The OS/2 Marketplace
AN InnoVal Perspective

Newsgroups:
comp.os.os2.apps,comp.os.os2.advocacy
Organization: InnoVal Systems Solutions, Inc.

In a recent beta program announcement for a Windows NT version of Object Desktop, Brad Wardell stated that Object Desktop was reportedly the all-time best selling shrink package for OS/2. It likely is and deserves to be. It got me thinking. For the past few weeks I have been following the threads of discussion by Brad and others about the OS/2 marketplace. What are the implications of what is being said? In some divergent threads, comments were made about the fact that I had stated early this year that InnoVal's OS/2-based revenue would be good in 1997 to support the notion that the OS/2 market is strong in some ways. There were also some comments about the fact that we produce Windows NT/95 software. I decided to add some of my own thoughts to the discussion.

My view of the OS/2 marketplace is a bit different than what has been expressed by others. Perhaps it is a bit myopic, but it works for us. The OS/2 market, for us, is strong. My earlier estimates of InnoVal's OS/2 revenues for 1997 are proving to be correct. By the end of this month, we will have, in year-to-date terms, surpassed our full-year OS/2-based revenue volumes for 1996. Next year looks very good as well.

By the end of this year, or by early first-quarter 1998, NetExtra could well lay claim to being the all-time best selling OS/2 product (sans packaging). We have some very attractive enterprise license deals in the works. That is strength.

It has been disappointing to see nearly 40% of our early customers move partially or completely to Windows NT or Windows 95. Even so, we have gained more customers this year than we have lost to platform decisions in the past two years. We count a customer as a person (not an enterprise) using at least one of our products. For us, that is strength.

Our revenue has come from vertical application development, volume sales of our products and those of other OS/2 ISV's, and from single-unit product sales. Vertical applications produce the most revenue but single-unit sales are the most rewarding because we get to work with individual customers, get to know you, and get to pick your brains for ideas on how to improve our products. NetExtra is an example: Last night, I am told, at about 10:30pm, we released a beta for NetExtra 2.0. This may sound strange but I haven't seen it yet. Yesterday afternoon I was briefed on what is new in NetExtra 2.0. I was very impressed. Every improvement and every bug fix was the result of direct input from our customers. The list is long. This weekend I'll install it and post the list of new features and fixes. NetExtra is both an outstanding single-unit product and an excellent enterprise product. Our single-unit customers are our best sales people for this product. That is the way OS/2 users are and that is strength in the OS/2 market.

As others in the newsgroups have confirmed, we do make two products for Windows NT/95. Hacksaw is available in identical OS/2 and NT/95 versions. WebWilly is a Windows NT/95 version of NetExtra. It was strategically the right thing to do. IT managers, in shops where OS/2 is used extensively, are very interested in multi-platform or cross-platform solutions. This was particularly true in our case for Hacksaw and NetExtra. Had we not offered both platforms, we could not have sold nearly so many copies of OS/2 versions as we did.(BTW: Hacksaw was just selected for a huge Fortune 500 OS/2 client-server system.) It is for that reason, that I think Wardell is doing the right thing with Object Desktop. It is probably also a good idea that Southsoft is porting PMMail to Windows. Our plan, however, is to go the Java route for cross-platform email. In the long run I think our customers will benefit more with a Java solution. So, too, will the OS/2 market.

Our focus is OS/2 and Java. This month, in addition to releasing a new version of NetExtra, we will release a new native OS/2 version of our best selling Post Road Mailer, PRM 3.0.

The 100% pure Java version the Post Road Mailer should be available in the Spring of next year. We are behind schedule with it and I own much of the responsibility for that. We have been so busy with revenue producing OS/2 work that I ran out resources to get all the work done. We have added OS/2 programming resource this year and we may need to add more. We have also had problems, until recently, finding the proper Java development tools and have been frustrated by the long delays and bugs in some essential Java class libraries.

We have all watched ISV's abandon OS/2. For some time now I have been watching the sometimes heated debates in the newsgroups about the future of OS/2. I don't fully understand the OS/2 marketplace so I try to read carefully what many of you have to say. We aren't into OS/2 software just for the fun of it (it is fun). We are in it to make a living. No one at InnoVal is getting rich and I must still carefully prioritize what OS/2 software I

Coming Soon:

November, 1997 - Visualage for Java? Arrangements being made with the IBM Toronto Laboratory.

