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Last Updated: Sunday October 21st, 1:45 PM EDT

Another update from the inside: G5 Futures - 1:35 PM 10/21 - Rumor

In the wake of a report we published late last purporting to be from an Apple insider regarding the next-generation PowerPC 8500 G5 processor, a Motorola source sent in this interesting and very informative follow-up:

I'm a systems engineer on the PowerPC Architecture Development Team and I feel the need to comment on what has been released regarding the G5 processor. Some things that have been reported are spot on but other points need to be revised. As an avid Mac user I feel that your website provides content that people like me need to keep spirits up, and it fills the information gap that Apple often creates.

Here is what we know and what I am not going to refute.

- This is a 64 bit chip.
- This chip is blazingly fast.
- Yields are up and we are now getting a consistent product running at 1.6 Ghz. version 0.5
- Reported Specmarks are fairly accurate.

Here is what has been reported and may not be accurate:

- You reported that version 0.6 will fix the two major errors with the chip but many of us on the team are not as confident as major changes in the fabrication process might need to be made in order to address the issues.
- Prices reported on the Register [here](#) are much higher than what we expect. This processor seems to have a great potential for high success rates. The current poor yields are mostly due to tinkering with the die to get the bugs eliminated.

Here is what you might not know.

- High power draw on the current models may be addressed by a future chip that could be integrated into portable devices.
- Altivec performance has not been as robust as seen in the G4. This could be due to the cache problems, but honestly, we are not sure right now.

I hope you find this useful and we here at Motorola hope that we can deliver an early Christmas present to Apple. :-)

Pondering the G5 while we're still waiting for 533MHz+ and multiprocessor third-party upgrades is getting a bit ahead of ourselves, but it can't be helped - the PPC 8500 is without a doubt one of the most exciting items on our laundry list of future Mac platform developments. If indeed the 1.2-1.6GHz initial speeds and SPEC benchmarks we've seen recently are accurate, the competition will be left utterly in the dust in 2002. Then again, we've expected quantum leaps in Mac performance like this many times in the past and ended up with something much more moderate when the reality came to pass; we're more confident that ever that the G5 will at long last deliver that intense performance punch that could really make inroads with regards to the Mac platform's market share....but as with all rumors, we'll have to wait and see where the chips fall.

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New Apple device to bring together quiet Apple technology purchases - 1:45 PM 10/21 - Rumor

According to reliable Infinite Loop sources, Apple's groundbreaking new Digital Hub device will employ at least two of Apple's most secret technology projects that we have speculated on for some time. Notably, Apple's purchase last year of Raycer Graphics, a company that creates GPUs (Graphics Processor Units) for embedded and handheld applications is apparently key to this and several other of Apple's forthcoming Digital Hub devices. Low-cost, low-power graphics for this device will reportedly be provided by a GPU unit that may be embedded within a larger System-On-A-Chip architecture that will be at the core of the device we're expecting on Tuesday as well as future Digital Hub products from Apple.

Additionally, Apple has been working on handwriting recognition/pen-input technology called InkWell and a new, high-performance version of Firewire (IEEE 1394b) that will be called Gigawire. Neither of these latter technologies is confirmed to be employed in the device we'll be seeing on Tuesday, but both are key to the Digital Hub strategy and will be heard much more about in the not-so-distant future.

Expect much more on the new Device over the next two days, and of course up-to-the-minute coverage on Tuesday of Apple's announcements!

Know something we don't? [You know what to do!](#)

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