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English for Computer Science

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Passage 1

In dueling press releases, Intel and IBM both laid claim this summer to having built the world's fastest silicon-based transistor. The two companies' accomplishments involved distinct technologies, each of which breaks new ground, expert explained but for very different reasons. Intel's innovation will enable it to pack faster and smaller transistors into its microprocessors, IBM's feat will allow companies designing faster communications equipment to keep silicon-based chips instead of switching to more expensive, less familiar technologies. Intel's new research device is faster, but IBM's much closer to commercialization. "It's like comparing a new breed of apples with a new breed of oranger" said Dan Hutcheson, president of VLSI research firm located in San Jose, Calif. "one is redder, one is oranger. They are both sweeter."



Passage 1

1- What is the main idea behind the above text?
Intel and IBM

- 1) are dueling against each other
- 2) are claiming against each other
- 3) have manufactured the fastest transistors for microprocessors
- 4) have made the fastest silicon based transistors for very different reasons

2- Intel's innovation has helped to

- 1) use less expensive equipments
- 2) design faster communication equipment
- 3) achieve an accomplishment for familiar technologies
- 4) pack faster and smaller transistors into microprocessors



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Passage 1

3- When Dan Hutcheson says: “It’s like comparing a new breed of apples with new breed of oranges”, what does he really mean by this? Both

- 1) have manufactured equipments that arc useful for their purposes
- 2) have manufactured equipments that serve different means
- 3) have manufactured equipment whose origin is the same
- 4) are from the same breed, fruits



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Passage 2

Forced to grapple with increasingly ubiquitous and powerful information technologies, policy makers and leaders in developing countries have over the past few years been frantically seeking ways and means to shore up the very spare infrastructure base in those countries. Wireless networks are often cited as the most economically feasible solution to the severe dearth of infrastructure in these nations. For the foreseeable future, the development of wireless networks is indeed the optimal solution to the information infrastructure gap in developing countries. Many developing nations have embarked on this road and a loose formula of employing fixed cellular networks for local loops, the proverbial "last mile" in the communications network systems, and satellite transmission for long distance and international communications has emerged.



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Passage 2

4- What is the “last mile” of communication networks?

- 1) satellites
- 2) local loops
- 3) wireless networks
- 4) fixed cellular networks

5- What is the main reason behind the recent attempts on upgrading the communications infrastructure base in the developing countries? To . . .

- 1) enforce strong information technologies
- 2) avoid widespread information technologies
- 3) catch up with widespread and strong information technologies
- 4) maintain their countries' strong and widespread information technologies



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Passage 2

6- Which of the following communication systems are believed to be economically the best solution for the insufficient infrastructure in the developing countries?

- 1) severe dearth of infrastructure
- 2) fixed communication networks
- 3) wireless communication networks
- 4) local loops and satellite transmissions

7- What has been emerged for long distance communications in the developing nations?

- 1) wireless local loop
- 2) satellite transmission
- 3) loose formula of employing fixed cellular
- 4) both of foxed cellular networks and satellite transmission



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Passage 3

Software acquisition as a critical concern for firms worldwide, and its impact on their business processes is expected to grow. According to Standish Group's report, U.S. firms spend more than \$250 billion annually acquiring software. Software investments can result in substantial productivity gains and strategic advantage, but not all such investments are successful by any means. To realize these benefits, firms must identify and understand the factors that must affect their software acquisition decisions. In this study, we develop a general cost-benefit decision framework for the software acquisition problem.

The software acquisition problem is depicted as two-dimensional what acquisition approach to use (custom develop the software or base it on a package) and who should complete the task (internal resources or external providers). While aspects of the resource decision have generated frequent study, the custom/package decision has not previously received attention. Therefore, our decision framework captures the major tradeoffs a firm faces when making these two decisions.



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Passage 3

8- According to this article, software acquisition

- 1) has two-dimensions concerning this problem
- 2) should not be decided by the firms themselves
- 3) has a growing impact only on the U.S. firms
- 4) has growing rate of more than \$25 billion

9- The two dimensions software acquisition problem are the

- 1) internal resources and external providers
- 2) task management and the new field of data support
- 3) custom development and the package based development
- 4) use of acquisition approach and resource for completing



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Passage 3

10- Which of the following statements about the aspects of the software acquisition problem is correct?
All aspects of

- 1) the software acquisition problem need attentions
- 2) the software acquisition problem have deeply been studied
- 3) resource decision have not previously received enough attentions
- 4) custom/package decision have not previously generated frequent study

11- Why firms must identify and understand the factors that most affect their software acquisition decision? Because

- 1) the software investments can result in strategic advantages
- 2) the software investments can result in substantial productivity gains
- 3) not all of the software investments are successful in productivity gains and strategic advantages
- 4) all of the software investments can result in both substantial productivity gains as well as strategic advantages



Passage 3

10- Which of the following statements about the aspects of the software acquisition problem is correct?
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- 1) the software investments can result in strategic advantages
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Passage 3

12- In his software acquisition decision framework development, the author promises to

1) offer a general cost-benefit decision framework which would take into account the major tradeoffs a firm faces when making its decision

2) offer a general cost-benefit decision framework without addressing the major tradeoffs a firm would face when making its decision

3) develop insights into the characteristics of the software projects that would be most beneficial to its target

4) develop a framework that only offers firms a basis for their software acquisition's cost structure



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Passage 4

As the internet continues to grow, the roles of the various participants in developing and evolving standards naturally come under closer scrutiny. When the financial implications of internet standards decisions were relatively small, the current standards process that emerged from the research community proved entirely satisfactory. As the financial impact of such decisions become increasingly significant, the nature of the standards process will continue to change accordingly to allow more direct industrial involvement in the decision making process. How this will ultimately plan out is yet unclear. However, the vitality of the current process derives from the board involvement of the many communities that have a stake in the internet.



