

Win 3.1 beta

File: c:\brad\outbox.7ld
 Message:

From brad: Thu Dec 19 08:38:24 1991
 To: davidcol johnan karist
 Cc: andyh
 Subject: compuserve feedback
 Date: Thu, 19 Dec 91 08:38:17 PST

I placed the following message on compuserve yesterday. Attached are the responses I got so far. (Well, most of them; I failed to capture a few.)

We need your help. We want Win 3.1 to be as clean as possible. I'd like to hear from you about what features, problems, bugs, glitches, etc., you expect to be resolved before Win 3.1 is released for general availability. Sure, we got our bug lists and we're working very hard to fix 'em, but what I want to hear from you -- our most active and helpful beta testers -- is what issues are most important to you.

Please send me compuserve mail with your feedback.

We will do our best to address your input before we ship. Obviously, we will not be able to do everything everyone wants. We will have to apply our best judgment; and I'm sure that there will be some cases, as there always is, where our judgment turns out wrong. But we will try our best.

I want to thank everyone for their help so far. Win 3.1 looks like it's going to be a good product, and you're helping us make it so.

Brad Silverberg
 Vice President, MS-DOS/Windows

 Date: 18-Dec-91 11:30 PST
 From: Sean O'Farrell (72647,1424)
 Subj: We need your help

Brad,
 Windows feedback

I think that including a workable speaker sound driver would be of great benefit. Most corporate users can't justify the expense of a sound card + speakers. Every PC has that little built in speaker, even though it's tiny. It's a start. Once people see what 3.1 is capable of doing, the sound card + speakers would be the next logical upgrade choice.

A second issue would be to cooperate with Digital Research. Not allowing Windows to run on as many platforms as possible is only going to hurt Windows in the long run. I tried a copy of DR-DOS 6.0, and didn't like it as much as MS-DOS. I think a lot of other technical users would agree. Not cooperating with DR only makes your company

look bad.
 Your question about Windows feedback deserves more thought than my two off the-cuff-replies. I'll give it more thought, and get back to you.

reply

We will be including the pc speaker sound driver on the windows supplemental driver disk. anyone who wants it can get it free. we made the decision to not hold win 3.1 general release up to fix some of the problems in the pc speaker driver that have been found.

regarding drl, there's no chance. drl is an operating system competitor. their expressed business purpose is to clone microsoft operating systems, ms-dos today and windows tomorrow. nor do i send beta copies to sun or apple. dr-dos purports to be 100% mados compatible. it's their responsibility to make that happen, and i'm not going to help them, just as i won't help sun or apple, either. after win 3.1 is released, they can buy it from egghead just as anyone else.

it's like jerry brown complaining that the republican national committee won't donate to his campaign fund.

drl chose to live a cloner's life. they are on their own.

Date: 18-Dec-91 12:45 PST
 From: Keith Curtis (70313,2476)
 Subj: DR DOS problems

Hi;

I'm Keith Curtis, a current Windows 3.1 beta tester. (its really coming along into an excellent product!)

I've got some users who use DR DOS 5 and 6 on their system. I tried to install windows 3.1, and as you probably know it didn't work. It is important to me to know if these types of things are going to be worked out. I may either upgrade to MS-DOS 5, I may not upgrade windows 3.1 immediately, or I may wait to see if DR DOS fixes these things. I would like some answers soon, though, because it looks like you guys are finishing the wraps on Windows. I'd prefer to ask these questions of DR, but I don't know if they are part of the beta program. (a weekly magazine said they were not). Can you give me some help? Thanks a lot,

Keith

P.S: I'm not here to criticize you or chastize MS, but I'd like to know what you are planning on doing. I would hope you are working with DR, but the American way says you don't need to. However, you should shout loud and clear about your intentions, so that your customers know where they stand.

reply:

Our intentions are clear, Keith. They've been reported, for example, in both pc week and infoworld the last few weeks. So, we are not working with DRl. They are an operating system competitor. We don't

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Plaintiffs' Exhibit
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work with Apple or Sun either. Bill is on the record stating that their business strategy is to clone our operating systems. Andon today, windows tomorrow. we aren't going to give them any help. they purport to be 100% mados compatible. If that were true, then they would just work. Apparently they don't. We certainly are not going to give them advance, confidential information to help them. Once win 3.1 is released, they can buy it at aghhead just like anyone else. Windows is designed and tested for mados. Not other operating systems.