December, 1997 - to be announced, topic ideas welcome. Well, at least Christmas is coming, and all those new goodies can now be purchased with glee!!!

January, 1998 - to be announced, topic ideas welcome.

Come on out and be part of the best OS/2 User Group in Canada!

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buy just as many of our individual customers must. What I do know is this: the OS/2 market, FOR US, is strong.

Marianne Roderus, our Customer Service Manager, reminded me today that, had it not been for our Post Road Mailer customers, InnoVal would not have survived as an OS/2 ISV. You should understand that Marianne knows very little about computers and less about OS/2. But she does understand our customers and keeps insisting that it is our customers to whom we are committed, not the operating system.

Your thoughts?

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Banks Continue To Rely On OS/2 Warp

Company Press Release
Monday September 29 1:36 PM EDT
AUSTIN, Texas

First Virginia Banks, Inc. Rolls Out 4,500 OS/2 Warp 4 Clients Financial services provider First Virginia Banks, Inc. today announced plans to upgrade 4,500 client systems to IBM's OS/2(a) Warp 4 operating system throughout 385 branch offices. First Virginia Banks, which also has 400 servers running OS/2 Warp Server, cites

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This Month's Agenda:

Oct. 9,1997 - General Meeting. Topics: Lotus Development Corp. SmartSuite for OS/2 Warp Preview 1-2-3, WordPro, Approach, Organizer, Freelance Graphics

Oct. 23, 1997 - Programmer's SIG Topic: to be announced.

OS/2 Warp's unmatched reliability, connectivity, security and centralized management capabilities as the deciding factor in completing the rollout by early 1998.

"Many of our banking and finance customers are quickly moving to implement network computing in their enterprise, and First Virginia Banks is an excellent example of a corporation that is positioning itself to take full advantage of the benefits the technology offers -- including easier systems management throughout their 385-branch network," said Donn Atkins, vice president of marketing, IBM Personal Software Products. "With the upgrade to OS/2 Warp 4, First Virginia is not only leveraging the investment in IBM software, but also building an infrastructure that will grow with the bank and enable them to take full advantage of network computing and e-business."

First Virginia Banks' plans to upgrade to OS/2 Warp 4 support the recent Mentis Group study citing OS/2's strength among large banking institutions in the U.S. in 1996. The Mentis Group reported that in 1996 35 percent of large banking institutions selected OS/2 to be their operating system on client desktops, which is up from 25 percent in 1995. OS/2's server

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Contacting TO/2

WWW: http://www.to2.org/

BBS: *Node 1: 416-422-4351
          Node 2: 416- 422-4599*

E- Mail: to2@to2.org

Mailing List: to2ug-l@to2.org

Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at:

**IBM Canada
Main Auditorium
3600 Steeles Avenue East
Markham, Ontario**

Meetings begin at 7:00 PM

market share jumped to 42 percent in large banking institutions, those with deposits greater than $1 billion, up from 32 percent in 1995.

"Our business is customer driven and we require the most reliable, secure operating system available to handle the daily business of managing the needs of our customers," said John Joback, president and CIO, First Virginia Services, Inc. "With OS/2 Warp 4 and OS/2 Warp Server we manage our banking product offerings on 4,500 client desktops with virtually no downtime. OS/2 allows us to complete reliable automatic distribution of software upgrades to our 385 branches in a short three to four hours -- a capability we have not seen with other operating systems."

First Virginia Banks, Inc. headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, is made up of a network of 19 member banks, mortgage subsidiaries, and a full-service insurance agency. With 385 branches in Virginia, Maryland and Tennessee and $9.1 billion in assets, First Virginia Banks, Inc. is one of the most profitable retail banking companies in the Mid-Atlantic region. First Virginia Banks currently has more than 5,000 employees operating 400 servers and 4,500 client workstations -- all running OS/2 Warp.

First Virginia Banks infrastructure includes many other IBM software products that are fully integrated with OS/2 Warp including IBM's Communications Manager(a), which enables password authentication and security to be managed from a centralized location, rather than at each of the 400 branches in First Virginia's network. IBM's DB2(a) and NetView(a) Distribution Manager provide centralized distribution of the banks branch automation software product as well as updates to each of the branches. In addition, at each of the branch offices, OS/2 Warp Server provides a gateway service to First Virginia's equity lending tracking system, which resides on the bank's AS/400(a) system.

