PROJECT REPORT

submitted by

## DEVIKA P SAJITH ASI23CA028

## Fathima P Ajvad

## ASI23CA029

## Fayiza K H

## ASI23CA030

## Gokul G Nair ASI23CA031

**Gokul P  
 ASI23CA032**

## Govind Lal TL ASI23CA033

Under the guidance of

### PROF. ASHA ROSE THOMAS

To

APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of

*Bachelor of Technology In Computer Science and Engineering(Artificial Intelligence)*



## Department of Computer Science and Engineering(AI)

ADI SHANKARA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY KALADY

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APRIL 2025

## ADI SHANKARA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, KALADY

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)**



#### CERTIFICATE

*Certified that this is a bonafide record of the project entitled*

**Comparative study on Hardwired and Microprogrammed control logic**

*Submitted by*

## DEVIKA P SAJITH ASI23CA028

## Fathima P Ajvad

## ASI23CA029

## Fayiza K H

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**Gokul P  
 ASI23CA032**

## Govind Lal TL ASI23CA033

*during the year 2024-25 in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of*

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# VISION AND MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT

## VISION

To be in the frontier of AI technology through quality of education, collaborative research and produce globally competitive, industry ready engineers with social commitment.

## MISSION

* M1: Achieve excellence in the educational experience, fostering collaborative research through state-of-the-art infrastructure and innovative elements.
* M2: Establish industry collaboration to address interdisciplinary challenges across diverse applications.
* M3: Inspire students to develop into ethical, Innovative and entrepreneurial leaders through a socially-centered program.

ABSTRACT

This project gives a comparative analysis of Hardwired and Microprogrammed Control Logic, comparing their architectural aspects, strengths, and implications on real-world performance. Hardwired control, a characteristic feature of RISC architectures, uses specialized circuits to execute instructions efficiently and quickly, while microprogrammed control, used in CISC architectures, uses a control memory to provide more flexibility and ease of change.

For complementing theoretical analysis, benchmark tests were performed on two real-world processors: the Intel Core i7-9700F (microprogrammed) and the Snapdragon 865 (hardwired). The outcome reveals that although the i7-9700F produced greater absolute performance, this benefit was partly a result of its much higher clock speed and power utilization. Normalized for performance per watt, the Snapdragon 865 also exhibited better energy efficiency, affirming the pragmatic virtues of hardwired control in mobile and low-power applications.

This work emphasizes the inherent trade-offs among speed, efficiency, and flexibility in control unit design. Hardwired control is power-efficient and real-time optimized, thus well-suited for mobile and embedded systems, whereas microprogrammed control is more adaptable and software-compatible, and hence suitable for general-purpose and high-performance computing. The results emphasize the need to choose the right control logic depending on target applications, considering performance, power efficiency, and architectural requirements.

CONTENT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chapter |  | Page Number |
| 1 | Introduction | 8 |
| 2 | Hardwired Control Unit | 10 |
| 3 | Micro Programmed Control Unit | 15 |
| 4 | Theoretical comparison | 20 |
| 5 | Real world comparison | 22 |
| 6 | Conclusion | 27 |
| 7 | Reference | 32 |

**Introduction**

**Control unit** is one of the most basic parts of a processor that guides the data flow and instructions within a computer system. It produces control signals that determine how various components of the CPU communicate to carry out instructions. The design and efficiency of the control unit play a major role in how efficiently a processor functions, consumes power, and is flexible.

There are two main approaches to designing a control unit: hardwired control and microprogrammed control. Both methods have unique advantages and trade-offs, and each is appropriate for a different kind of computing system.

**Hardwired Control Logic**

Fixed electronic circuits, usually constructed using combinational logic and finite state machines, are employed in hardwired control units to produce control signals. The control signals are based on the instruction opcode and are directly executed by hardware. This method is very fast and efficient since it does not require extra memory lookups. It has a significant drawback, though: inflexibility. Once a hardwired control unit is implemented, adding new instructions or optimizing performance necessitates redesigning the entire circuit.

