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Configurable cores outpace fixed CPUs

SoCs incorporating one or more configurable 32-bit processors will grow at a cagr of 459% between 2003 and 2009, according to a report from Semico Research.

This will far outpace the projected increase of less than 10% for chips with fixed architecture 32-bit cores.

According to Tony Massimini and Richard Wawrzyniak, the Semico analysts who conducted the study, protection from piracy and cloning and the ability to develop highly optimised chips are primary reasons for the rapid adoption of configurability.

"One of the realities of the high tech market is reverse engineering," said Massimini, chief of technology at Semico Research.

"Companies need to protect their life blood, namely their intellectual property."