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**386/ix**  
product family

Writing 386/ix  
Device Drivers

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## Writing 386/ix Device Drivers

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This document assumes that the reader is familiar with the C programming language, UNIX® system calls and general terminology, and 80386™ assembly language programming.

This document is intended as an aid to writing device drivers for AT® 386 device controllers. It does not describe device-dependent specifications and STREAMS drivers, or provide information on network driver functions. Full specifications for protocols, intelligent controller interfaces, and sample drivers are typically available from equipment manufacturers.

#### 1.1 Overview of This Document

This document is divided into eight major sections:

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a general overview of this document. It also describes the typographical conventions used.

##### 2. OVERVIEW OF DEVICE DRIVERS

This section provides an overview of the two types of device drivers. Typical operations and the device driver's relationship to the rest of the system are examined.

##### 3. DRIVER CONVENTIONS

This section discusses conventions that have been established for the assignment and use of device numbers, driver names, and device names.

##### 4. DRIVER FUNCTION INTERFACES

This section discusses the callable interfaces that provide the UNIX kernel access to driver functions.

##### 5. KERNEL INTERFACES FOR THE DRIVER

This section discusses the standard service functions and data structures provided by the UNIX system kernel for device driver use.

##### 6. INTEGRATING DRIVERS INTO THE SYSTEM

This section discusses how to integrate a driver into the UNIX system.