Date: 18-Dec-91 13:01 PST
From: Ken Schacht (75300,1732)
Subj: Netware glitches

Brad,

Thanks for the offer to send you our priorities re: Win 3.1 issues, etc.

Stability of the environment. I'm sure you understand the reasoning here esp. Also, the OS/2 apologists here are endlessly haranguing us with this sometimes specious issue and although "we" may know the technical subtleties, if the perception exists in the user community that 3.1 isn't more stable than 3.0, this will really hurt the cause. No software is perfect but take the time you need here, it's crucial, IMO.

Resolve the Netware drivers issues and bugs before shipping. Any problems in this area will stop Win 3.1 dead in it's tracks here. Having good MS support in 3.0 when it shipped was a huge factor in it's success at many sites. I work at a large corporation and we have worked very hard to get Win 3.0 established and esp. hard to get it running from our Netware file servers (along with several MS applications). We need a very smooth upgrade from that standpoint.

Compatibility with major Win 3.0 applications and tools is the next big one. There can be some latitude here with some less popular products. As a developer I can understand that there may some cases and issues that are not the fault of Win 3.1 or that 3.1 has uncovered hidden problems in other applications. This is all well and fair BUT in these cases it's really going to take some direct and honest communication from the ISV's and a commitment by MS to work with them to fix problems ASAP.

The obvious performance improvements in Win 3.1 are most welcome. This is something that shouldn't be compromised. It's the most important feature that "users" will subjectively notice and appreciate in the upgrade.

Don't get over anxious to ship 3.1 if it needs a little more work. Remember Ashton late "wide grin".

I hope this is helpful. If it's too vague, let me know and I will be glad to give you some additional feedback. Thanks again for taking the time to join in on the beta forum and solicit the input.

BTU, say hello to Richard Tate for me.

Regards,
KASAST NS7003684

Ken Schacht
Technical Consultant
John Hancock
200 Clarendon St.
Boston, Ma 02117

reply

Thanks for the excellent feedback!

Date: 18-Dec-91 13:34 PST
From: Jon Vahsholtz (76040,452)
Subj: We need your help

Hello, Brad.

I think you've set yourself up to be inundated by mail, when you requested a list of our bugs, wish lists, etc. But I appreciate your asking, because it is nice to think that Microsoft is willing to listen to its customers and make the best product(s) that they can. Anyway, here's a short list for my problems and wishes for Win 3.1. I think you'll find most of these complaints are shared by many others, but I'll add my vote for them too.

- 1) Better support of DOS apps when NetWare is being used. Tons of your customers use NetWare and have one or more DOS apps running. I keep at least one DOS Window open all the time and find that if I get a network broadcast message (alerting me of email, for example), it kills my DOS apps and usually all of Windows with it.
- 2) Bug-free video drivers for popular SVGA cards. Also, add 256 colors to the SUPERVGA.DRV that is supplied with Windows.
- 3) Include SPEAKER.DRV with the retail package. It will single-handedly provide the push that makes Multi-Media begin to catch on in the market place.
- 4) Allow sub-groups within groups of applications in PROGRAM.
- 5) FASTDISK that is compatible with more controllers. It seems extremely fussy for many people, as included.

Thanks for listening... Jon Vahsholtz

reply

thanks for the feedback. we will be making the pc speaker driver available

on the supplemental disk, free for anyone who wants it. there will also be some very cheap sound boards available, like the disney board and others. netware compatibility is a real priority. nested groups would have been nice but won't be in 3.1. maybe in a future release.

thanks for your interest and support.

Date: 18-Dec-91 13:38 PST

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From: Eric Kestler (72570,2800)
Subject: Reverse II

Brad,

I've sent emails about this bug since build 43, and no response. I've uploaded bug reports, no response. So, I'm re-sending to you:

Reverse II doesn't work! I've tried it with Win2, Excel 3.0, AmiPro 2.0, and Powerpoint 2.0. You can't print white text on a black background.

Other than that, I love d1b, and (for me, at least) it's been very stable.

Thanks, Eric

Date: 18-Dec-91 13:58 PST
From: Eric Kestler (72570,2800)
Subject: We need your help

I'd like to compliment you and the entire development team on a job well done.

