return line (SWO) that dropped data after about ten characters set. It was determined that the buffer on the STM32F1 chip inside the ST-LINK v2 programmer was being filled too quickly. After online research, writing a divider value to a poorly-documented asynchronous clock speed register successfully allowed all characters to be sent, so printf() now works over the SWO bus reliably. Further work to get breakpoints working consistently without lock ups is still required.

October 26, 2013, 3 hours:

Continued work to exercise the fuel gauge was performed, with the battery charged using a lithium-ion compatible charger at 1 A with the fuel gauge chip continuously monitoring the charge, along with the voltmeter for comparison. Once again, the voltage reading was well within the stated 5 mV tolerance of the actual voltage, a difference likely also influenced by voltage drops across cables. The test setup is shown below:



The chart shown above, a subset of the charging graph (the complete charge sequence with this charger and a 6000 mAh battery about 50% full would take over 4 hours), shows that the chip is magically capable of sensing a slowly increasing state of charge (the state of charge is reported to the nearest percentage point, thus the step on the graph) even though the voltage is essentially constant and no current sense resistor is used. This phenomenon demonstrates that our project can successfully monitor the estimated battery state of charge.

Lab Notebook Evaluation Form

Evaluation:

Component/Criterion			Sc	ore			MPY	Points
Level of technical detail – enough detail should be included for others to reproduce your work, and not simply a "blog" (i.e., not be a log of time spent in class or what you ate at a meeting, etc.)	0	1	2	3	4	5	X 3	
Pictures, drawings and diagrams – should be included where appropriate, very large images should be linked (to thumbnails of those images)	0	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Update record – daily entries should be made <i>as</i> work is done (not days "after the fact"), and should reflect steady, consistent progress	0	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Weekly summaries – weekly summaries should be a concise summary of the major accomplishments for the preceding Sunday – Saturday period	0	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Technical Writing Style and Clarity – writing style should be professional and concise as well as employ good grammar, sentence structure, etc. – what you wrote should be readily understandable to one "skilled in the art"	0	1	2	3	4	5	X 3	
	•						TOTAL	/ 50

Scoring:

	·9·
5	Excellent – among the very best notebooks completed this semester
4	Good – all requirements were amply satisfied
3	Average – some areas for improvement, but all basic requirements were satisfied
2	Below average – some basic requirements were not satisfied
1	Poor – very few of the requirements were satisfied
0	Unacceptable

Lab Notebook Evaluation

- Level of technical detail
 - Can we reproduce what you did from what is written in your notebook?
 - No "blogs"
- Appropriateness
 - Is the content <u>directly</u> related to the project?
 - No "personal remarks" (what you ate, etc.)
- Pictures, diagrams, etc.
 - Need to aid in understanding work done
 - Thumbnail large images to reduce inline image size (generally do not need high-res images for most lab notebook entries)

Lab Notebook Evaluation

- Update Record
 - must be within 2-3 days of actual work
- Weekly summaries
 - 2-3 sentences highlighting main points of week's work
- Technical writing style
 - use 3rd person
 - future employers may see your notebook

On-Line Documentation Guidelines

- In addition to individual lab notebooks, each group should maintain on-line hardware and software <u>documentation</u>
 - data sheets
 - application notes
 - schematics
 - code listings
- Use a version control system (your choice) to manage updates and track changes

Hardware Documentation

- Include text describing changes made to each revision of the schematic
- Include information about test setups and prototyping breadboards
- Include any "debugging notes" or general observations useful to the hardware portion of the team
- Update schematic as you prototype and prototype as much as possible of your schematic

Software Documentation

- Include diagnostic routines developed
 - note which SW version they work with
- As part of header of each software module, include complete history of modifications
 - ; Title: (a descriptive title of this program)
 - ; Version: m.n (version number, following specified guidelines)
 - ; Filename: (name of file)
 - ; Author(s): (person who has written code)
 - ; Purpose/Function of Program: (a brief paragraph describing the overall function performed)
 - ; How Program is Run on Target System: (include starting address, etc.)
 - ; Date Started: (when you first started to write this program)
 - ; Update History: (list of changes made since first written, date of each change)