The corporation makes full use of OS/2 Warp Server's systems management capabilities by controlling access and managing the client desktops centrally from the server. The 4,500 client desktops have access to the branch automation software and a word processor all managed from the OS/2 Warp Server. This allows for easier administration of the client desktops throughout the corporation's branch network -- saving First Virginia both time and money through centralized management. In addition, it allows First Virginia's employees to focus on what makes the bank profitable -- customer service.

(a) IBM, AS/400, Communications Manager, DB2, NetView and OS/2 are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation.

OS/2 Supersite Members Club

The OS/2 Supersite is proud to announce the launch of the OS/2 Supersite Members Club. Club members get great deals on OS/2 shareware and commercial software, FTP access to the file archive, and disk space for your own web page on the Supersite!

The OS/2 Supersite's Member's club is a great way to save money on OS/2 software. Club members receive discounts on shareware and commercial software. In addition to great software savings, club members get exclusive access to the Supersite and space for their own web site.

Membership in the Club gets you many benefits such as:

- FTP access to the OS/2 Supersite's 2 gigabyte file archive
- 200K of disk space for your own OS/2 web page on the Supersite
- $2.50 off every shareware application you register at BMT Micro
- Monthly specials on commercial software available only to club members

Every month we will have at least one commercial OS/2 application from our Rapid Internet Purchasing online commerce system on sale to club members at substantial savings. You will be notified of the special pricing by email at the beginning of the month. To launch the Supersite Member's Club, we have arranged several great bargains for club members that sign up by the end of September:

Product	Regular Price	Price for Club Members
MainActor	$60.00	$50.00
WebAK	$69.00	$59.00
Marauder 3	$99.95	$89.95
LogoArt	$69.00	$59.00
Look/2	$30.00	$15.00
HTML Wizard	$20.00	$10.00

Stop by the Supersite today and join the Club at *www.os2ss.com/club/*

Dirk Terrell
OS/2 Supersite Administrator
www.os2ss.com

News from the 'Net

New IBM Cordless Computer Connection Offers Enhanced Mobility

The IBM Cordless Computer Connection*, a first-of-its-kind wireless device, enables personal computer users to surf the Web, connect to online services, and send and receive e-mail, faxes, and voice mail at distances up to 200 feet from a phone jack. Using radio-frequency technology, the Cordless Computer Connection enable users of computers equipped with modems to access online information from living rooms, kitchens, poolside, and back yard.

http://www.us.pc.ibm.com/options/family/focordless.html

IBM VisualAge Generator Upgraded for Windows NT

IBM VisualAge Generator Version 3.0, a high-end application development environment available in 4Q1997, allows developers to build multi-tier client/server applications on Windows NT and IBM's OS/2*. Like its predecessors, the new version offers scalability over multiple platforms across networked systems. The workstation design gives developers greater productivity, providing scalable, object-oriented visual development that meets the most demanding transactional requirements.

http://www.software.ibm.com/ad/visgen/ntdev.html

IBM Experts Offer Fresh Insights about the Promise of Java

IBM's Java experts give their perspectives and outlooks in a series of short papers posted on the Web. Topics include: "Is Java Secure?", "Standardized Java: An IBM Perspective", "The Case for 100% Pure Java", "So Microsoft Hates Java: What's Changed?", and "The Direct Path to Nowhere". More topics are added regularly.

http://www.ibm.com/java/community/commentary.html

"The State of Java Report: IBM" Says IBM Delivers Java for Enterprises

In a report titled "The State of Java Report: IBM", NC.Focus, a research firm that focuses on networking and Java computing, says "IBM has already demonstrated its ability to secure Java's fate in the enterprise by delivering crucial components, even across Microsoft platforms. ... Not only has IBM focused its attention on delivering solutions for the Network/Java Computing universe, but it has finally developed a powerful single-vendor solution." More details and download instructions are at

http://www.ibm.com/java/education/stateofjava.html

New York Times: IBM Seeks New Image in Quest to Unseat Microsoft

The 1 September edition of The New York Times features a lengthy business story about IBM's Java efforts, including new initiatives aimed at software developers. Visit The New York Times' Website to view the article. (Note: This Website requires registration. You will be prompted to register when you link to the article.)

http://www.nytimes.com/library/cyber/week/090197java.html

IBM's Java Website Focuses on 100% Pure Java

On IBM's Java Website this month, the focus is on 100% Pure Java**: what it means, how it is being achieved, and why it is more than just a catch phrase. Let this site be your resource for discovering real-world solutions using Java, and all the things IBM is doing with Java.

