

# Archive of MPC79 messages, notes and files:

A [VLSI Archive Document](#) compiled by [Lynn Conway](#) [V 11-17-07].

Following the success of her [M.I.T '78 VLSI design course](#), Lynn Conway sought ways to dramatically scale up internet access to quick-turnaround chip prototyping, in order to enable wider testing, refinement and evaluation of the new Mead-Conway design methods. In the spring of 1979 she conceived of a new type of internet-based implementation infrastructure for this purpose, and announced its availability to students taking Mead-Conway courses that fall.

In a crash-effort that summer at PARC, Alan Bell and Martin Newell created a software prototype of the new "MPC System". Lynn's team used the new system to support rapid prototyping of student design projects at many universities that fall, in a large-scale experimental demonstration-trial of the new VLSI design and implementation methods called "[MPC79](#)".

MPC79 played a vital role in the rapid evolution and validation of the [Mead-Conway design methods](#), and the rapid propagation of the methods into [over 100 universities](#) and [scores of startup companies](#) within just several years. This [Archive of MPC79 messages, notes and files](#) contains scans of many key documents from that event.

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