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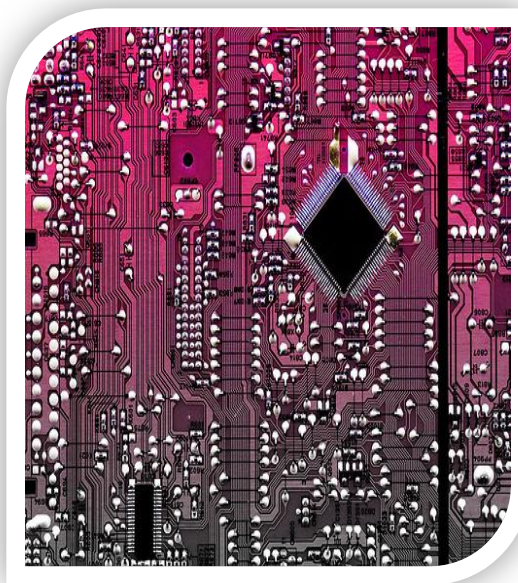
What's New at ECS?

Happy New Year! Well I hope you all are as excited as I am, to start this New Year. We have some great exciting new things planned. We would like to start off first by saying Thank You! You have all been some of the best and most pleasing customers we have ever served. With that being said we have mailed out a recent voucher that you may use to upgrade your system and receive a generous discount! We hope that you will come to us again for all of your home computing needs! In the following Newsletter we cover some important topics on what is going on in the world of I.T. as well as news about some new Windows programs. Thank you once again and please read on to find out some exciting new things currently happening in the I.T. Industry.

What's New in the World of I.T.?

Are AMD and IBM forging a partnership of some sort? According to analysts and rather thin reports, which may all be quoting each other for all we know; AMD and IBM are apparently getting cozy. So what is going to happen next?

A merger between the two: JMP Securities analyst Krishna Shankar said in a research note that there has been speculation which "may



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Involve a strategic equity infusion or even an outright merger between AMD and IBM Microelectronics."

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What's New in the World of I.T.?

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ECS take: This would make a lot of sense (for AMD). It's unclear what IBM would get out of such an investment although it's likely Big Blue would be investing near a bottom. Shankar notes that an equity infusion would improve AMD's debt ratios.

A Production Partnership: Part of the speculation about AMD and IBM comes from the fact both have planned or already in place for upstate New York. ➡

Microsoft memo: Windows 7 and Windows Live to be even more tightly joined at the hip!

The "plus" in Microsoft's Software Services strategy is going to get a lot more oomph in the not-too-distant future — at least according to a planning memo for Windows Live Wave 3.

The memo — authored by Chris Jones, Corporate Vice President of Windows Live Experience, David Treadwell, Corporate Vice President of Live Platform Services, and Brian Abrogate, Corporate Vice President of Mobile Services — dates back to the summer of 2007. But it's all about the future of Windows Live — and how Microsoft's families of Windows-complementary services are going to get a lot cozier with Windows and Internet Explorer.

Recent leaks regarding Microsoft's next-generation Windows 7 release have all mentioned that the next version of Microsoft's client operating system will be more tightly tied with Windows Live. The degree to which the two will be joined at the hip will become clearer, as Microsoft marches towards delivering Windows 7 in late 2009 or 2010 and Windows Live "Wave 3" at the very end of 2008.

ECS Take: A great idea as the two parties could share technology on 32 nanometer and 300mm wafers.

An IP sharing arrangement/strategic alliance: Shankar said that a potential licensing partnership would make sense. AMD would get preferential access to IBM systems and software and the two could swap patents and technology.

ECS take: Some sort of cross licensing pact would also make sense and give AMD more enterprise heft.

Bottom line: AMD needs a big brother to fight Intel. IBM would fit the bill nicely.

Even though the Windows and Windows Live engineering teams both report to Senior Vice President Steven Sino sky, the two product families have had relatively integration and cross-pollination to date. But with the next releases of these products, a lot is going to change.