http://www.ibm.com/java/feature-purejava.html

Daily Grounds: IBM's Views about Java News

The new Daily Grounds feature at IBM's Java Website brings you IBM's thoughts about the latest Java happenings -- news, products, emerging technologies, evil empires, and just about anything else. Daily Grounds provides new commentary every day on what you care about as a Java developer. Stop by every morning for a fresh IBM perspective.

http://javausers.ihost.com/dailygrounds/

PC Week: "OS/2 Java's Virtual Machine Picks Up Speed"

In its 1 September issue, PC Week says IBM has done a lot of work tuning the Java Virtual Machine** in OS/2 Warp 4.0, and the OS/2 Java VM now "offers better performance than a Windows-based solution in several critical areas." Read the entire article at

http://www.zdnet.com/pcweek/reviews/0901/01os2.html

WorkSpace On-Demand Featured in September Issue of OS/2 Warp FM

Two articles about IBM WorkSpace On-Demand*, the newest member of IBM's eNetwork software family, are in the September issue of OS/2 Warp FM. "What's in the Name WorkSpace On-Demand" links the product to IBM's new On-Demand technologies and products. "The Freedom of Moving Forward with Workspace On-Demand" explains that businesses can reap the benefits of network computing by keeping their existing workstation hardware and applications, and not moving immediately to Java and object technology.

http://www.software.ibm.com/os/warp/warpfm/sept/

OS/2 Warp FM Weekly News Flash

OS/2 Warp FM, a weekly news flash plus a monthly electronic magazine.

http://www.software.ibm.com/os/warp/warpfm/

IBM Software Choice Now Available to OS/2, WorkSpace On-Demand Users

All customers of OS/2 Warp 4, OS/2 Warp Server*, OS/2 Warp Server Advanced*, and WorkSpace On-Demand can now purchase an IBM Software Choice subscription. A two-year subscription for any of the eligible products includes upgrade protection as well as access to the password-protected features on the IBM Software Choice web site. IBM also distributes Software Choice CD-ROMs periodically.

http://www.software.ibm.com/os/warp/warpfm/sept/#swcsub

Technical Connection Version 2: A Handy Collection of Support Software

The IBM Technical Connection* CD provides a comprehensive array of support software, including drivers, references, diagnostics, and corrective services and utilities. Version 2 is browser-based and runs under Windows 95, Windows NT, and OS/2. Customers can now create customized CD-ROMs that meet specific requirements. New databases furnish up-to-date technical documents and service information.

http://pscc.dfw.ibm.com/info/techconn.html

Shedding Light on Microsoft's "Analysis" of Notes and Domino

Once again, Microsoft is attempting to discredit Lotus Notes** and Domino using misleading comparisons and gross inaccuracies. Lotus sets the record straight in a white paper at

http://www.lotus.com/topstories/

New on Notes.Net: Developer Tools for Building Better Websites

Learn about the tools you can use to enhance your Domino Website in the September issue of Iris Today, at

http://www.notes.net/Today.nsf?OpenDatabase

Lotus to Hold January and September Lotuspheres in 1998

Lotus will hold two Lotusphere** technical events in 1998 on separate continents eight months apart to keep pace with ever-shortening product development cycles and the strategic role Lotus products and services play in the global market for commercial Internet software solutions.

Lotusphere in North America will be held from 25 through 29 January in Orlando, Florida, USA for 9,500 attendees who can choose from 200 technical sessions. Lotusphere Europe will take place from 22 through 25 September in Berlin, Germany.

http://www.software.ibm.com/news/2aa2.html

IBM Developer's Domain e-News

A semi-monthly newsletter about IBM's application development, object technology, and e-business solutions.

http://www.software.ibm.com/mailing-lists/devdomain-news/

IBM Software Channel on PointCast

You can have the latest news highlights from IBM Software sent directly to your computer screen by the PointCast "Webcasting" program. The IBM Software channel on PointCast is updated several times a week with the six most important news items from IBM Software. For details and to download the required software, go to
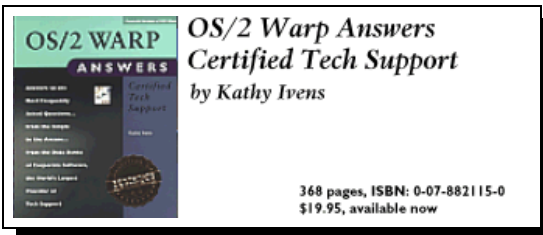
http://www.software.ibm.com/general/pcn/