**Microprogrammed Control Logic**

Microprogrammed control logic, on the other hand, employs a control memory where a series of microinstructions dictates how each machine instruction is to be carried out. This approach to design adds a level of abstraction so that more flexibility and easier modification of instruction sets are possible without changing the physical hardware. Microprogrammed control is extensively employed in complex instruction set computers (CISC) because it can efficiently manage complex instruction decoding. Yet this flexibility is paid for in terms of performance since fetching and decoding microinstructions adds extra execution time.

**Objective of the Study**

This comparative study seeks to compare the pros and cons and real-world uses of both control logic methods. Through the examination of performance, design complexity, flexibility, cost, and power efficiency, we are able to look into how they affect processor design. Furthermore, this research delves into the historical development of control logic, examples from the real world of processors applying each approach, and how modern developments influence determining the applicability of hardwired and microprogrammed control in contemporary computing.

Knowledge of these control mechanisms is necessary to understand CPU architecture and maximize processor performance for a particular application. Though hardwired control is preferred in high-speed and low-energy designs (e.g., RISC processors), microprogrammed control is still beneficial in systems where frequent updating and large instruction sets are necessary. From this analysis, we will emphasize how each method aids contemporary computer architecture and identify which technique is more common in current processors.

Hardwired Control Unit

**Introduction**

A CPU's control unit controls everything through generating control signals that regulate data flow and carrying out instructions. Hardwired control unit is a control unit that is implemented using fixed electronic circuits, typically described as combinational and sequential logic. Compared with microprogrammed control units using a control memory to store microinstructions, hardwired control units calculate control signals directly using fixed logic circuits.

This method is typically used in *Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC)* processors, where instruction sets are more straightforward, using fewer control signals. Although hardwired control is very fast and efficient, it is not very flexible, and it is hard to modify and change.

2. **Structuring of a Hardwired Control Unit**

A hardwired control unit involves a number of interconnected units, and each one has a vital function in decoding instruction and its execution.

A. Core ingredients

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Instruction Register (IR) | Holds the instruction being executed. The opcode is read out and sent to the control logic. |
| Decoder | Translates the opcode into a binary control signal to call particular execution paths. |
| Finite State Machine (FSM) | Manages the order of instructions so that every instruction is executed in the proper execution cycle. |
| Combinational Logic Circuits | Derive control signals from execution state and opcode using logic gates |
| Clock Generator | Produces timing signals to synchronize code generation and instruction execution. |
| Control Signal Generator | Produces actual signals utilized to drive the CPU blocks such as ALU, registers, and memory. |

3. **Operation Principle of a Hardwired Control Unit**

**Step 1: Extracting the Instruction**

The Program Counter (PC) holds the address of the next instruction to be executed.

The Instruction Register (IR) loads the instruction from memory.

The instruction opcode (operation code) is read and forwarded to the decoder to be interpreted.

**Step 2: Decoding the Instruction**

The Decoder takes the opcode and identifies the instruction type as arithmetic, logical, or load/store.

Based on the decoded instruction, the finite state machine (FSM) determines the sequence of operations required.

**Step 3: Generation of Control Signal**

The Combinational Logic Circuits produce control signals as per the instruction decoded.

These control signals energize different CPU elements, such as:

The ALU for arithmetic and logic operations.

The Register File for reading and writing data.

The Memory for load and store operations.

**Step 4: Executing the Instruction**

The information required is retrieved from registers or memory.

The operation is performed by the ALU or the relevant CPU unit.

The result is stored back in a register or memory when needed.

**Step 5: Proceed to the Next Instruction**

Program Counter is incremented to point to the next instruction.

The procedure is repeated for the next instruction.

**4. Hardwired Control Units Benefits**

**High Speed**

Hardwired control units produce control signals in a direct manner by logic circuits without the use of microinstruction lookups.

This renders them far quicker than microprogrammed control units.

**Power Efficiency**

Since hardwired logic does not involve memory access to generate control signals, it consumes less power and is therefore employed in embedded systems and real-time systems.

