From kraigb Thu Aug 27 11:40:30 1992
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To: alistair cameronm richt
Date: Thu, 27 Aug 92 11:40:53 PST
Subject: RE: Microsoft: Too Big, Powerful Say Quarterdeck, Novell, IBM
Cc: arts drg jodys richta
Status: RO

When I was in Premier support I had almost zero qualms about telling
the big guys like WordPefect, Lotus, DataEase, Ingres, Computer Associates,
et. al. about any little tweaky undoc'd call that they might need to get their
app working. On one occasion Windows Development gave us a piece
of code for WordPerfect that did some really undocumented things
just so Excel wouldn't crash after running WP4W.

We also have to mention that in many cases Systems has gone out of its
way to insure that ISVs don't lose their investments and that they remain
competitive. Case in point: Turbo Pascal for Windows. They did some
mega-illegal things that worked under Win3.0 but crashed horribly under
Win3.1 because of parameter validation and robustness enhancements.
Systems put in specific hacks to solve this problem so Borland could ship
this product that now does very well.   This is not an isolated case either.

If the industry wants to slam our apps for using undoc'd calls to claim that
we're unfair, then let's show them just how fair Systems has been to all
ISVs in supporting the bad behavior they and Apps are all guilty of.

==Kraig

| From: Alistair Banks <alistair@microsoft.com>

| It would not be hard for us to similarly check the major apps
| to prove that they also use these "undocumented" calls - we
| know that PSS has given out "special" APIs to people who are
| trying to solve specific problems. I remeber this happening
| with Micrografx at least. I would guess that a special
| PSS/Win3.x SWAT team could produce a list with those calls and
| many non-microsoft products in a very short timescale —
| Alistair

| | From: Cameron Myhrvold
| |
| | EXCEL.EXE calls 11 undocumented functions
| | EXCELDE.EXE calls 2
| | WINWORD.EXE (2.0) calls 2
| | GRAPH.EXE calls 5
| | MSDRAW.EXE calls 3
| | MACRODE.EXE calls 2
| | VB calls 2
| | QCWIN calls 2