IBM Software News Alert on World Wide Web

IBM Software News Alert is on the World Wide Web, with hotlinks.

http://www.software.ibm.com/news-alert/

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** indicates trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders

OS/2 WARP ANSWERS
OS/2 Warp Answers Certified Tech Support
by Kathy Ivens

368 pages, ISBN: 0-07-882115-0
$19.95, available now

"Future of OS/2 Client in Doubt Again"

Newsgroups: *comp.os.os2.advocacy*

http://www.techweb.com/wire/news/1997/09/0922os2.html

ARMONK, N.Y. -- The 1998 budget axe is being sharpened at IBM, and the market-battered OS/2 client is fighting to keep its neck off the chopping block.

For the first time, executives at the computer giant say the operating system could lose the fight.

"In terms of the budget, I can't tell you where things stand," said John Albee, IBM's OS/2 Warp program manager.

IBM had been saying it would release a major new, shrink-wrapped upgrade to the client operating system in 1998 -- and Albee said no decision has been made to abandon that. But unlike OS/2 executives in past years, Albee made no iron-clad guarantees. "We constantly evaluate the plan," he said.

The OS/2 server, however, is not in question, executives said.

Michael Lawrie, general manager of the PSP group, went so far as to say to others at the unit that there is no funding left for the platform, said one executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Den Beste, Steven C.
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"The OS/2 Feel-Bad Page"
http://world.std.com/~denbeste
"Death of a Thousand Cuts"
updated 9/16/97

TO2

Kevin Linfield Resigns

It is with regret that I must give up my tasks in the Toronto OS/2 Users Group. My thesis has been going poorly lately and after paying thousands of dollars in tuition and making very little money during the year, I cannot afford to stay in school after this year. As such, I must give up as many external events as possible to try and finish my Ph.D. thesis. It has already been five years, and I do not want to extend it any farther than necessary. It is my own fault for overextending myself with soccer, football, TO/2, the Aerospace Student's Association, and getting a house and dog, but it is time I get back on track.

The time I spent with TO/2 will always be fondly remembered, and I wish you all the best of luck in all future endeavours.

Take care...

Kevin Linfield
linfield@iname.com

The Real Reason for the Win98 Delay.
(Hint: IBM and Apple Are to Blame)

Berst Alert
Jesse Berst, Editorial Director,
ZDNet AnchorDesk
Wednesday, September 17, 1997

You're going to hear lots of nonsense about the delay of Windows 98. But I know who's really to blame.

Originally Microsoft planned one Win98 upgrade for Win95 users in early 1998, another for Win3.1 users a few months later. Now it claims customers "wanted only one release with migration support for both operating systems." So it will delay Win98 beta testing and push the ship date to mid-1998.

What?!?! Why would you stop testing the rest of Windows 98 just to add Win3.1 migration utilities? You wouldn't. Why would you need three months to add those utilities, when you already built them for your Windows 95 product? You wouldn't.

What's really going on?

Conspiracy theorists claim computer manufacturers asked for the delay to protect the all-important Christmas selling season. They feared customers would hold off buying with Win98 just around the corner. There's actually something to this theory, but conversations between Microsoft and computer companies probably went more like this:

"You expletive deleteds! You promised Win98 for Christmas and you expletive deleteded that up. Now you want to release it right after Christmas and make things worse! Well expletive deleted you!"

Microsoft claims retail partners asked for the delay because separate Win3.1 and Win95 upgrades would be "way too confusing." Let me see if I have this right. Egghead and CompUSA supposedly said, "We know we'd make millions from Windows 98, but we're afraid two versions might confuse our stock clerks. For the sake of innocent clerks everywhere, we beg you, delay the release. We don't want the money."

Rrrright.

What's really going on? Technical problems. Why can't Microsoft solve them? Complacency. Microsoft has no competition to speak of. No incentive to hurry. If it misses its target by, oh say... two years, what are we going to do about it? Put OS/2 on our machines out of protest? Throw our $3,000 computers away and buy Macs?

Of course not. We're screwed. So are hardware manufacturers. They have no alternatives either.

