Book Review

Anthony Chandor, *The Penguin Dictionary of Microprocessors.* Penguin Books Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England. 1981. £2.25 paperback.

This is a delightful, provocative, small book. Delightful, since it contains a wealth of knowledge, not easy collectable. Provocative, since it is not perfect. For instance: the cover says: "New concepts need new words. So here are Promzapping ...". You look for Promzapping, it's not there. (Hint: look for Zap + Prom.)

It has definitely been written by an expert. In some places this will lead to some dilemmas for the reader audience: the definitions for e.g. documentation and high-level language are not exactly easy reading stuff. But, of course, that is unfair: dictionaries are not supposed to be easy reading.

The book's high level of expertness is also illustrated by the large number of cumbersome cross-references: to fully understand the definition of documentation, you have to look up 12 other keywords. Breakpoint instruction has got 5 cross-references of which 'breakpoint' is one. But that has got another 5 cross-references.

The author is also certainly an Englishman. He includes a "Cheshire Cat store". For a foreigner like me: (quote from a famous Dutch comedian) "a world of incomprehension is now opening up to me". It leads to 'regenerative memory' which is defined as "any storage device which needs to be refreshed if the contents are to be saved from gradual disappearance". Nice and fine, but could someone, please, explain what Cheshire Cats do?

Nevertheless, this little book is applaudable and lovely, not in the least because of its price. How much microprocessor can you buy for £2.25? This much! Microprocessor laymen: put it on your desk, you will need it.

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