 Primary purpose of patent is to protect intellectual property:

Congress shall have the power . . . to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

U.S. Constitution - Article 1, Section 8

- Patent = Right to Exclude
 - Prevent others from making, using or selling your invention
 - Right to exclude ≠ Right to make
 - May not own all required components
 - Need for licensing
 - Patent is *not* needed to manufacture a product
 - Duration = 20 years from filing date

- Patent requirements:
 - Useful
 - Novel
 - Non-Obvious

- Patent contains:
 - Written description
 - Drawings/schematics
 - Claims

- Applying for a patent requires
 - extensive search of prior art
 - protracted negotiation with assigned patent officer
 - patent lawyer
- Many on-line patent search engines are available – see <u>www.freepatentsonline.com</u> or <u>google.com/patents</u>
- The official web site of the U.S. Patent Office is – www.uspto.gov (printed copies of "old" patents available for a small fee)

- Best time to search for possible patent infringement is at product conception stage
- If the possibility of infringement exists, either:
 - eliminate infringing function from your design
 - modify your design so that the infringing function is performed in a "substantially different way"
- Types of infringement
 - literal
 - doctrine of equivalents

Literal Infringement

- Exactly same function performed exactly the same way
- Should be "obvious"
- Either eliminate this function from your design -or- obtain license/pay royalty fee to use this function
- Note that "simply adding additional features" does <u>not</u> eliminate infringement

Doctrine of Equivalents

- Substantially same function performed substantially the same way
- Hypothetical examples
 - for fastening pieces of wood together, does a screw perform "substantially the same function" in "substantially the same way" as a nail?
 - for reproducing recorded music, does a vinyl LP perform "substantially the same function" in "substantially the same way" as a CD?
 - for the purpose of recognizing an access code (PIN), does software running on a microcontroller perform "substantially the same function" in "substantially the same way" as a state machine realized with discrete flip-flops and gates?

Doctrine of Equivalents

- Need a clear understanding of mechanism ("way") the mechanism is the function of interest in analyzing infringement liability under the doctrine of equivalents
 - hypothetical #1: "fastening" is not what is "patented"; rather, the fastening mechanism (ribbing on nail vs. threads on screw)
 - hypothetical #2: "music reproduction" is not what is "patented"; rather, the music reproduction mechanism (needle vibration following molded groove vs. optically reading digital data from pits molded into plastic disc)
 - hypothetical #3: "recognizing an access code" is not what is "patented"; rather, the access code recognition mechanism (software running on a generic embedded microcontroller vs. discrete custom hardware realizing a state machine)

Doctrine of Equivalents

- Stated another way, is the "software" implementation of any function the equivalent of a (digital) hardware implementation of that function under the doctrine of equivalents?
- Answer: "hard to say" this is why there are patent lawyers!
- No case to date where software ruled the equivalent of hardware per se – but have been cases where <u>functions</u> ("algorithms") of hardware and software devices ruled as performed in "substantially the same way"

Avoiding Infringement

- Designing around
- Licensing
 - Straight license
 - Cross-license
- Acquiring subject patent
- Declaratory judgment action
- Ceasing manufacturing

- Memory requirements/types
 - Beware of hidden liabilities
 - Data acquisition (ADC) buffers
 - Large file storage (mp3)
 - Library routines (floating point emulation, printf)
 - Nonvolatile memory
 - Flash (code, static data)
 - in-circuit programmable?
 - programming "dongle" availability?
 - programming connector requirements?
 - EEPROM (storage of calibration or configuration parameters, history data, control panel settings)
 - granularity of erase/write?
 - software driver availability?

