From davidcol Fri Dec 9 12:34:40 1988
To: jodys
Cc: celesteb hankv peteh phils ralfhm
Subject: Excel requests
Date: Fri Dec 09 12:29:59 1988

Per our phone conversation today, here's a summary of the 3 items
we need done by your group and included in anbther running update of
Windows/286 and Windows/386. All three of these requests are absolutely
critical for us, as explained in each one.

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1. Correct the maximum "swap size" computation when XMS is used.

Currently Windows does not account for memory freed by XMS when computing
the maximum swap size allowed, thus Excel requires the same amount of free
DOS memory to boot with or without XMS, which is about 433kb under
Windows/286 and 443kb under Windows/386. Apparently, accounting for the
extra memory was missed in previous the releases of Windows 2.10.

This "fix" will allow Excel to boot in approximately 45kb less memory
than it can boot in now, which is enough in many cases to allow Excel to
run under Windows/386 when it can't now. This is the case at FORD where
they are recommending QEMM.SYS, DesqView and Windows/286 instead of
Windows/386.

I can't emphasis how important this request is. We can't sell Excel if
it won't run. The extra 45kb is a LOT of memory, we need it bad.

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2. Increase the minimum bankable memory required for large frame EMS.

The minimum bankable area required to use large frame EMS, (small frame
size plus large frame size) must be changed from 280kb to 312kb. A 280kb
bankable area is not enough for Excel to operate properly.

Excel requires a 128kb swap size, 40kb data segment, 30kb of fixed code,
and the 64kb EMS area. Take that away from a 280kb bankable area and you
are left with only 16kb, which is not enough to use custom dialog boxes in
Excel. Using a 312kb minimum will assure that there is always 48kb left
above the EMS line, which is enough to use custom dialog boxes.

This request too is absolutely critical. Telling users to use the "/1"
switch has been a burden on all of us and makes us look bad.

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3. Update Windows SETUP to not terminate for "Incompatible drivers".

Windows and the Windows run-time SETUP programs now terminate if a driver
listed in the [Incompatibility] section of SETUP.INF is found. This is
poor behavior since drivers like 386MAX.SYS do work with Windows just fine,
they just conflict with HIMEM.SYS.

There are basically two kinds of drivers incompatible with HIMEM.SYS, those
that are truly incompatible with XMS and those that serve the function of

HIMEM.SYS by implementing XMS; 386MAX.SYS for example. SETUP.EXE should be
fixed so that the user has the option to either quit setup and remove the
driver, or continue with setup without the option to install HIMEM.SYS.

Again, it's crucial this be taken care of. We are trying to help users get
the most they can from their machines, which in some cases means using
386MAX.SYS to load TSRs and Network software into high DOS memory, or using
386MAX.SYS to increase the size of the small page frame. Customers can't
be helped until setup works with our recommendations.

As I said before, we can't live without any of the above requests. I've
not made those requests as part of a "wish list", our wish list is being
taken care of with Windows 3.0. (thank you) The above is a very narrowly
defined "must have" list which we need now; we are at war. If there is any
doubt that we need all of the above, please consult us.

thanks,
David Cole

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