Umeå’s Seventh Student Workshop in Computer Architecture

Abstract
This book is the proceeding from Umeå’s Seventh Student Workshop in Computer Architecture. It contains a collection of short technical articles about past and present processors, medias, busses and some other subjects that are harder to classify. The articles have been written by the students of the autumn 2003 offering of the course in Computer Architecture.

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Introduction

How do you go about introducing a book like this? It isn’t easy, since it covers a very wide range of topics within the field of Computer Architecture. The easy way out is to say that it contains short technical reports on a variety of subjects within the field.

A short background may be in order here. The course in Computer Architecture at Umeå University has contained an element of report writing for as long as anyone can remember, and a short presentation since the first year I was involved in the course (1997). The form of the presentation has changed into group presentations (rather than in front of the entire class), and the report has gone from an HTML format to a somewhat more long-lived media – paper.

Where to go next? We tried another format (A4) for the printed version last year, but that experiment did not go so well so we went back to S5 format again. The major change for the course is that everything is in English this year.

The aim of this book is to give an overview of the current (and the not so current) state of Computer Architecture as well as to show the effort put into the course by the students. My wish is that the reader might find something interesting to them, something that is worth further research and therefore further enlightenment.

I hope you’ll find it a pleasurable book to read.

October 2003

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Lecturer for the course in Computer Architecture, 2003 (TDBC06)
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