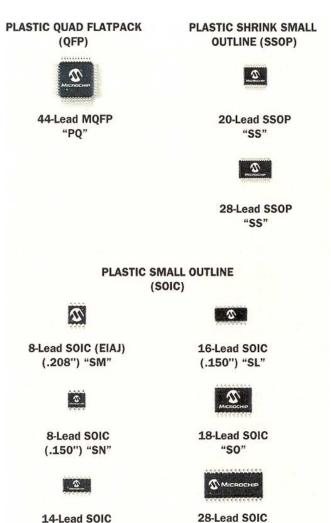
- Volatile memory (SRAM)
 - stack
 - heap
 - I/O buffers
 - run-time variables
 - (generally no executable code except for "specialty functions" like erasing and reprogramming a sector in Flash)
 - note initialization requirements when system boots

- Interfacing/Bus Expansion
 - Number of general purpose I/O pins
 - programmable data direction?
 - programmable pull device?
 - Bus expansion capability
 - multiplexed or simplex external bus?
 - "glue logic" requirements?
- Number/types of integrated peripherals
- Golden Microcontroller Selection Rule: "match" project requirements to μC capabilities as closely as practicable

- Development environment
 - Useful to have an asynchronous serial port dedicated to debugging
 - Useful to have spare I/O pins dedicated to debugging (e.g., "heartbeat" LED)
 - In-circuit programmable Flash available for quickly downloading and testing code revs (but typically require a "programming dongle" so be sure to include a header/connector on your PCB)
 - BDM (background debug mode) VERY helpful be sure to include a 6-pin BDM header on your PCB if using a Freescale microcontroller
 - Assembler/Compiler/Linker/Loader/(Simulator)?

- Carefully note package options available
 - QFP, SOIC, and SSOP types generally preferable
 - QFN type "doable" (but avoid if possible)
 - watch out for "tabs" on bottom of chip
 - DIP types OK (good for prototyping) but compromise PCB density
 - avoid PGA and BGA
- Price/availability
 - get at least two more than you need of every IC
 - now (sooner rather than later)

Package Options (Sample)