**Streamlined for Simplicity**

Hardwired control is especially well adapted to RISC architectures, which have simple and fixed-length instruction formats, reducing the complexity of the control logic.

5. **Disadvantages of Hardwired Control Unit**

Hard to Change Any modification to the instruction set necessitates redesign of the whole control circuit, and therefore upgrades are costly and time-consuming.

**Complexity for Large Instruction Sets**

In Complex Instruction Set Computers (CISC), the large number of instructions necessitates more complicated control logic, and hence hardwired control becomes uneconomical.

**Limited Scalability**

With increasing complexity in CPUs, adding new features like virtualization, parallelism, or security features is not easily possible with hardwired control.

6. **Comparison to Microprogrammed Control Units**

Speed - *Hardwired control is faster because it produces control signals directly, while microprogrammed control is slower because it requires memory access for microinstructions.*

Flexibility *- Hardwired control is not flexible as modifications entail redesign of hardware, while microprogrammed control is flexible and modifications can be made by rewriting microcode.*

Complexity *- Hardwired control is complicated for big instruction sets, while microprogrammed control is simpler to design and to alter.*

Application - *Hardwired control is applied in RISC processors and high-speed calculation, while microprogrammed control is applied in CISC processors and systems that require frequent updating.*

Power Consumption - Hardwired control uses less power than microprogrammed control since it has fewer memory accesses.

7. **Real-World Applications**

A. **Hardwired Control** in RISC Processors MIPS Processors use a hardwired control unit to allow quick execution of simple instructions. ARM processors used in smartphones and embedded systems are based on hardwired control for efficiency.

B. **Special Purpose Hardware**-Initiated Hardwired Control Digital Signal Processors (DSPs) are used in audio processing, telecommunications, and radar systems. Supercomputers employ hardwired control for particular operations where maximum speed is needed.

C. **Hardwired Control in Early Computers IBM System/360** initially applied hardwiring control before the transition into microprogramming by later models. 8. Conclusion The hardwired control unit is an extremely efficient method to the implementation of CPU control logic, offering speed, power efficiency, and simplicity in RISC-based and real-time systems. However, its lack of flexibility and difficulty of modification render it less attractive to CISC processors and systems that require frequent updates. With enhanced processor design, modern high-speed CPUs employ a hybrid scheme, which combines the speed of hardwired control for simple instructions and the flexibility of microprogrammed control for complicated operations.

Microprogrammed Control Unit

**1. Introduction**

The control unit of a CPU is responsible for generating control signals that control instruction execution. A microprogrammed control unit uses a control memory and a sequence of microinstructions that define the control signals for each machine instruction. Unlike hardwired control units generating signals from static logic circuits, microprogrammed control units read and execute microinstructions from control memory with the benefit of increased flexibility.

Microprogrammed control is used in ***Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC)*** processors whose instructions are longer than one cycle and have complex control sequences. Microprogrammed control is less rigid and more easily changed but slower compared to hardwired control due to memory access overhead.

2. **Structure of a Microprogrammed Control Unit**

A control unit that is microprogrammed contains a number of parts that cooperate to interpret instructions and create control signals.

**A. Principal Components**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Instruction Register (IR) | Holds the instruction being executed. The opcode is read out and sent to the control logic. |
| Control Memory | Holds microinstructions that specify the sequence of operations for every machine instruction |
| Microinstruction Decoder | Interprets the microinstruction from control memory and outputs control signals according to it. |
| Address Sequencer | Determines the address of the next microinstruction to be run, depending on the type of instruction and the status of execution |
| Clock Generator | Produces timing signals to synchronize code generation and instruction execution. |
| Control Signal Generator | Produces actual signals utilized to drive the CPU blocks such as ALU, registers, and memory. |

**3. Working Mechanism of a Microprogrammed Control Unit**

**Step 1: Retrieving the Instruction**

The Program Counter (PC) contains the address of the next instruction.

The Instruction Register (IR) gets the instruction from memory.

The opcode is fetched and transmitted to the control memory.

**Step 2: Retrieving Microinstructions**

The opcode is an address used to read the associated microinstruction from control memory.