This is what I think is the most outstanding issue:

1. File support for Stackler 1.1.

A. Setup leaves a config.win and autoexec.win file in windows that is what the developers think should be used in config.sys and autoexec.bat. As of 61b, neither of these files can be used as they often contain lines for more than one disk cache, they don't have the lines in the correct order, and they are in the windows directory and few people would ever find them.

B. Smartdrv caches neither the stacker volume nor the underlying host volume. This makes SmartDrv a no-op -- just taking up space.

Date: 18-Dec-91 14:08 PST
From: Mike Gerhan (Adeptec) (70303,1111)
Subject: We need your help

Hi Brad,

I do have one small request and it doesn't even require any code changes to Windows. I would like Windows 3.1 to ship with MCICDA.DRV. This driver is currently only shipped with the multimedia's developer's kit. Without this driver, I cannot use Media Player to play audio from my CD-ROM drive. I have successfully copied this driver from the SDK into my Windows SYSTEM subdirectory and installed it in my SYSTEM32. It works great now. It also allows me to play Multimedia Beethoven and I'm sure other MPC titles. Our customers who currently have CD-ROM will not be able to use the audio part without this driver. I believe our marketing people are going to try and license this driver if possible but it would make things incredibly simpler for our users if your SETUP program automatically installed it if the CD-ROM extensions are detected. I've been told that Microsoft wants to provide resellers with added value by allowing them to ship the driver. Sounds like OS/2 to me and look what happened there.

BRADSI MB7003685

On the positive side, Windows 3.1 is a GREAT product. I have no complaints. I just want to see it ship with one additional 16 KByte driver. Thanks for listening.

Date: 18-Dec-91 15:09 PST
From: Jim Ferguson (71677,2345)
Subject: Win 3.1 feedback

Dear Brad,

Thanks for your request for input.

I have only two outstanding problems with Win 3.1, and they are both related to the 3rd-party video drivers I am using with my Orchid Fahrerhalt video card. I have submitted bug reports on both of these problems, but the only suggested solution was to "use the video drivers supplied with Win 3.1."

Briefly, here are the two problems. True Type fonts do not show the correct character formatting attributes (italic, bold etc.) in Word for Windows. The formatting is misapplied on a character-by-character basis. For example, all of the "l" characters might be italic, and all of the "t" characters might be bolded. This problem does not occur with the standard SuperVGA drivers, and IT DOES NOT OCCUR WITH ATN FONTS! I can't even consider doing away with ATN until this is fixed.

The other, more minor problem, is an error running CompuServe Information Manager in a window. It works fine one time, but if I exit and start the app again, the error occurs. Again, this does not happen with the standard SuperVGA drivers.

My concern is that Win 3.1 will not properly support the existing drivers for the Orchid 63-based card. I think this Windows accelerator card will be very important to the perceived value of Windows, and hope that MS will do everything it can to resolve these difficulties. If it is definitely determined that the problem is with the drivers and not with Win 3.1, I would hope that MS will apply any pressure or assistance it can to Orchid to have updated drivers available upon the release of Win 3.1.

Thanks again,

Jim Ferguson
Mason-Taylor-Wells, Assoc. (08710)
158 Concord Rd. Apt. 723
Billerica, MA 01821
(508) 671-8616 days
(508) 667-2006 nights

Date: 18-Dec-91 15:11 PST
From: Jim Robb@C (70312,3140)
Subject: We need your help

> Sure, we got our bug lists and we're working very hard to fix 'em, but what I want to hear from you -- our most active and helpful beta testers -- is what issues are most important to you. Please send me computerwise mail with your feedback.

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I really enjoy Windows 3.1 and think it is a terrific product. It is what is running for 90% of my day.

The other 10% I am running 3.0. It occurs to me that the best answer to your question is why I still run 3.0 some of the time.

1) Intellifont for Windows. I am using font cartridges in LaserJet III printers. My documents depend on many Intellifont fonts, and I depend on Intellifont for Windows to display them properly on the screen. So far I have been unable to get Intellifont to run on the 286 I am testing on. On the 386 there are many problems with the output on the screen and on the printer (italicized text prints without italics on some fonts, etc.).

2) Ami Pro still has a problem with automatic scrolling at the bottom of the window; an image of the cursor remains at the end of each line. Editing is unaffected, but it is distracting. Not enough to make me stay with 3.0 by itself, but I have to use 3.0 for Intellifont anyway.