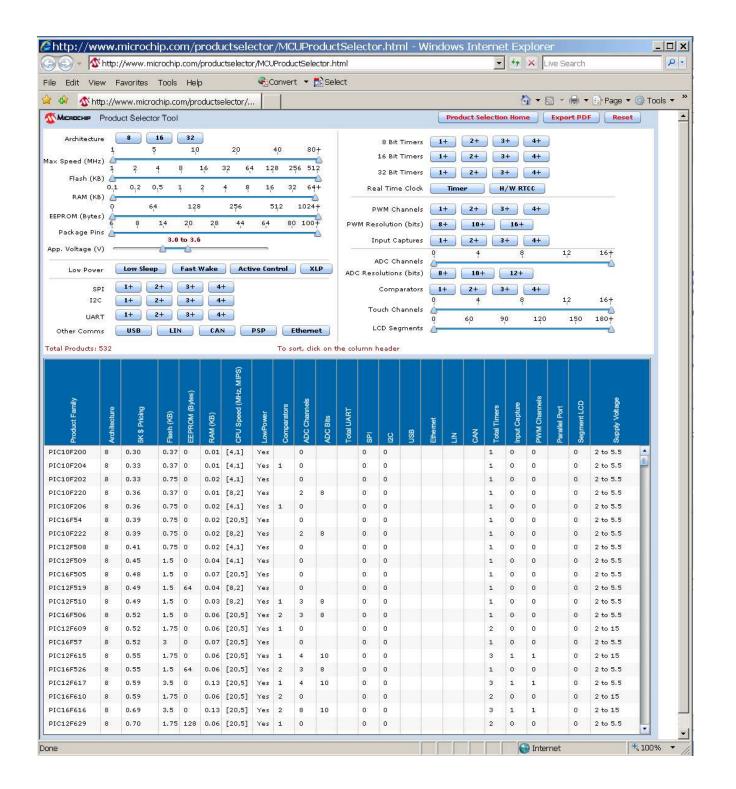


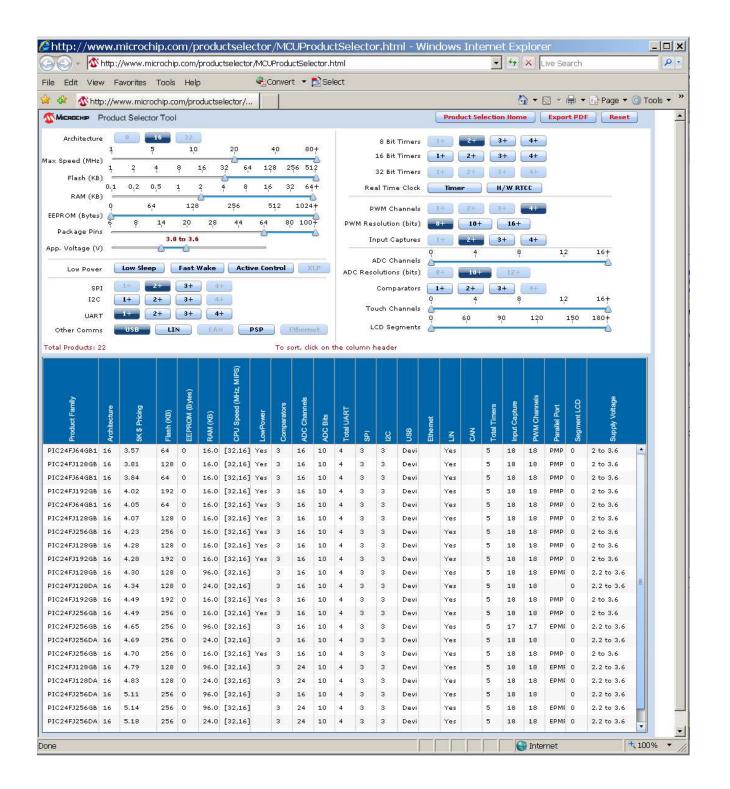
(.150") "SL"

"SO"