The first microinstruction of the stream is found in the Microinstruction Decoder.

**Step 3: Generation of Control Signal**

The Microinstruction Decoder translates the microinstruction into control signals.

These signals drive various components of the CPU, including:

The ALU that processes arithmetic and logical operations.

The Register File for data transfer.

The Memory for load and store operations.

**Step 4: Executing the Microinstructions**

All the microinstructions execute sequentially, utilizing different units.

The Address Sequencer chooses the next microinstruction address.

Should the instruction need extra microinstructions, this is done until the end of the instruction.

**Step 5: Proceeding to the Next Instruction**

After all the microinstructions of the current instruction are completed, the Program Counter (PC) is incremented.

The procedure is repeated for the next instruction.

**4. Microprogrammed Control Unit Advantages**

**Adaptive Design**

Microprogrammed control units permit adjustments through reprogramming control memory rather than redefining hardware.

**Reduced Control Logic**

Use of microinstructions eliminates the complexity involved in designing the control logic and complicated instruction sets are easier to implement.

**Easier Support for Complex Instructions**

Microprogramming is beneficial to CISC architectures because they possess multi-step execution sequences.

**5. Microprogrammed Control Unit Disadvantages**

**Slower Execution**

Microprogrammed control introduces delays in memory access because control signals need to be read from control memory.

**Increased Power Consumption**

More power is needed to retrieve and interpret microinstructions than for hardwired control.

**Needs More Storage**

Control memory takes up extra space, adding to CPU cost and complexity.

**6. Comparison of Hardwired Control Units**

Speed *- Microprogrammed control is slower due to memory access, whereas hardwired control is faster with direct logic circuits.*

Flexibility - *Microprogrammed control is flexible and can be changed, while hardwired control requires redesign of hardware.*

Complexity - *Microprogrammed control is less complicated in design, whereas hardwired control is complex for large instruction sets.*

Application *- Microprogrammed control is applied in CISC processors, whereas hardwired control is the choice for RISC processors and real-time systems.*

Power Consumption - *Microprogrammed control is more power-hungry because of extra memory accesses, whereas hardwired control is less power-hungry*.

7. **Real-World Applications**

A**. Microprogrammed Control in CISC Processors Intel x86 CPUs** use microprogramming to enable intricate instructions. IBM Mainframes utilize microprogrammed control in large computing.

B**. Microprogrammed Control in Programmable Architectures Digital Signal Processors (DSPs)** can implement programmable instruction execution using microprogramming.

C**. Microprogrammed Control in Early Computers IBM System/360** utilized microprogramming to accommodate a variety of instruction formats. 8. Conclusion The microprogrammed control unit is a flexible and modular means of controlling the CPU logic, which should be implemented in CISC architectures and systems with high update frequencies. Due to its slower rate of execution and higher power consumption, though, it cannot be used for high-performance purposes. Modern processors are usually a combination of hardwired and microprogrammed control, using microprogramming for complex operations and hardwired control for performance-critical instructions.

**Theoretical Comparison of Hardwired vs. Microprogrammed Control**

**1. Control Unit Overview**

The **control unit** of a processor is responsible for generating signals that control data flow, instruction execution, and memory operations. There are two primary types of control units:

* **Hardwired Control Unit** – Uses fixed logic circuits to generate control signals.
* **Microprogrammed Control Unit** – Uses a control memory (microcode) to store predefined sequences of control signals.

**2. Key Differences**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Hardwired Control | Microprogrammed Control |
| Instruction Handling | Uses combinational logic circuits to generate control signals directly | Uses microinstructions stored in ROM or RAM to generate control signals |
| Execution Speed | Faster because control signals are generated instantly | Slightly slower due to microinstruction decoding overhead |
| Flexibility | Limited – Changes require hardware modifications | Highly flexible – New instructions can be added via microcode updates |
| Complexity | Simple for RISC architectures but complex for CISC | Easier to implement for CISC architectures |
| Power Efficiency | More efficient due to direct execution | Less efficient due to additional memory access for microinstructions |
| Best Suited For | RISC processors, mobile devices, real-time systems | CISC processors, general-purpose computing, servers |

**3. Theoretical Performance Expectations**

* **Hardwired control is expected to be faster** because it directly generates control signals without an extra decoding step.
* **Microprogrammed control is expected to be more flexible** because it allows updates and complex instruction handling.
* **Hardwired control should be more power-efficient**, making it better suited for mobile and embedded applications.
* **Microprogrammed control should perform better on complex workloads**, making it ideal for general-purpose computing.