3) I am using Multimedia Extensions on my home PC, but its features are not completely replicated by the features built in with 3.1. I just got the PNE up (Media Vision MPC upgrade kit) and haven't figured out how to use it in conjunction with 3.1. Also, I understand from someone who installed PNE over 3.1 that Compton's Encyclopedia won't run. It isn't clear to me what the long-term distribution and support strategy is for PNE.

Having said all that, I want to reiterate that using 3.1 is a pleasure and I feel the product is another big step forward. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Jim Hubbs
Intel Corporation (Corporate Information Services)
Company # 886
918-351-5745

(note -- ad wendlelan is the pc mag reviewer for win 3.1)

From: Edward Mendelsohn (72261,41)
Subj: We need your help

Brad,

Here's one for you. With STB VGA cards, if you open a DOS window, then come back to Win 3.1, your screen is mostly blank; you can fix that by minimizing then maximizing Program. But when you later exit Win, your machine locks up. Didn't happen with build 43; happens with later builds.

My STB contact is still trying to see if they have a BIOS problem. But it's a true pain, and there are "lots" of STB users out there.

- Edward

Date: 18-Dec-91 17:06 PST
From: Brian Stine (73617,323)
Subj: We need Your Help

I appreciate your request for suggestions from beta testers.

BRADS:

MS7003686

Overall, I'm very pleased with 3.1, but I think there's one feature that's been omitted that you should reconsider, namely nested groups in Program Manager. This is not all that significant in the big scheme of things, but you're going to take an inordinate amount of heat from the computer press if this feature is missing from 3.1.

It seems to me that nested groups are not technologically difficult, and yet it will be something that everyone will talk about if it's included. There are a lot of technological advances in 3.1 that are of much greater significance, but they don't have the visibility that nested folders will. You will get a lot of bang for a little buck if you include nested groups.

One other Program Manager change that I'd suggest is adding a menu item for saving changes to Program Manager. Again, this is a minor thing from a technical standpoint, but you'll be called on the carpet if it's not there.

With or without nested groups, 3.1 is a great product!

Date: 18-Dec-91 18:33 PST
From: Keith Curtis (70313,2676)
Reply to: DR DOS problems

Hi:

I don't catch every issue in the magazines; in various areas around CIS where I frequent, (especially the Windows forum) I've heard mixed stories, so that is why I asked. Even so, the weeklies, with their articles, much of which is rumor or unconfirmed cannot always be trusted. In addition, the weeklies are not the best place to explain to world what the policies are, the readership is much less than something like a PC-Mag. While you have been publicly making statements in the last few weeks, Windows 3.1 has been in development for a long time. I would have expected these types of statements earlier so that people can stop purchasing DR DOS if they plan on purchasing Windows 3.1. Finally, I would have expected there would be something in the release notes about this incompatibility, or a statement from above in the WINSTU forum when various users started to notice problems, but I saw none of this.

However I'm glad I have an official statement so that at work we can make our plans.

To a large extent, I can understand your reasons for not working with DR. (I stated this in my last message) Did they beta-test Windows 3.0? However, you could be causing many users headaches because their system was working perfectly with DR DOS 5 and Windows 3.0, but if they upgrade to Windows 3.1 their system doesn't work.

There are other issues to be placed out in the open, though. While not working with DR is one story, disabling Windows only because it is installed on a DR DOS machine is another issue. Has MS publicly stated that they are going to tweak the code to prevent it to work with DR DOS? I ask because someone said in the beta forum that once they get past setup, they could use DR DOS 6. (however I do not have confirmation of this from many other users)

If the shipping products does not work with any versions of DR
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DOS, then this should be displayed on the box. I know the box says that it only works with PC or MS DOS systems, but Lotus 1-2-3 version 2.3 works perfectly with DR-DOS while it also states it requires PC or MS-DOS; there is a greater responsibility on your part to point out this incompatibility, which might otherwise slip by and confuse users.

I believe that you do not need to worry about DR cloning MS Windows. I imagine that only IBM "might" be able to create something like that; the speed with which this excellent environment is developing makes Windows an even harder thing to compete with.

Many users might turn your 'MS-DOS today, Windows tomorrow' statement around, and say that Microsoft is going to monopolize the operating systems today, and then monopolize the spreadsheet business tomorrow by disabling, for example, the use of Lotus 1-2-3. After all, Lotus is a competitor of yours. Developers could argue that while people can use Borland products now, your 'open tools' policy will come to an end when Windows is popular, and you will require everyone to purchase the SDK to write win apps.