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Passage 4

Unlike typical standards processes that form consensus decisions and then proceed to implement them, the internet process works essentially in reverse by a kind of gross-roots mechanism. Internet standards are those that have been tried, found by actual trial and error to be desirable and the resulting standards developed as a result of widespread implementation. No better model of a standards process has yet emerged that is as dynamic and agile to allow more direct involvement by industry.



Passage 4

13- What is the main difference between typical standards processes and internet process?

- 1) The roles of typical standards processes continue to grow. This is not true the internet process.
- 2) Typical standards processes use the trial error approach. This is not true for internet process.
- 3) Typical standard processes form decisions first and then proceed to implement them. This is not true for the internet process.
- 4) Typical standard processes are independent of the resolution of decision issues. This is not true for the internet process.



Passage 4

14- Why the roles of the participants in developing internet standards have come under closer scrutiny?

- 1) Because the financial implications become more significant as internet continues to grow
- 2) Because now many countries have fundamental interests in the internet evolution
- 3) Because internet was intended for the use of research community
- 4) Because it must come from research community

15) Under of the following circumstances the current internet were satisfactory?

- 1) When no better model of a standard process was available
- 2) When the financial implications of internet standard decisions were relatively small
- 3) When the nature of the standard process continue to change
- 4) When internet standard essentially decided by a kind of gross-roots mechanism



Passage 4

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Passage 4

16- The vitality Of current decision making process
for the internet derives from

- 1) satellite transmission
- 2) the research community involvement
- 3) typical standards process that forms consensus
decision
- 4) the broad involvement of the many communities that
have interests in the internet



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Passage 5

Who have thought that not only computers, but computer science would become a centerpiece of pop music culture? Or that UNIX path punctuation would become a vernacular element of advertising (in the form of address)? The public has often warned to the surface of science and engineering, but never before to the depth. While there are tens of millions of people who love dinosaurs, how many of them have gone on analyzed spectrum data? When it comes to computers, though, a mass culture of technical literacy is being born, especially among children. We always thought computers had to become popularized and instead the public has decided to become surprisingly technical.



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Passage 5

This is due in part to the stalwart marketing of awkward software by Microsoft and in part to be economic pressures favoring open system, which will always have rougher edges. But those cannot be the only reasons. There is an emotional draw. Maybe it's the ability to control a micro-world that is more predictable and less filled with pain and ambiguity than real life, an abstract aquarium, a theater of numbers.



Passage 5

17- Why the public has decided to become technical about computers?

- 1) because of its ability to control a micro-world
- 2) partly, because of the economic pressures favoring open systems
- 3) because a mass culture of technical literacy is being born
- 4) only because of stalwart of awkward software by Microsoft

18- Which of the following statements describes Microsoft practices best? Microsoft

- 1) sells its software awkwardly
- 2) awkwardly advertises its stalwart software
- 3) strongly and bravely advertises its clumsy software
- 4) awkwardly advertises its great software



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Passage 5

19- Which of following statements is correct about micro-world? Micro-world is . . .

- 1) less filled with pain and ambiguity than real life
- 2) a theater of numbers similar to fishes living in an aquarium
- 3) more filled with ambiguity but less filled with pain than real life
- 4) an imaginary and not necessarily predictable world of children

20- Tens of millions of people who love dinosaurs

. . .

- 1) not often analyze spectrum data
- 2) always would watch the spectrum data
- 3) would become surprisingly technical
- 4) would also love to see UNIX path punctuation in advertising (in the form of web address)



Passage 5

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Passage 6

To achieve the highest frequency in a given technology, a circuit macro must be designed to provide an optimal balance among delay, power and area. This requires an understanding of the physical and electrical context of the macro within the overall design.

Through “custom design” the designer can have control over circuit style and technology, device size and the physical design of both transistor and interconnects. Minimizing both parasitic and number of stages delays incurred to implement particular function are keys in attaining a high frequency. Computer-aided tools do not always provide the flexibility to allow the designer enough control to arrive the optimal solution.



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Passage 6

Accordingly, a significant amount of custom design tends to manually driven. Therefore, it is imperative that early in the design cycle the designer identifies which portions of the design are appropriate targets for a custom design solution and which are better left to a more automated approach. In a processor design, a large fraction of the logic is irregular and cannot be separated into multiple instances of similar or identical logic. However, a sizable remainder of the logic is dedicated to operating on data streams that are 32 or 64 bits or wider, providing a golden opportunity for reusing customized physical and circuit designs.



Passage 6

21- It can be concluded from the text that customization

- 1) may lead to impairments in a circuit design
- 2) can improve the maximum operating frequency
- 3) may worsen a circuit configuration
- 4) can increase the delays

22- According to the text, the designer of a circuit macro

- 1) customization decreases parasitic but not the stage delays
- 2) minimizes the number of stage delays prior to customization
- 3) does not necessarily have to an understanding of the circuit topology
- 4) must be aware of the physical and electrical context of the macro within the overall design



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Passage 6

23- It is NOT true that

- 1) a large portion of customization is manually driven
- 2) a high frequency will be attained if stage delays are recovered
- 3) the designer can not have control over a circuit design through customization
- 4) computer-aided design tools do not always help the designer have enough control over the design

24- To develop a custom design, a designer should

-
- 1) achieve a regularity of the logic function
 - 2) achieve a proper design density by manual intervention
 - 3) have a complete presupposition of the design parts appropriate for both custom design and automated solution
 - 4) provide the opportunity for streams of up to 64 data bits



Passage 6

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Passage 6

25- A proposal on a product design defines the project and how to reach the objectives. The closest in meaning to the underlined word is

- 1) origins 2) goals 3) definitions 4) descriptions



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END.