**Comparative Study of Hardwired vs. Microprogrammed Control Using Real-World Benchmarks**

**To contrast these two control logic methods, we examine two actual processors**:

- **Intel Core i7-9700F** (CISC, Microprogrammed Control, Desktop-class CPU)

- **Qualcomm Snapdragon 865** (RISC, Hardwired Control, Mobile-class CPU)

We will evaluate them on the basis of performance (**Geekbench** scores), power usage, and efficiency to find out the trade-offs between microprogrammed and hardwired control in practical computing scenarios.

2. Processor Specifications

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *CPU* | *Intel Core i7-9700F* | *Snapdragon 865* |
| *Control Unit Type* | ***Microprogrammed*** | ***Hardwired*** |
| *Architecture* | ***x86 (CISC)*** | ***ARM (RISC)*** |
| *Cores/Threads* | ***8C/8T*** | ***8C (1 Prime + 3 Performance + 4 Efficiency)*** |
| *Base/Turbo Clock* | ***3.0 GHz / 4.7 GHz*** | ***2.84 GHz (Prime Core)*** |
| *Manufacturing Process* | ***14nm*** | ***7nm*** |
| *TDP (Power Consumption)* | ***65W*** | ***7W*** |

3. Benchmark Performance (Geekbench Scores)

We tested both processors with **Geekbench** to assess their single-core and multi-core performance under actual circumstances.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Processor | Control Unit Type | Single-Core Score | Multi-Core Score |
| Intel Core i7-9700F | Microprogrammed | 1477 | 5191 |
| Snapdragon 865 | Hardwired | 1150 | 3035 |

Key Takeaways

- Intel Core i7-9700F (CISC, Microprogrammed) is faster than Snapdragon 865 in single-core as well as multi-core performance.  
(I7 Has a Higher clock speed, Better cooling and uses way more power)

- Snapdragon 865 (RISC, Hardwired) is behind in raw performance but consumes a fraction of the power.

**4. Power Efficiency: Performance per Watt**

Efficiency is measured by comparing performance in relation to power consumption through performance-per-watt measurements.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Metric | Intel Core i7-9700F (Microprogrammed) | Snapdragon 865 (Hardwired) |
| Single-Core Performance per Watt (SC/TDP) | 22.7 (1477 ÷ 65W) | 164.3 (1150 ÷ 7W) |
| Multi-Core Performance per Watt (MC/TDP) | 79.8 (5191 ÷ 65W) | 433.6 (3035 ÷ 7W) |

**Key Takeaways**

- Hardwired control (Snapdragon 865) is 7.2× more power-efficient in single-core performance per watt.

- Multi-core efficiency is even more extreme, with Snapdragon 865 being 5.4× more efficient.

- This highlights why RISC-based processors with hardwired control are dominant in mobile and battery-powered environments.

5. Analysis of Control Unit Design and Performance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Hardwired Control (Snapdragon 865, RISC) | Microprogrammed Control (Intel i7-9700F, CISC) |
| Speed | Fast execution for simple instructions | Extra decoding step adds latency |
| Flexibility | Fixed logic; changes require redesign | Microcode updates allow easier modification |
| Power Efficiency | High – Optimized for mobile efficiency | Lower – Consumes more power for complex tasks |
| Execution Model | Instructions controlled by dedicated logic circuits | Instructions controlled via microcode lookups |
| Instruction Complexity | Simple, fixed-length instructions | Variable-length, complex instructions |
| Best Use Cases | Mobile devices, embedded systems, real-time applications | Desktops, servers, high-performance computing |

**Why RISC Uses Hardwired Control**

- As RISC processors contain fewer and simpler instructions, they do not need microcode and can effectively utilize hardwired logic.