I personally do not harbor these fears; I am all for the rough and tumble of the various competitors which makes things better for the end users. However, I think that if you are going to play rough, you may want to act politely (to quote Theodore Roosevelt: "Talk softly and carry a big stick w/you"); users will then be able to swallow the situation more easily.

I'm a great Microsoft fan, and have been using your products for a long time; these questions come from the part of me which wants to know where you stand on various issues.

Thanks!

Keith

reply:

There is no code in Windows to detect DR-DOS. Windows is designed for and tested on ms-dos. We will say that on the win 3.1 package. DR-DOS is on their own; we are certainly not going to help them clone our business. Customers who adopt DR-DOS need to determine on their own whether they feel DR-DOS meets their needs. Customers have choices. They can choose Microsoft operating systems, or they can choose others.

Date: 18-Dec-91 19:22 PST
From: Michael Cadantl (70444,13)
Subj: We need your help

ok you ASKED for it!

Supo that NEED fixed(major to me):

Can not compile a program under Microsoft QuickBasic 3.0 in a dos box
Mouse-in-a-box does not work with WordPerfect 5.1 or FontPro 2.0
High Speed (V.32/MSL) downloads from Comstalk for windows 1.2 died in build 56 and have stayed dead....

BRADS;
MS7003687

Features NEEDED:

Save now/never save corners add to screen saver
Save a dos box/window added to the screen saver

Great features:

[FullType
Mouse-in-a-box
Sound
Speed
Stability..

As I think of more stuff that is major I will send more mail.

Michael Cadantl

P.S. Thanks for all the great work and letting me be a part of this whole thing!

Date: 18-Dec-91 19:31 PST
From: David Worabaugh (LTS) (76376,3423)
Subj: We need your help

I've got one big one - a problem in later builds that prevents WP emulation programs from doing file transfers under 3.1. I reported this, and got independent confirmation from another user. This is the only thing in the current build that seems to be a showstopper.

Sure, there's the sundry bugs in install, and even a few leftovers from 3.0, but I'm happy with it at this point (except for the WP bug).

I expect that you'll have a release candidate by the end of the year. Almost all of my suggestions have been followed, the only real one that hasn't is that no additional IT fonts were included (at the August Strategy Seminar in DC, it was mistakenly announced that Win 31 would ship with the equivalent of the standard PS 35 fonts.)

Setup needs work, the WP problem needs to be addressed, and vendors need to get their display and mouse drivers updated. I'm ready to go with it as is, as soon as the WP bug goes away.

You're not going to wait on IBM to ship OS/2 are you?

(WME needs a bit of attention - 3.1 installs right over it and trashes things. WME installs over 3.1, but there needs to be a sync in install programs before release. Also, if there is going to be a new Windows Resource Kit, how about getting it shipped with RC1?)

Date: 18-Dec-91 19:49 PST
From: Ross Lumley (73650,571)
Subj: Windows Feedback

I am only now getting heavily into Win 3.1 testing (I know its late, but hopefully better late than never). When I saw your message, it

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suggested to me that you would be the perfect person to address a request I have been pondering for some time. I am a lead engineer at The NITRE Corporation in Washington, DC. NITRE is a not-for-profit think tank for the Federal Government. I am heavily involved in the development of specifications, benchmark testing and other procurement support activities for many LARGE civilian agency-wide procurements of client/server/workstation systems. The trend in these procurements is for a POSIX compliant operating system which today seems to mainly equate to some flavor of UNIX. Since NITRE gets involved in planning for procurements years before a Request for Proposal (RFP) ever hits the street, I try to look as far into future trends in the client/server environment as possible. This leads me to my request.

I would like to become involved in the pre-release/beta test program for Windows NT. It is my understanding that this will eventually be a POSIX compliant operating system. Also as I understand, Windows NT at some point will provide a consistent OS across multiple CPU architectures. This has very significant implications as to how RFPs are written with regard to binary code compatibility and graphical user interface requirements. I believe that my being able to participate in the Windows NT program would provide NITRE with great insight into what I believe will be a very significant development in the POSIX-based system possibilities. I have already tried to get a message to the Windows NT group via the main switchboard operator but it is hard explain why I think it is important for me to be involved. NITRE does not develop any end user products but we are involved in prototyping efforts. I have already signed general purpose non-disclosure agreements with Microsoft and NITRE has stringent non-disclosure policies for all employees due to the sensitive nature of our procurement work and RFP work.

