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MICROCOMPUTER PRODUCT TESTING

PROGRESS REPORT

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PROJECT: DR DOS Leopard Beta 2
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General

We are nearly complete with the preliminary testing of the applications. Anomalies have been found with a number of the products, as described below. Currently, we are finishing up the remaining applications, and retesting the anomalies under alternate configurations. We should be able to start the network testing tomorrow.

Displaywrite 4 v2.0

So far, we have been unable to successfully install this IBM software product under DR DOS. The installation seems routine; however, when we are prompted to insert Disk 7, as the final step in the installation process, garbage appeared on the screen and the system froze. This occurred after repeated attempts, always after inserting Disk 7. The installation completed successfully on a different system under S-DOS v4.01.

We attempted the usual work-arounds, disabling CACHE and EMM386 and so forth, and the same problem occurred. Currently, we are trying Displaywrite 4 on other platforms, including 80286 based platforms.

Disk Optimizer v4.05

This product hangs when we attempt to run the OPTIMIZE function. Other functions (ANALYZE, etc.) operate properly. OPTIMIZE, however, is the main point of the product (un-fragments hard disk clusters).

We tested Disk Optimizer on an IBM PC/AT with a standard Seagate ST4038 30Mb ST506 interface drive. The usual work-arounds (disabling CACHE, FASTOPEN, etc.) had no effect on the problem.

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Print/Q v4.02

This is a TSR print spooler product which can use expanded or extended memory to spool files. If Print/Q is loaded to EMM386 expanded memory, we cannot load the DR DOS Desktop. The system will freeze when Desktop tries to load. If Print/Q is configured to use conventional or extended memory, Desktop then loads normally. However, when the Print/Q control panel is "popped" over the Desktop, and then exited, the Desktop display becomes corrupted, and appears to be truncated. The Desktop is still active, even though it is not fully displayed, and Print/Q spooler functions are not affected. The Desktop can be restored by shelling to a command line prompt and then reloading the Desktop.

We are currently trying the problem with other configurations (no mouse, conventional EMM adapter, etc.).

Crosstalk XVI v3.7b

All of the functions of this product appeared to operate normally, with the exception of the shell function supported by Crosstalk. This function permits background downloading by pressing the Ctrl-Esc key combination to shell to a command processor. Under DR DOS, the system would perform erratically, sometimes hanging (EMM386 enabled), and at other times suspending the background transmission for a minute or more (no EMM386). The problem was basically the same whether we started Crosstalk from the Desktop or from the command line prompt.

We got inconclusive results running under MS-DOS v4.01, though. Further work is underway on this product.

Turbo Pascal v5.5

All functions of Turbo Pascal were normal. The product was launced from the Desktop. However, we could not successfully return to the Desktop after exiting Turbo Pascal. The system appeared to hang. No problems would occur if Turbo Pascal was loaded from the DR DOS command line.

Further work is underway with this problem - it may be related to the types of programs executed under Turbo Pascal - which change video modes and so forth.

Sidekick Plus v1.01c

For the most part, we had no problems running this TSR application. We experienced problems returning to the DR DOS Desktop after invoking Sidekick Plus with the Ctrl-Alt key combination while the Desktop was active. In this case, when we pressed ESC to return to the Desktop, garbage would display on the screen. We are currently testing this product further to determine the severity of the problem, and to see if it is related to some other parameter, such as the CACHE driver, EMS installation, or mouse driver. However, we believe the anomaly may be due to a generic problem Sidekick Plus has with popping over

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graphics screens. Borland technical support claimed that problems may occur with Sidekick Plus and GEM Desktop, and that Sidekick Plus is not supported under GEM. We did not have the same problem, though, running GEM Desktop and Sidekick Plus on a system configured with MS-DOS v4.01.

Sidekick Plus operates normally when popped from the DR DOS command line prompt, and from text-mode applications. Further testing is underway with other graphics mode applications.

I just received some late breaking news from the lab that if the MOUSE.SYS driver is removed (Microsoft 7.00 driver), the garbage problem does not occur when exiting Sidekick Plus over the Desktop. However, a hang will occur later if the Desktop is exited, and then subsequently reloaded.

dBASE IV v1.0

All functions of this product operate normally. However, it is necessary to remove any SHARE statements from the CONFIG.SYS file when installing dBASE IV. Otherwise, the INSTALL program will terminate abnormally. This problem also occurs with MS-DOS v4.01, and is documented in the errata sheet shipped with dBASE IV.

Lotus 1-2-3 release 3.0

As mentioned previously, a problem occurred when starting Lotus 1-2-3 with a CACHE active in EMM386 memory. In this case, an error message appears after selecting 1-2-3 from the Access menu. The error message states "You cannot start this program from a diskette drive or a hard disk partition that is too small." If we remove the CACHE, or put the CACHE in extended memory, 1-2-3 loads normally.

As Lotus 1-2-3 rel 3 provides it's own memory management utility for extended RAM, the optimum memory configuration for Lotus 1-2-3 rel 3 is for the system to be configured for all extended memory.

Multimate v4.0

As mentioned before, we have experienced a problem running Multimate v4.0 with the EMM386 driver installed. In this case, when graphics screens are imported to Multimate documents, Multimate will hang. Ashton-Tate technical support indicated that they had heard of similar problems from users of early Intel AboveBoards with early 4.0 LIM drivers. Using an older AboveBoard and an old Intel 4.0 LIM driver, the same problem occurred on an MS-DOS 4.01 system. However, the program ran successfully with the newer Intel AboveBoard Plus Enhanced with the 4.0C EMM.SYS, under both DR DOS and MS-DOS v4.01, on an IBM PC/AT. So it appears that the problem is with the DR DOS EMM386 driver.

Products Tested to Date

Agenda v1.01
Applause II v1.0
Ask Sam v4.2b
AutoCAD release 10
CADD Level 3 v1.2
Crosstalk Mk.4 v1.1
Crosstalk XVI v3.7b
DAC-Easy Accounting v4.0
dBASE III+ v1.1
dBASE IV v1.0
Disk Optimizer v4.05
Displaywrite 4 v2.0
Fastback Plus v2.09
Flight Simulator v4.0
Framework III v1.1
Freelance Plus v3.01
Grandview v1.01
Harvard Graphics v2.12
Lotus 1-2-3 v2.2
Lotus 1-2-3 v3.0
Microsoft Excel v2.1
Microsoft Word v5.0
Multimate v4.0
Norton Utilities Advanced Edition v4.5
Pagemaker v3.0
Paradox 3.0
Paradox 386 v2.03
PFS:First Choice
Print/Q v4.02
Procomm Plus v1.1b
Publisher's Paintbrush v1.64
Q & A 386 v2.0
Quattro Professional v1.0
Quicken 3
R:BASE for DOS v2.11
Sidekick Plus v1.01c
Smartcomm III v1.1a
Sprint v1.0
Symphony v2.0
Turbo Pascal v5.5
Ventura Publisher v2.0
Windows 286 v2.11

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Windows 386 v2.11
Word 5.0

bold indicates new problems in this report
<u>underline</u> indicates outstanding problem

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