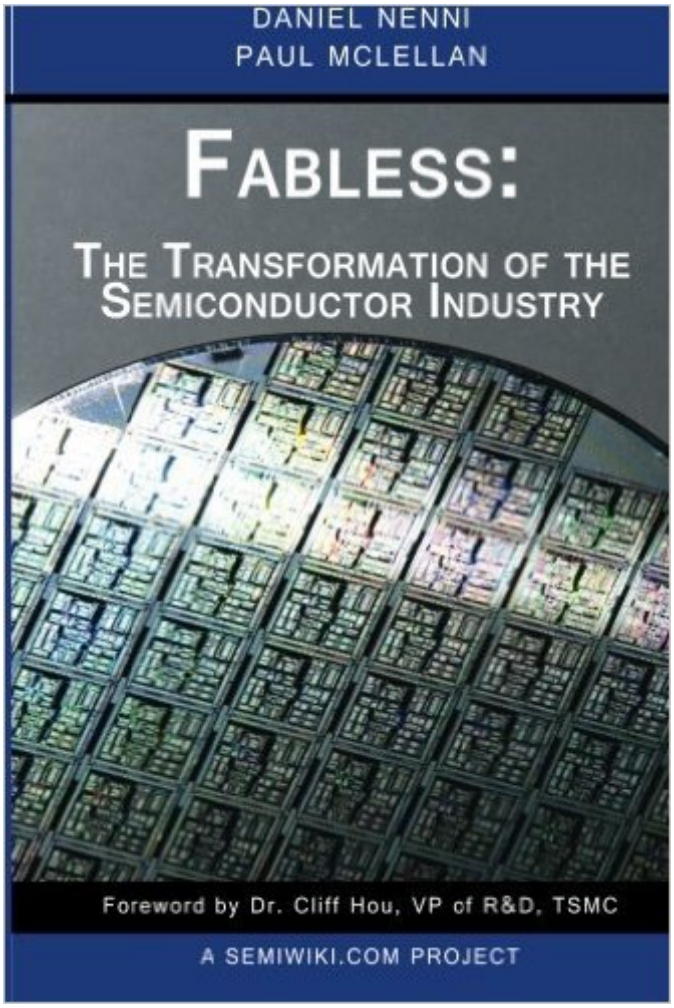
Fabless: The Transformation Of The Semiconductor Industry



Synopsis

The purpose of this book is to illustrate the magnificence of the fabless semiconductor ecosystem, and to give credit where credit is due. We trace the history of the semiconductor industry from both a technical and business perspective. We argue that the development of the fabless business model was a key enabler of the growth in semiconductors since the mid-1980s. Because business models, as much as the technology, are what keep us thrilled with new gadgets year after year, we focus on the evolution of the electronics business. We also invited key players in the industry to contribute chapters. These â œIn Their Own Wordsâ • chapters allow the heavyweights of the industry to tell their corporate history for themselves, focusing on the industry developments (both in technology and business models) that made them successful, and how they in turn drive the further evolution of the semiconductor industry.

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Customer Reviews

I started using internal EDA tools at Intel beginning in 1978 and have worked in the commercial EDA industry since 1986, so it was a delight to read a chapter about EDA in Nenni and McLellan’s newest book: Fabless - The Transformation of the Semiconductor Industry. Starting in the 1970’s the authors talk about EDA, Phase One and how painfully manual the whole process of designing an Integrated Circuit was. I’ll never forget working at Intel at the time and performing manual Design Rule Checks (DRC) on an IC layout, when I stopped to ask my manager, "Hey, what about using a software program to automate this tedious task?"His hasty response was, "No way, we hire you new college graduates to do this grunt work, so get back to work and stop asking questions."All of the

pioneering EDA companies are included in this chapter, and it reminds me of the EDA wiki page that we created to list every single EDA merger and acquisition, except in the book we have the behind-the-scenes story of the rise and fall of each EDA company and some of the luminaries that founded the companies.By the 1980's we reached EDA, Phase Two and the growth of commercial EDA companies took off like a rocket. I even bought the book Introduction to VLSI Systems from Mead and Conway, introducing the concept of lambda-based design, a technique used at my first EDA company - Silicon Compiler Systems. ASIC companies started up and you could design with Gate Arrays, Standard Cell or Full Custom. It was the heady days of the DMV - Daisy, Mentor, Valid.EDA, Phase Three describes the history of Customer Owned Tooling (COT) and how Cadence got its start. Even the biggest lawsuit of all EDA history is covered by recounting the illegal activity of Avant!