Microsoft has proved it can move quickly and efficiently when pushed by competition. Witness Internet Explorer, which has made tremendous (technical) progress since its first version. The real blame for this latest Microsoft fiasco lies with IBM, Apple and Novell. All three had opportunities to build viable competitors to Windows. All three botched it. So you and I are stuck with fat and happy Microsoft doing whatever it wants. Whenever it wants.

Repeat after me one more time. Competition is good. Monopoly is bad.

Comments? Jump to my Berst Alerts forum to talk it over, or send me a message with the Talk Back link below.

ZDLINKS:

ZDNet AnchorDesk Forums
  Discuss the Win98 Delay

http://community.zdnet.com/cgi-bin/plogin/login.cgi?r=37086&t=msgcontent_show&message=156236

ZDNN

Microsoft Delays Windows 98

http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/content/pcwo/0915/pcwo0007.html

ZDNet Products

OSUser: All About Operating Systems

http://www.zdnet.com/products/osuser.html

DISCUSSION GROUPS:

AnchorDesk Forums

http:///www.anchordesk.com/disgroups/disgroups_56.html

COMPANIES:
Microsoft Corp.

http://www.anchordesk.com/company/company_1749.html

PRODUCTS:
Microsoft Windows 98

http://www.anchordesk.com/products/products_2112.html

TOPICS:
Systems Software and Platforms

http://www.anchordesk.com/topics/topics_13.html

brought to you by
Derek W. Keoughan
derek@finnsoft.com

Warping In . . . . . . Warping Out

Pickings and Droppings From the Net

StarOFfice 4.0 Beta 2

Download the StarOFfice 4.0 Beta 2 from http://www.stardivision.de (all 36Megs of it).

Not only does its word processor do a lot of the tasks in Describe(which I bought), it also has a terrific replacement for the Windows based Presentations and Spreadsheet packages.
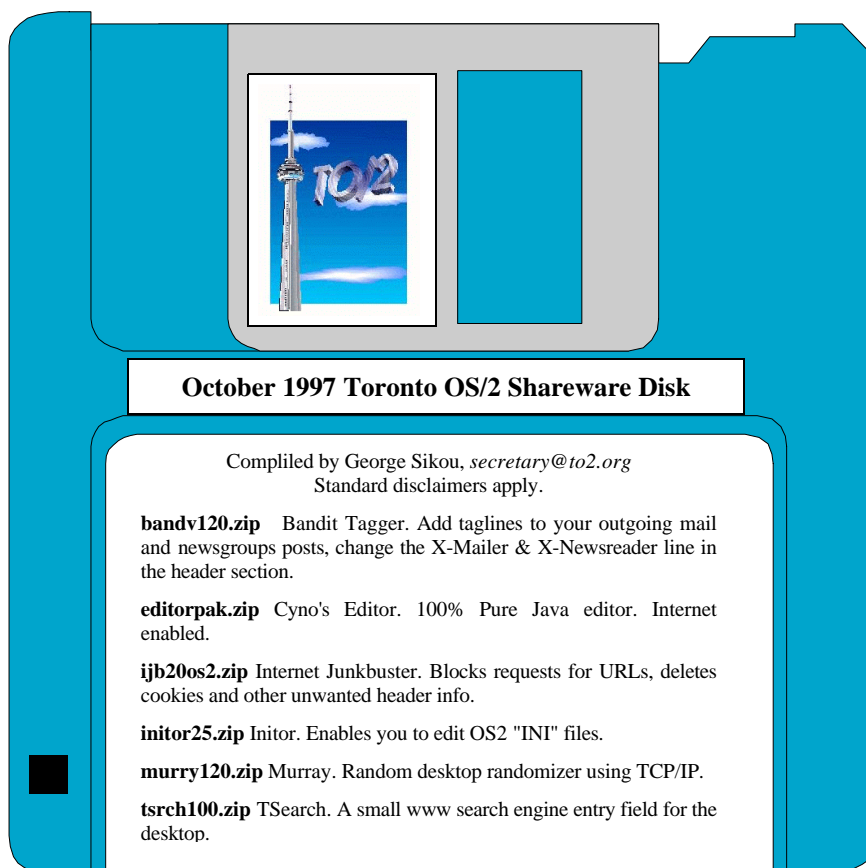
Note also the built-in Web browser! Works, looks, and feels just like Netscape. It also handles Javascript, and of course Animated Gifs!

Worth looking at!

Chris Payne
cpayne@pr.uoguelph.ca
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09/24/97 - Kernel Fix for FixPak 3

IBM has released a replacement OS2KRNL for OS/2 Warp 4 FixPak 3.

