Cindy Charleson

From:	Pete Higgins
To:	Cindy Charleson
Subject:	FW: retreat objectives/notes
Date:	Thursday, July 15, 1993 7:27AM

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From: Steven Sinofsky
To: Pete Higgins
Subject: FW: retreat objectives/notes
Date: Sunday, July 11, 1993 2:21PM

These are pretty raw notes from the systems retreat last month. If you have any questions just let me know.

From: Steven Sinofsky
Subject: retreat objectives/notes
Date: Thursday, June 17, 1993 1:33PM

These are from my notes.

At the wrap up, the following action items were discussed:

1. Ship an office shell. This is exciting and dangerout. There are a number of cross group U/I issues. The people to drive this need to be picked. [I think we should discuss this at the next tech strategy meeting]

2. A number of issues came up for the Cairo group to deal with: specify how applications expose data through properties, get more concrete on how applications exploit Cairo, determine how all of our server offering dovetail, push some of the ideas (the server side) of DavidV's presentation.

3. VBA needs to be more than it presently is. It needs to be an "excellent" part of our applications. We need to add events, figure out how third parties write VBA things, how to get people to run with it once it is in all of Office, and how do we make Word truly excellent with VBA. Paul, you need to figure out if OB can be used as a substitute for stored procedures. Also there were issues of VBA development in the large. [LenO could not make it to the retreat]

4. Bill's memo within a month. [I gave him an outline yesterday. Hopefully we can spend some time on it this weekend]

5. Have another retreat before the three year plans. Add a presentation on Office.

If I go through the prepared presentations, the following things come to mind based on their slides and my notes. Also, these are some issues that came up in follow-up meetings I have had this week with many of the attendees. These aren't all my notes, just the top line synergy issues.

Chicago
=======
Issues:
tray
transfer model

text control
file merge API duplicate efforts
desire for more use of docfiles within shell (diving into the contents--so called "B" level interfaces)
metafile confusion - do apps use 16 or 32 bit metafiles in cached OLE representations
VBasic - what is it? Most thought it was not in there anymore. Are we doing shell programmability, most hope so.
need to unify link model between Chicago and Cairo
ISAM API: Chicago needs one and many others do as well. Customers would like the API to follow B-Trieve, but we have FOX.
UNICODE - Chicago's story is pretty tough to sell to apps (but it really isn't a big issue)
Applets need to do a better job of selling our own applications [bill has said this for eons]
"NT Gap" - need to figure out a way to have a zero length gap between what is going in Chicago and what will be available on NT, at least in terms of USER/GDI for app developers (PnP and driver stuff is secondary)

Cairo
======
CDE - general confusion over what it is it and how it relates to VB and other development tools
Links - need to unify with Chicago
Labels - are these what used to be called types?
Events - if Cairo defines an event model, how does that relate to VB's and Windows?
Notes - is Cairo really going to be competitive with notes in terms of size/speed/overhead if each "note" is a Cairo OFS object?
Compelling stuff - the content indexing, distribution, and OFS support blew people away. A number asked why we just don't add that to NT and let all the U/I work get done in Chicago
Replicator reconciler - duplicate effort with other groups, how do these fit together
Distributed stuff - reiterate just how much applications need to rethink things to really take advantage of this
Component forms - bet the ranch, this is critical work [Edward said they were 2x as fast as windows dialogs, which all the DAD folks caught and questioned him, current data is the other way around, assuming lots of sneaky implementation]

Database
=========
This was really three presenations and action items:
1. Have a unified database API for both local and server engines. Everyone agrees that the concept of RNM is a great thing that should happen soon.
2. Use the Sybase code we already own for the server side (why didn't anyone say this a long time ago)
3. Unify object and relational databases. This is the pipe dream of Davids and we should be careful not to cloud #1 and #2 with trying to accomplish this. It can't be done.

David also got his plugs in for his standard issues: CASE tools (be careful here, since this impacts VB and VC a lot), Repository (ditto), and TP

Mail/EMS
=========
Replication - server to server, another replicator
Conflict resolution - also duplicate effort (code bought from DocuComp)
Cross platform support - there seemed to be a dependency on VBX controls, which means we need to be sure there is such support on the Mac
MAPI availability on Mac
Unified address book issues (why will EMS require both an NT account database and an EMS account db?)
Notes - need to figure out how to promote internal Summary Info/Address fields to views like Lotus Application Field Exchange
Synergy - desire for a "business" card API and store so random information about people can be used (ex, Joe Smith prefers to be faxed instead of emailed)

The following ideas came out of the group presentations. Again, more issues came up during follow up meetings

Chicago
=======
Our applications need to look different
Applets need to be used to advertise our applications
Office Shell: hold extensibility for apps, office is always OLE n+1, Chicago has simpler email
Apps - perhaps do workbook type integration
merge outlining in doc files
shared post-it product (already being done)
Rev SDM visuals in Chicago Office [SDM is a shared DLL between Word/XL]
Macro recorder is missing
Windows "Cool", "Way Cool", etc for levels of compatability of 3rd party apps
Make old applications look dumb
Notes: Chicago is a Notes client out of the box

Cairo: Windows OT
==================
Price it low
Notes is to Cairo as Mac is to Windows
Get tools developers to do "cairo" things
Need to have publishing collaboration application written
Chicago v. Cairo: Cairo must be a superset
Good Cairo Apps:
    version reconcilliation (many duplicate efforts)
    incremental string indexing
    expose events [conflict with Windows API, etc]
    software package object [install/uninstall in Chicago]
    shell integration - custom query window
    teach query processor about apps
    properties on labels
    app is a viewer as well as editor
    smart folders as a set of properties
    construct a document dynamically out of query result
Notes: build a client clone like we are doing for Novell in Chicago (possibly just a VB front end)
Novell: make MIS love Cairo for administration
Need SFT3 support
Cairo and netware must totally coexist
Supplant Novel with Cairo clients
OFS access in Chicago

Tools/DB
=========
Enable stored procedures to be built with VB
Make EDI easier to use
Publish solutions: office PDK, Lawyer PDK, etc
Start with next office making MCS be office advocates

Synergy
========
Management makes it a priority and gives it consistent attention
Synergy between apps and systems is a two way street -- Apps benefit as well
Not viewing synergy in your favor is just poor salesmanship on behalf of the seller of synergy
Incorporate synergy and cooperation in review cycle [happening now]

Miscellaneous Issues
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[specifically from 1-1 follow up meetins]
Must have a real/dependable solution to the "NT Gap"
Need to treat the shell like an app: spec, design, features--not just a grab bag of stuff
U/I changes from Chicago to Cairo are not helpful
Why are there two shell teams?
MDI/SDI - no discussion or resolution
Have an API review for all exposed IDispatch/OLE interfaces (XL's 60/1000 issue)
What do components really mean to [DAD]?
Component forms - stop saying it will replace Windows dialogs
WGA - mail seems to be a real wart since it breaks NT, Notes, and DB strategy
Systems - needs to be more cooperative with apps on specific code things (commdlg, toolbars, etc)
Ren [BrianMac PIM] - where the heck does this fit in? Is this another shell replacement?
U/I design talent - we don't seem to have any, and we don't have one group that can dictate anything with credibility so common designs are ignored
OLE - need a real committment to do performance work before new features. They need to understand 4MB
Need an escalation path for decisions outside division that require synergy