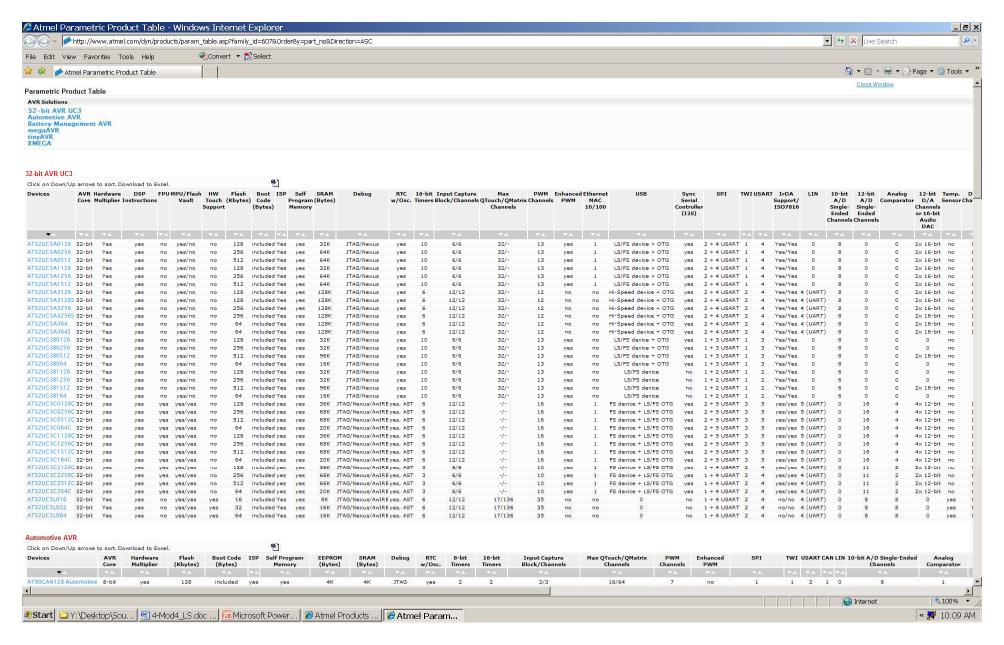




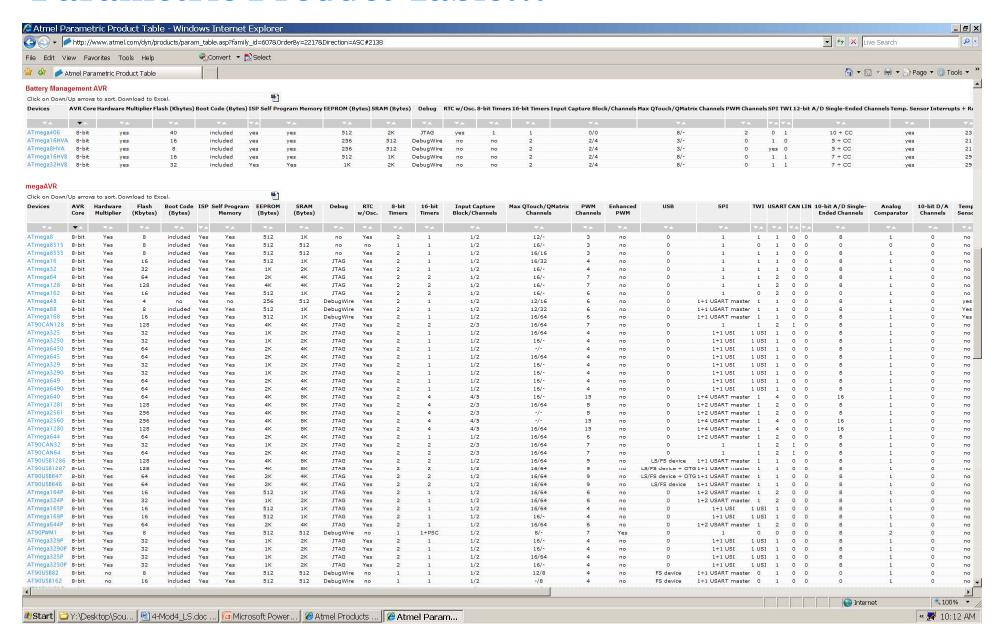


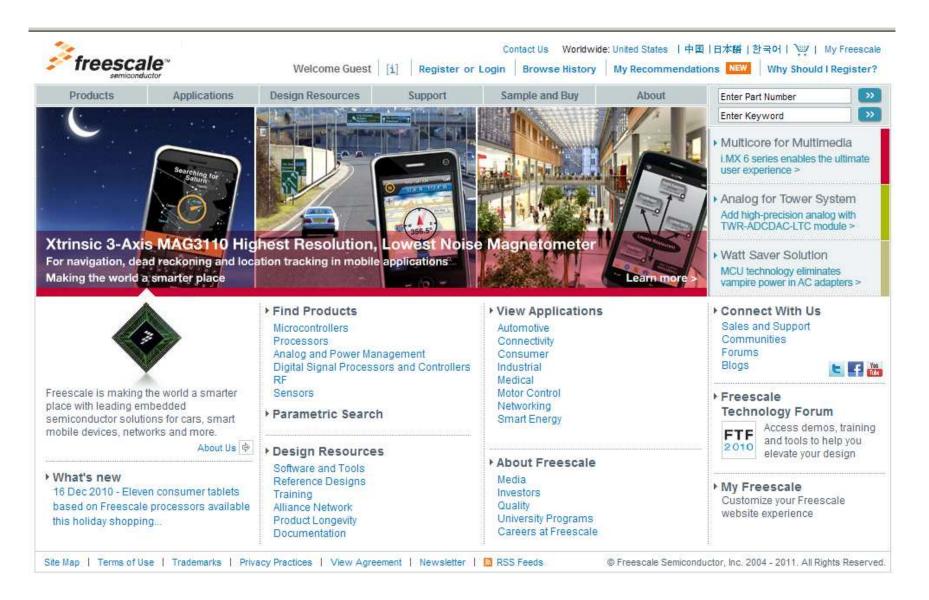


Parametric Product Table



Parametric Product Table...