October 1997 Toronto OS/2 Shareware Disk

Compiled by George Sikou, *secretary@to2.org*
Standard disclaimers apply.

bandv120.zip Bandit Tagger. Add taglines to your outgoing mail and newsgroups posts, change the X-Mailer & X-Newsreader line in the header section.

editorpak.zip Cyno's Editor. 100% Pure Java editor. Internet enabled.

ijb20os2.zip Internet Junkbuster. Blocks requests for URLs, deletes cookies and other unwanted header info.

initor25.zip Initor. Enables you to edit OS2 "INI" files.

murry120.zip Murray. Random desktop randomizer using TCP/IP.

tsrch100.zip TSearch. A small www search engine entry field for the desktop.

This fixes some problems with SYS2070 traps and is also required by the IBM Feature Install v1.2

If you are having problems with some applications after installing FixPak 3, you should get this fix. It can be downloaded from here

ftp://service.boulder.ibm.com/ps/products/os2/fixes/v4warp/english-us/fp3krnl

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09/24/97 - TCP/IP Stack Update

Source: Loren Bandiera,
http://catbert.istar.ca/os2/
Reply-to: *lorenb@inforamp.net*
Status: Confirmed

The TCP/IP stack has been updated to 4.02e and can be downloaded here:

ftp://service.boulder.ibm.com/ps/products/tcpip/rsu/stack/latestv4.html

Phillip Catt
prcatt@netrover.com
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News Article on Future Warp Releases

TechWire, an online news magazine, has recently released a story claiming to have inside information regarding future releases of OS/2.

For complete text, please see:

http://www.techweb.com/wire/news/1997/09/0922os2.html

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TRAP 0006 - PJ24544

You may get a TRAP006 after applying FP30/31/32 for Warp 3 if you have a non-intel processor, in some situations. The formal fix will be in FP33. You can get

ftp://seg.austin.ibm.com/wrp3cyr.zip. No guarantees.

Warp 4 is working fine on the same IBM 486 Valuepoint with an AMD 133MHz processor.

Rexx tip: Comment Switches

Suppose you had some code that you wanted to make non-operational on a temporary basis without deleting or moving it. You could code an 'if' statement to handle this. But commenting it out is easier, but first some basics:

```
/*This is a comment.*/

/**/    /*<--That's a comment too.*/

/*
say 1    /*is non-operatinal, says nothing */
*/
```

However, we can improve on this so that we can switch easily between active and inactive code thus:

```
/**/
say 1   /*active!--> 1 */
/**/

/** /
say 1   /* inactive! */
/ **/
```

Therefore to activate, simply use the form: /**/ and /**/; to deactivate use the convention: /** / and / **/.

Finally, this can be further extended to switch betweentwo pieces of code by editting the comment switches:

```
/**/
say 1  /* active here! */
/**/
/** /
say 2  /* inactive here! */
/ **/
```

However, the code is 'switched' here:

```
/** /
say 1  /* inactive here! */
/ **/
/**/
say 2  /* active here! */
/**/
```

To make the editting of the switches easier, write a macro that will do the necessary editing for you and assign the macro to a function (or accelerator) key.

Gil Gagnon
Gil.Gagnon@Westonia.com

From the Warped Mind of the Editor

Joe Johnson, Editor-in-Chief

Here we are again, in another issue of the Warp Zone! Ooops, its a little later than usual, due to other things cutting into my volunteer time. I apologize for that, and will try and keep the issues coming out on a fairly regular basis. November's issue will follow this one pretty closely.

Well, no reviews came in from our reader's, so I have put together several OS/2 related articles that have shown up on my reader list. Kevin Linfield has resigned as Vice-President and also from the TO/2 Shareware Disk Editor, which you have probably found out at the October meeting. George Sikou has put together the October Shareware Disk for your pleasure.

Kevin will be missed as one of the intro speakers for the meetings. Kevin is still supplying me with articles from OS/2 Newsgroups, or tidbits of interest, which I will publish in the Warp Zone. Enjoy this issue, and I'll see you at the next meeting! Happy reading!

WarpCast News Service

The WarpCast News Service from OS/2 e-Zine! and the OS/2 Supersite is the Internet's most professional, comprehensive and up to date source for OS/2 news -- and it's free.

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After only 15 days, there were over 1200 people using the service.

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Warp Zone

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