- This allows for quicker instruction execution and reduced power consumption, which is essential for battery-powered devices.

**Why CISC Uses Microprogrammed Control**

- CISC designs contain big, complicated instruction sets, and thus microcode is needed for effective instruction processing.

- Microprogramming simplifies the addition of new instructions, which is useful for general-purpose computing and software compatibility.

**6. Real-World Impact on Performance and Use Cases**

Scenario 1: General-Purpose Computing (Desktops, Workstations, Laptops)

- The Intel Core i7-9700F is optimized for high-end workloads, such as gaming, video editing, and multi-threaded loads.

- Its flexibility and capability to process complex instructions make it better for desktop workloads despite greater power usage.

Scenario 2: Mobile and Embedded Computing (Smartphones, IoT, Real-Time Processing)

- Snapdragon 865 is designed for battery-constrained devices, optimizing between performance and energy efficiency using hardwired control logic.

- It is suited for smartphones, tablets, and embedded systems where power limitations are of utmost importance.

Scenario 3: Cloud Computing and Servers

- Microprogrammed control is prevalent in x86 server processors because of its adaptability in supporting a large set of instructions.

- But RISC-based processors (such as ARM-based AWS Graviton chips) are coming into vogue in power-efficient cloud computing.

**7. Conclusion**

**Hardwired Control (Snapdragon 865)** - Pros and Cons

- Power-efficient – Suitable for mobile and embedded systems

- Simple instructions execute faster

- Reduced cost in power-limited environments

- Less adaptable – Changes need redesign in hardware

- Not the best for complex instruction sets

**Microprogrammed Control (Intel Core i7-9700F)** - Advantages and Disadvantages

- Greater raw performance – Better suited for high-complexity computing

- Flexible – Instruction set modifications possible due to microcode updates

- More apt for complex and variable-length instructions

- Greater power consumption

- Slightly slower owing to overhead of microinstruction decoding

**Conclusion**

This comparative study of **hardwired vs. microprogrammed control logic** provides key insights into the trade-offs between speed, flexibility, power efficiency, and complexity in modern processor design. By examining both **theoretical differences** and **real-world benchmarks**, we can make the following observations:

**1. Theoretical Perspective**

* **Hardwired control** is optimized for speed and power efficiency by using dedicated circuits to directly generate control signals. This approach works well for **RISC architectures**, where instructions are simple and uniform, leading to predictable execution times.
* **Microprogrammed control**, on the other hand, relies on a control memory that stores microinstructions, making it more **flexible and easier to modify**. This is advantageous for **CISC architectures**, where instructions are more complex and variable in length.

The key takeaway from a theoretical standpoint is that **hardwired control sacrifices flexibility for efficiency**, while **microprogrammed control sacrifices efficiency for flexibility**.

**2. Real-World Performance and Efficiency**

To validate these theoretical differences, we analyzed two real-world processors:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Processor | Control Unit Type | Clock Speed (Max) | Single-Core Score | Multi-Core Score |
| Intel Core i7-9700F | **Microprogrammed** | **4.7 GHz** | **1477** | **5191** |
| Snapdragon 865 | **Hardwired** | **2.84 GHz** | **1150** | **3035** |

The **Intel Core i7-9700F (Microprogrammed, CISC)** achieved higher **absolute performance** in both **single-core and multi-core benchmarks**. However, this raw performance advantage must be considered in context:

* The i7-9700F operates at **a much higher clock speed** (up to 4.7 GHz) compared to the Snapdragon 865 (2.84 GHz).
* When **normalized for clock speed**, the performance gap **shrinks significantly**, suggesting that the i7’s advantage is **partially due to higher clock frequency** rather than just architectural superiority.
* The Snapdragon 865, despite its lower raw performance, is **far more power-efficient**, consuming only **7W** compared to **65W** for the i7-9700F.

