

Re: A real question about EEPROM vs. Flash

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- *From:* Bob Monsen <rcsurname@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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Rich Grise wrote:

So, I'm bidding this ultra-sweet project, and I'm studying the data sheet of the PIC18F6520/8520/6620/8620/6720/8720, and it says, Flash: 100,000 cycles, EEPROM: 1,000,000 cycles. What are the other differences? Is flash cheaper than EEPROM? I have noticed that it tends to get used for program memory, and EEPROM for data, but are there any other differences, like, maybe program/cycle time, erase modes, that sort of thing?

Thanks,
Rich

Many of the low end PICs can't write their own flash. Thus, EEPROM is the only non-volatile storage for them.

Flash usually starts out as 1s, and can be set to 0s. Erased flash thus contains FF. Erasing can usually only be done on a page basis, and takes a long time.

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Regards,
Bob Monsen

If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?

Thomas Henry Huxley, 1877