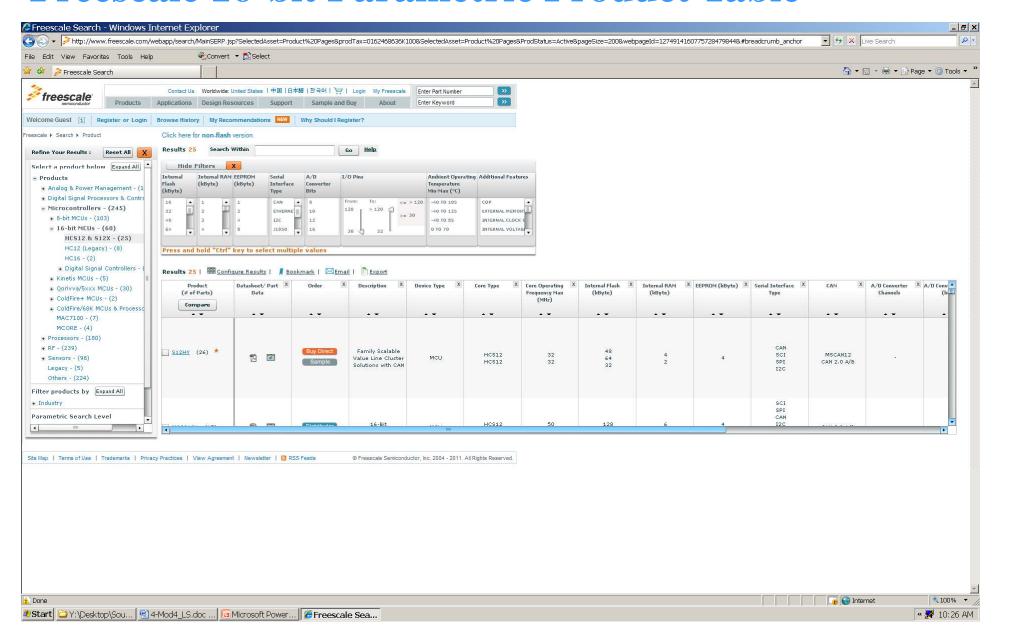




www.freescale.com



Freescale 16-bit Parametric Product Table





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Silica UK and ADI invite you to a free 1-day seminar. Experts will discuss the key benefits of the Blackfin 16/32-bit Embedded Processors. Register here (25Jan11)



WEBCAST: Interfacing RF Components describes best practices that will help you get the most out of your RF circuit. (Starts 2/16) (20Jan11)

Analog Devices Introduces Industry's First I²S Digital MEMS Microphone (19Jan11)

A/D Converter Behavior Modeling Webcast Shows How Simulation Can Reduce Risk and Speed Timeto-Market (18Jan11)

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Blackfin® 16/32-bit embedded processors offer software flexibility and scalability for convergent applications: multi-format audio, video, voice and image processing, multimode baseband and packet processing, control processing, and real-time security

PROCESSORS IN APPLICATIONS

 Audio 	 Security & Surveillance 	
 Automotive 	 Test & Measurement 	
 Process Control 		