To measure efficiency, we calculate **performance per watt** (Geekbench score per unit power consumption):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Metric | Intel Core i7-9700F (Microprogrammed) | Snapdragon 865 (Hardwired) |
| Single-Core Performance per Watt (SC ÷ TDP) | **22.7** (1477 ÷ 65W) | **164.3** (1150 ÷ 7W) |
| Multi-Core Performance per Watt (MC ÷ TDP) | **79.8** (5191 ÷ 65W) | **433.6** (3035 ÷ 7W) |

**Key Observations:**

* The Snapdragon 865 is **over 7 times more power-efficient per watt** in single-core performance.
* In multi-core workloads, the Snapdragon 865 is still **5.4 times more efficient** than the i7-9700F.
* This highlights **why mobile processors favor hardwired control**—they deliver **more performance per watt**, making them ideal for battery-powered environments.

**3. Trade-Offs and Design Considerations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Hardwired Control (Snapdragon 865, RISC)** | **Microprogrammed Control (Intel i7-9700F, CISC)** |
| **Speed** | Faster execution for simple instructions | Additional decoding step adds latency |
| **Flexibility** | Fixed logic; changes require hardware redesign | Microcode updates allow easier modification |
| **Power Efficiency** | **Higher** – Optimized for mobile efficiency | **Lower** – Consumes more power for complex tasks |
| **Execution Model** | Instructions controlled by dedicated logic circuits | Instructions controlled via microcode lookups |
| **Instruction Complexity** | Simple, fixed-length instructions | Variable-length, complex instructions |
| **Best Use Cases** | **Mobile devices, embedded systems, real-time applications** | **Desktops, servers, high-performance computing** |

**Why RISC Uses Hardwired Control**

* RISC processors have **simpler, fixed-length instructions**, which means **they don’t need microcode**.
* This enables **fast, efficient execution**, which is **critical for battery-powered and low-thermal environments** like smartphones and embedded systems.

**Why CISC Uses Microprogrammed Control**

* CISC architectures have **large, complex instruction sets**, requiring **microcode for efficient instruction handling**.
* Microprogramming makes it **easier to add new instructions**, ensuring **backward compatibility and better software support**.

**4. Real-World Applications**

* **General-Purpose Computing (Desktops, Workstations, Laptops):**  
  The **Intel Core i7-9700F** is optimized for **high-performance applications**, such as gaming, video editing, and multi-threaded workloads. The flexibility of **microprogrammed control** allows it to handle **a wide variety of software efficiently**.
* **Mobile and Embedded Computing (Smartphones, IoT, Real-Time Processing):**  
  The **Snapdragon 865** is designed for **power efficiency** and **real-time responsiveness**. Its **hardwired control logic** ensures **low-latency execution** with **minimal power consumption**, making it ideal for **mobile devices and energy-efficient applications**.
* **Cloud Computing and Data Centers:**
  + Traditional **x86-based servers** often rely on **microprogrammed control** for maximum **compatibility and instruction set richness**.
  + However, **power-efficient ARM-based processors (like AWS Graviton) are gaining popularity**, leveraging **hardwired control for energy savings in large-scale cloud infrastructure**.

**5. Final Verdict**

The **choice between hardwired and microprogrammed control logic** is not about which is strictly better—it depends on the **application and design goals**.

* **Hardwired control excels in power efficiency, low-latency execution, and high-speed instruction processing.** It is best suited for **mobile, embedded, and real-time computing environments** where energy constraints are critical.
* **Microprogrammed control is superior in flexibility, supporting complex and evolving instruction sets.** It is ideal for **general-purpose and high-performance computing**, where instruction handling and software compatibility are more important than raw efficiency.

While the **Intel Core i7-9700F achieved higher raw performance**, a significant portion of its advantage comes from **higher clock speeds and power consumption** rather than inherent superiority of microprogramming. When considering **performance-per-watt**, the **Snapdragon 865 demonstrates how hardwired control can be vastly more efficient**, making it the preferred choice for **power-constrained environments**.

As computing continues to evolve, both control logic approaches will remain **critical in different domains**, shaping the future of processors across desktops, mobile devices, and cloud computing.

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