I look forward to hearing from you about this request.

Yours Truly,

Ross Lumley, Ph.D.

reply:

Windows NT is run by another group and I will pass your request on to them. Thanks.

Date: 18-Dec-91 20:35 PST
From: Mark Shekhr/W (70353,735)
Subj: We need your help

Mr Silverberg, thank you for allowing us to contribute our opinions. The majority of my wish list has been incorporated through Build 618. I would still like to see a "plain vanilla" 640 x 480 x 256 driver, for all of us who have high-res cards but 640x480 monitors. Many OEM's have abandoned this color/resolution combination.

Secondly, I would like to mention the PC Speaker driver. I understand it's problems and complications, and the decision not to support it at this time. But, that one tiny, seemingly insignificant feature, has caused an undrivable stir among everyone who has come in contact with it. It has caused a great frustration with what most people I have come in contact with, thought was impossible, a sound besides a

BRADS:

MS7003688

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BEEP coming out of the PC. I have noticed a greater interest in Multimedia cards, sound cards, etc. I can't help but feel MS would be missing out on a great marketing tool to grab the initial interest of a group of people who would not ordinarily invest in sound equipment. I would not have, but I will now. All because of the PC Speaker driver.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to a great product. I hope we have all helped to make it better. BTW, Andy Thomas is a great SYSOP. He has a gift for coming in just at the right time.

Mark Shekhr
70353,735

Date: 18-Dec-91 20:40 PST
From: Randall Kennedy (76437,1061)
Subj: We need your help, II

Brad,

You and I have had some interesting exchanges in the past, so here's my two cents worth:

There is a semi-confirmed rumor floating around that MS has dropped support for the 16550 UART chip in Windows 3.1. If this is true, I feel that MS has made a potentially FATAL mistake, and that it should be rectified immediately. As a network engineer and a telecommunications hobbyist, I can tell you that one of the most lacking areas in the Windows 3.xx architecture is its support of high speed communications. The non-progressive nature of Windows, coupled with new, low-cost V.32 and V.32bis MODEMS, makes such communications problematic at best. The inclusion of support for the 16550, as was initially indicated with build 43, would have been a welcome sight to many Windows users. To ignore its significance is foolhardy at best.

On another tack, is there any possibility of us seeing Windows32 ported to DOS before its release on NT? The Microsoft Strategy "White Paper" outlines a release timeline on which Windows32 would first appear on the NT platform, and subsequently be "ported" to a "future version of Windows 3.xx 386enh mode." I, for one, feel the time to begin such a port is now. OS/2 2.0 is indeed gaining momentum as we speak, and the limited though significant improvements in Windows 3.1 can not "hold the fort" forever. Multitasking requires preemption for smooth operation, and Windows32 is the solution of choice for this BETA tester. Your comments on the above two topics would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Randall C. Kennedy, V.P. Service, Microserv Corp.

reply:

The rumor re 16550 is false. Win 3.1 supports it. It is not virtualized, however, so multiple ms-dos apps cannot be using the FIFO simultaneously.

The effort for win32 on macos is well underway but will not ship before Win NT.

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From: Al Meadow (S 70650,2022)
Subj: We need your help

Features needed to be rolled down for 3.1
1) Driver for PC Speaker. This should be included and the "quality" issue fixed.
2) Video drivers which are part of the OEM should be included. Especially the Paradise VGA 320x200x256 color drivers. Frankly, I'd also like to see a Paradise (or generic) 640x480x256 driver. This (Paradise) is already included in the 3.0 supplemental driver disk.
3) I believe that a sample animation along with an animation player of some kind is included with the OEM. I would like to see this included with retail 3.1.

Bottom line of these 3 points is that I want Microsoft to package and market the core Win extensions. I don't want some small sound board company with a staff who spends all their time answering questions from Windows players installing parts of my Windows operating system. If these companies wish to market some add on software applications, fine. I don't argue that hardware drivers for their "new" products should be sold with the board but even these new drivers ought to be placed into a Microsoft maintained drivers category.

