



Subject: WinPad delayed, reworked ...
Date: 94-11-30 02:40:08 EST
From: davem@shell.portal.com (David Mollerstuen)
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David

> =====
> SUBJECT: MICROSOFT REWORKS WINPAD
> SOURCE: Computerworld via Fulfillment by INDIVIDUAL, Inc.
> DATE: November 28, 1994
> INDEX: [6]
> ORDER NO: 850730#
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> Computerworld via INDIVIDUAL, Inc. : Microsoft Corp. last week said it was
> scrapping its efforts and starting over on its personal digital assistant
> (PDA) operating system, called At Work for Handhelds and code-named WinPad.

> The decision means that the potential for a large PDA market will be
> delayed until at least 1997, analysts said. This is partly because vendors
> had positioned WinPad and its accompanying hardware as the main way for
> users to access Windows from handheld computers.

> Microsoft's market withdrawal may also slow deployment of wireless
> networks, analysts said.

> "It certainly is a flat tire on the road to success" for PDAs, said
> Bruce Stephen, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.
> Stephen said the blow was more to Microsoft's corporate ego than to its
> wallet, given the disappointing reception of PDAs so far.

> David Britton, WinPad's product manager, cited several factors that led
> to Microsoft's decision to rework the product. They include the following:

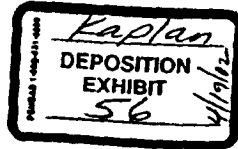
> cThe Polar chip set from VLSI Technologies, Inc. and Intel Corp. was
> rejected by hardware makers, which meant there was no low-power, low-cost
> chip set to run a WinPad [CW, July 25].

> cThe expected cost for WinPad machines was more than \$1,000 and was widely
> considered to be too high for the market. This drove Compaq Computer Corp.
> to delay its Mobile Companion [CW, May 16].

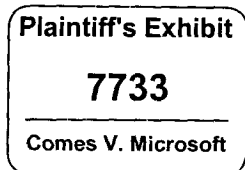
> cWinPad's systems requirements drove up component costs such as RAM and
> display size.

> Users contacted last week were not overwhelmed by the announcement.

> "You don't move forward in this market by waiting for hardware," said
> Edward N. Altman, vice president of information systems at Metro-Goldwyn



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> Mayer, Inc. in Santa Monica, Calif. Altman said he is testing BellSouth
> Cellular Corp.'s Simon cellular phone/PDA.
>
> ``If it works, we'll get 30 to 50 people out there on Simon, and in the
> next generation we'll go get the more powerful stuff,'' Altman said.

> Still, some developers expressed concern. ``From a corporate user's
> standpoint, they're probably disappointed because they wanted to support one
> standard,'' said Ed Ross, president of Core Systems, Inc., a pen-based
> developer in Boulder, Colo.
>
> The WinPad group was recently placed in the newly created Microsoft
> Personal Systems Division. Pulsar, another Microsoft project dedicated to
> wireless communications, and Windows are also in the division.
>
> [11-28-94 at 14:48 EST, Copyright 1994, Computerworld, File: x1128430.8dc]

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om: David Mollerstuen <davem@shell.portal.com>
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