SELECTION TABLE

· Product Selection Table



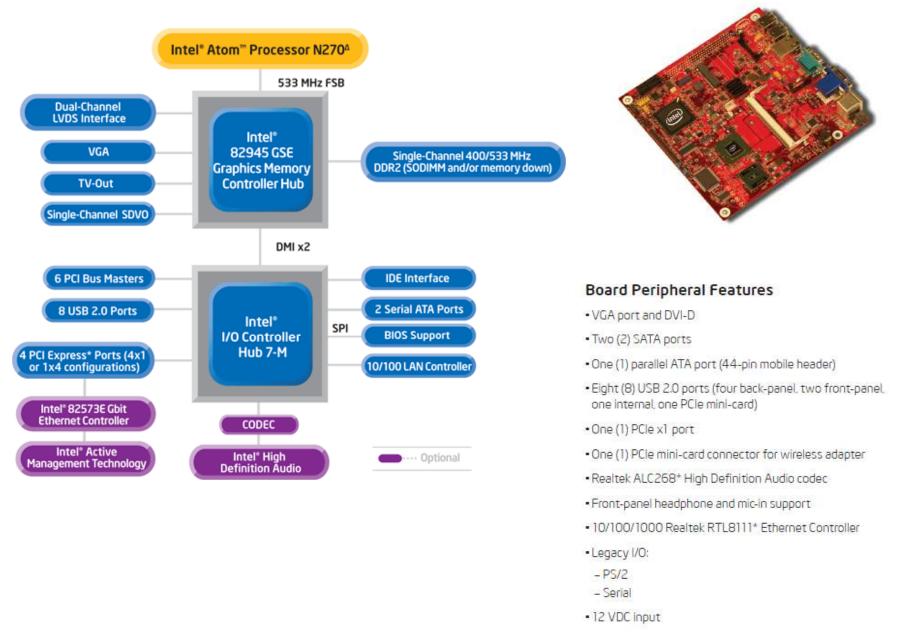
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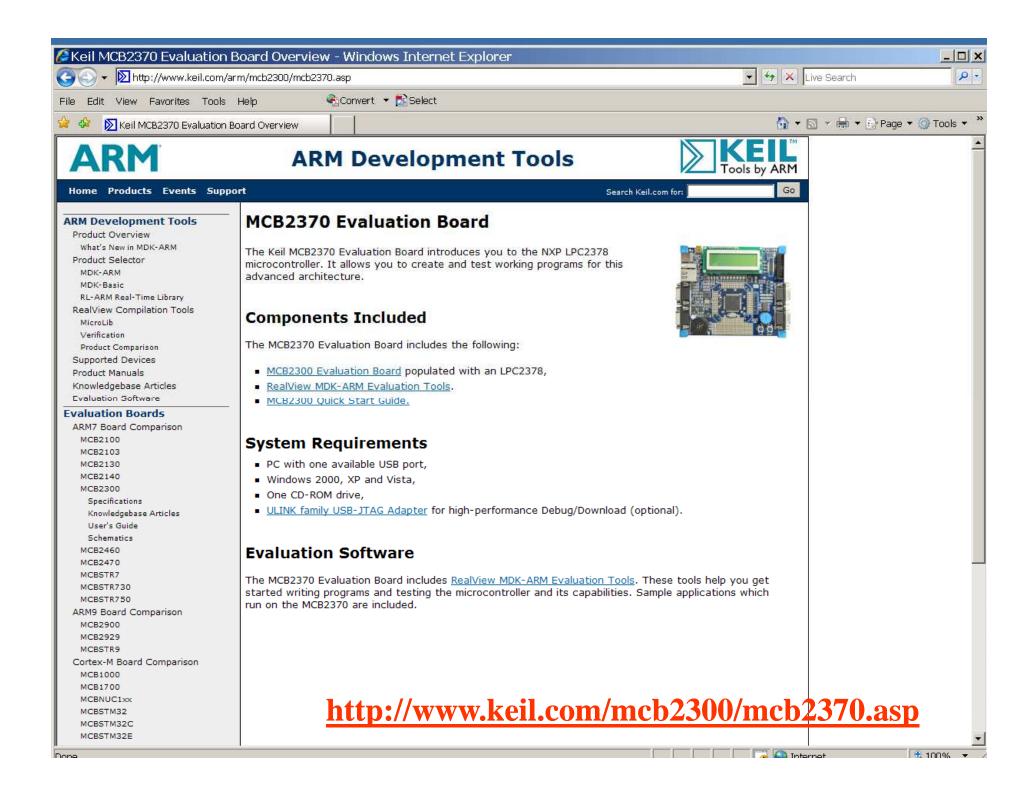
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http://www.intel.com/products/processor/atom/index.htm



Prerequisite Review Guidelines

- Topics from ECE 270 (Module 1) you should review include:
 - How to read/interpret data sheets
 - Logic levels and noise margins
 - Interfacing different families of CMOS logic
 - Electrostatic discharge
 - Sourcing and sinking currents
 - Propagation delay and transition time
 - Effects of capacitive and resistive loads
 - Power dissipation as a function of supply voltage and switching frequency
 - Current spikes and decoupling
 - Three-state and open-drain outputs

Prerequisite Review Guidelines

- Topics from ECE 362 you should review include:
 - Embedded application software organization
 - SCI and SPI applications
 - ATD applications and analog signal conditioning
 - TIM applications
 - PWM applications and interfaces
 - Switching D.C. loads
 - Optical isolation of inputs and outputs
 - Keypad (switch matrix) and contact closure de-bouncing
 - Rotary pulse generators (RPG)
 - Position control, stepper motors, (hobbyist) servos
 - LCD interface
 - I/O expansion using shift registers
 - Bus timing analysis