Al Meadow

Y JB: 27385 512/Comments, etc.
18-Dec-91 18:43:07
SB: 827217-We need your help
Fw: Steven Stern 70327,135
To: Brad Silverberg (MS) 72260,2630

What features would I like to see in the final 3.1?

1. File Manager "combined" displays: Show me All files on the disk with the archive attribute set.
2. Write and Notepad remembering MY default margins and fonts.
3. (A hard one) A program to go through my WINDOWS and WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory to tell me what files are unreferenced in SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI. After many, many installs of windows and changes of drivers during this beta program, I've got lots of *.drv and *.386 files. I don't know what I can safely delete. Also, full documentation on all the files that SHOULD be there: What's ospref.pro?
4. Drivers for a cheap sound card (like the Disney).
5. More information when I get a "system integrity violation" message. Perhaps Dr Watson could be enhanced to help with this. I'd like to know what happened so I can either fix my setup or contact a vendor.
6. A better OS/2 than OS/2. <D>

Y JB: 27621 512/Comments, etc.

BRADSI

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18-Dec-91 20:02:31
SB: 827217-We need your help
Fw: Russell Busch 70334,3145
To: Brad Silverberg (MS) 72260,2630

Brad,

Two things. I'm currently running build 60 of the Beta. I'm an administrator of a large Vines network....great to see that you're including the Vines 4.10 drivers on the 3.1 distribution disks...good move! However, I've had problems with the way Setup installs them. Setup places the line "device=vined.386" in the (386Erx) section of system.ini. This causes every machine I've tried it on to hang when starting Windows in enhanced mode. If I take that line out and change the "network=" line to "network=netbios,dsnet,winmod.386" everything works fine (this was documented in the release notes for Beta2 build 43). Is setup going to be changed to install vined.386 correctly?

Second, I sure wish there was a way to exit Windows without bringing all of us minimized DOS boxes back up and closing each one. Would be nice if Windows could gracefully shut them down without wrecking too much havoc on system integrity. I know, I know....You're thinking "why would anyone ever want to exit Windows?" <g>

Y JB: 27435 512/Comments, etc.
18-Dec-91 20:22:40
SB: 827217-We need your help
Fw: Stewart Gorman 76366,1664
To: Brad Silverberg (MS) 72260,2630

Please get the serial communications problems resolved -- particularly support for the 16550AH chip and buffer. INHO, if one cannot do something else while downloading/uploading information then Windows is a single application system.

Y JB: 27638 512/Comments, etc.
18-Dec-91 20:28:03
SB: 827217-We need your help
Fw: Brian Capson 73467,1453
To: Brad Silverberg (MS) 72260,2630

Hi Brad. It's great to see that you're taking the time to listen to the suggestions of us Windows users and gurus. I think it's the first time I've had the opportunity as a pure user.

My BIGGEST complaint about Windows is that the slider bar class does not capture the mouse when you drag the thumb, so if you don't follow the narrow path of the slider, your thumb pops back up to its original position. Since you're usually looking at text when you're scrolling, it's pretty hard to keep the cursor within the scroll bar. This is a complaint that I have heard from many other users as well. Winword seems to have sub-classed the slider to do this for themselves and I've done it in a few of my apps, but the general class does not. This is a standard feature of almost every GUI that I've used, and I would LOVE to see it in Windows; it just makes the interface easier to use.

As an interface designer the negative aspects of doing this, if there is a reason why it can't/won't be done.

Thu Dec 19 11:11:36 1991

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T 46: 27481 512/Comments, etc.
 18-Dec-91 22:46:45
 Sb: #27217-We need your help
 Fr: Mohamed Saba 70274,1221
 To: Brad Silverberg (MS) 72260,2630

Brad thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell you about features that we feel strongly about:

1 - File Manager should allow the user to print a directory list. To have to go to DOS and enter "DIR > PER" is ridiculous.

2 - I have a directory structure that looks like that:

C:\word\sub1\

And under SUB1 I have many many subdirectories (e.g. Jan85, Feb85,Nov91,Dec91,.... etc.. In each of the subdirectories there are several to many files. In 3.0, I was able to use File Manager to delete all those files without deleting the directory structure. I did that by deleting SUB1 and not deleting any of its true branches. HOWEVER, in 3.1, attempting to do the same deletes the true branches without my permission!!!! I actually consider this a bug. But I realize that can be debatable.

Thanks,
 Mohamed

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