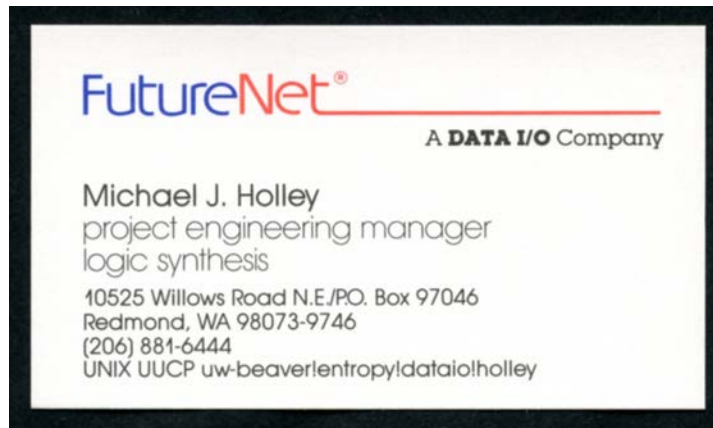


FutureNet introduced the first schematic editor for the IBM PC in April 1983. The package included the DASH software (written in 8086 assembly code) and a monochrome graphics display card (640 by 350). Paul Page wrote the software and Bruce Gladstone designed the graphics board. Their previous company was called Futuredata and its product was microprocessor emulators. Futuredata was sold to GenRad in early 1979. FutureNet was an independent company located in Chatsworth CA when Data I/O acquired them in late 1984. Data I/O's ABEL group (I was in it) was merged into the FutureNet division but remained in Redmond WA. The Chatsworth location was closed in 1987 and several of their products were discontinued.



FutureNet made LSI Logic's gate array symbol library accessible to the DASH and created interfaces to LSI's production facilities in 1985. Xilinx adopted FutureNet as its preferred schematic editor and patterned the Xilinx Netlist Format (XNF) after the FutureNet format. FutureNet DASH was the most popular schematic editor and it sold for around \$5000. Soon lower cost editors such as Orcad cut into FutureNet's sales. DASH sales were discontinued and the Windows based Engineering Capture System by the Cad/Cam Group replaced it in 1993.

I have uploaded some FutureNet brochures to Bitsavers.

<http://bitsavers.org/pdf/futureNet/brochures/>

I have an engineering version of DASH 6.1 from 1991 that doesn't have copy protection. It is running on a Windows 98 system in a DOS window and I can do screen captures.

