From: Madeline Alexander
Sent: Mon, 2/25/2002 1:37 PM
To: OEM Personnel Sales Communication; OEM Personnel Sales Communication - Intl.
Cc: Kurt Kolb; Patrick Kennedy; Mark Croft; Albert Lim
Subject: Windows XP SP-1 and Windows .NET Server Release Update

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Applicable To
MDP and Named Account Managers - Domestic and International

Summary
This communication provides an update on the ship status of Service Pack 1 for Windows XP, as well as report updates on other upcoming products, including Windows .NET Server. Information in the Details section below is customer ready and may be forwarded to your customers.

Details - Customer Ready

Windows XP Service Pack 1

Since launching Windows XP in October 2001, and subsequently focusing on the .Windows .NET Server release and Windows XP Service Pack 1, two factors have influenced Microsoft's priorities and logistics: 1) the work needed to comply with the DOJ Consent Decree, and 2) our increased focus on security and trustworthy computing.

- Windows XP Service Pack 1 (SP-1) is now scheduled for release in August 2002, although the exact timing will be defined as we cycle through the release and testing process.

- The most critical code changes will be for security updates and Consent Decree compliance.

- SP-1 will incorporate the anticipated roll-up of critical updates (QFEs) made for the original Windows XP release.

- This targeted timing will enable OEMs to incorporate SP-1 updates into PCs shipping during the holiday 2002 timeframe.

- We actively need early testing and feedback from the OEMs to help ensure an extremely high quality release in this timeframe.

- More details on the availability of the first test release will be available in the next few weeks; however, we anticipate pre-Beta releases to be available to OEMs for testing as early as April 2002.

Product Specifics for SP-1

Windows XP SP-1 will contain:

Cumulative high priority updates (QFE's);

Consent Decree compliance updates;

Security changes;

MS-DEPEX 006538

High priority application, hardware quality, and deployment-blocker updates (based largely on Dr. Watson and Online Crash Analysis data); and

Underlying work to support Windows XP Tablet PC Edition, eHome's "FreeStyle" and "Mira" on new OEM PCs.

It is possible there will also be a small number of additional updates in SP-1 to address particular customer or partner issues. These will be assessed against risks to compatibility and schedule.

Windows .NET Server Release

Microsoft will fulfill our goal of delivering the most secure, reliable, and manageable release of Windows Server in 2002. Due to changes to the Windows XP SP-1 schedule, there will be forthcoming adjustments in the server's release date.

In delivering a rock-solid server product, we will support - in parallel - the long-lead 'early adopter' and testing efforts of customers, OEMs and partners, as well as support our own long-haul stress testing.

Windows 2000 SP3 Status

Our commitment to Windows 2000 remains unchanged. We are targeting June 2002 for SP3.

Windows XP SP2

It is too early to be precise on a release date for this SP, but our goal is to ship Windows XP SP2 in the first half of 2003.

Longhorn Release

Our ongoing work on the next version of Windows, codenamed 'Longhorn', will ramp back up to full resourcing once Windows XP SP1 and .NET Server have released in the second half of 2002. More details on the delivery schedule for Longhorn will be available later.

Dates and Quality

Our first priority is to ensure the highest quality releases, both for Client and Server. The dates described above are based on solid plans, but the dates will take second priority to ensuring the releases reach strict quality criteria. We will notify OEMs of our progress and any forecast changes as we drive through the development and test processes. In the meantime, we look forward to working with the OEMs to get feedback on the beta versions of these products as we hit those milestones.

(End of Customer Ready content.)

Account Manager Action

Forward the information in the Details section above to your OEMs as soon as possible

Using the voting buttons above, by March 4, 2002 please confirm to Madeline Alexander that 1) you have completed this action item, or 2) the action is not applicable to your account(s).

Questions
Please contact Patrick Kennedy, mailto:pkennedy.