WindoWatch

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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The Editor's Soapbox!

This issue is getting late because I've been splitting my time watching both political conventions, the US Open, reading about the escalating browser wars, and scaring myself to death thinking about issues of privacy as presently defined on the Internet !

Unlike most Americans, my tune-in time to the political party I don't like, was quite minimal. In direct contrast, I was glued to the TV during my own political convention. Both events share two characteristics: Only 20% of the polled public viewed them and the tight management of internal conflict occurring at each. As a re-sult, we were deprived of the long overdue discussion of what each group purports to represent! Important stuff in terms of upcoming Internet related legislation. Shame on them both!

A great change of pace: The US Open is a marvelous sports event much in need of a solid technological upgrade. Every match suffered from incorrect calls by the referees. In an age of the instant replay already in use by every other major sport, the ATA insists upon maintaining this sham. Players are resentful and openly laugh at this comedy. Shame on the American Tennis Association!

The browser war continues, moving to a faster track with an official complaint from Netscape to the Department of Justice alleging the threat of a potential Microsoft grab for domination of Internet software. These and related issues are important enough to the Internet for the specifics to be laid out in full detail and for the groupies orbiting both entities to close down their smoke and mirrors routines. Too much heat and almost no light! Shame on the Microsoftfiles and the Netscapists!

The Internet is squaring off with the hardening of positions re-lating to issues of privacy and the reach of the government invest-igating criminal activity occurring on the net. There exists, it seems to me, kernels of truth and fear on both sides of this fundamental question of privacy vs the protection of citizens under the law. This too has already shaped into a mammoth controversy presently gen-erating much heat and too little light. Thoughtful and uncommitted people are backing away from taking a public position fearing the crazy label, that might stick to them from either extreme.

This last is far too important for any one to take a pass. In ten years or less, the Internet, in all likelihood, will be as fully used as is the telephone today. Further, as Americans, we only have the ability to legislate for ourselves in this multi-cultural and international environment.   **(NEXT)**

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Mainstream Windows Application Development Tools

Copyright 1996 by Herb Chong

If you were to pick up a catalog from a programmer's software mail-order house, you would think that almost everyone has their own tool and there are thousands of ways to write your application. That isn't the case, however. There are really only about five tools in wide use. Everything else has their devotees. Otherwise, all you would get is a single sheet of paper instead of a thick catalog. To be honest, many of the items in the catalog are tools to help make building applications easier or to use as building blocks so that programmers don't have to reinvent the wheel each time they design a new application.

In its earliest days, the only way you could write a Windows application was to use the Microsoft C compiler and its sometimes incomprehensible sidekick, the Windows SDK. Although I won't go into detail, suffice it to say that writing a Windows program was much different from anything that anyone was taught in school back then and there was no safety net in case you made a mistake.

Things are different today. The SDK has pretty much disappeared and has been replaced by included components of C/C++ and other compilers, and made redundant by tools which interact with Windows completely differently than before. The choice is large today too. Although this article will have a quick look at only five of the most

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widely used tools, there are more out there for more specialized purposes such as multimedia authoring and expert system building.

The biggest player in the market is Microsoft. After all, it is their operating system and they have to write the tools to be able to generate applications for it. The second biggest player is Borland. Borland has had a long history of specializing in tools for programmers. Their Turbo C compiler was one of the first to diverge from the traditional UNIX model of a command line compiler and completely independent tools to an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) with all tools available nearly all the time. Everything else is a blip on the sales curve. I have included Symantec C++ with the other tools from Microsoft and Borland because it is an outgrowth of the Zortech C and C++ compilers, one of the first C++ compilers for PCs ever to hit the market. At one time, you could not have a comparison or survey of PC programming tools without including Zortech.

The C and C++ Compilers

C and C++ compilers have been on IBM PCs since the early days. The only language available used to be BASIC, but C from various vendors took over as the language of choice very early on. Writing applications in C had many advantages over the early BASIC interpreters and compilers. Mostly it had to do with more advanced language structures and the ease of extending the programs with libraries of your own code. Microsoft C was the only game in town for Windows application development for a long time.

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Today, everything is C++. Borland took a good idea in the integrated development environment design and made it so useful that you can't buy a serious programming tool without it having a complete IDE. Similarly, people seldom program to the Windows API anymore, with or without the SDK. Everything important in Windows has been encapsulated in a C++ class library hidden from the average programmer.

Widespread use of class libraries has two drawbacks for programmers: the class libraries are very large and require lots of effort to learn and use, and the class libraries are completely different so that knowing one helps only vaguely in working with another. For the users, large class libraries mean large applications and, frequently, slower ones. The advantages to developers are that there are so many useful components packed away in the class libraries that programming becomes more a task of finding and assembling components instead of crafting them one by one. The more code reuse, the faster new applications come out. Marketing pressures don't allow otherwise.

The dust has settled in the class library wars and there are two dominant players competing; Borland's Object Windows Library (OWL) and Microsoft's Microsoft Foundation Classes (MFC). Symantec C++ includes an older version of MFC than Microsoft with their compiler. Microsoft's market presence is such that Borland has made changes to their compiler to make it possible to compile MFC with theirs. From a purely aesthetic point of view, OWL is a better package, but higher technology by itself has never been enough to guarantee a marketing success.

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The current version of Borland C++ is 5.0. It supports applications targeted for DOS, Windows 3.x, Windows 95, and Windows NT on Intel platforms. It's a serious tool for serious programmers. There are several versions of class libraries, added database tools, optional libraries, and support for most of the latest ANSI Draft C++ standards.

As befits a professional tool, it requires a professional machine to run it on. A full install of the compiler takes about 200MB of disk space. Some things that BC++ is particularly good at are its elegant OWL class library. With it, you can go further in application design and programming before you have to start designing your own objects than the other class libraries. Sophisticated programmers like the support of the latest C++ features. The IDE allows you to manage very complex applications consisting of many modules with relative ease. A lighter version of BC++ called Turbo C++ for Windows was available at the level of Borland C++ 4.5 support, but it was never widely used.

Microsoft's Visual C++ is no slouch either. Because it is Microsoft's own compiler, the emphasis is on support of operating system and application features. You'll find direct support in this compiler before you find it in any other one. For many retail software development organizations, this difference is critical and guarantees a solid market share to Microsoft. Third party standards support such as ANSI C++ isn't as good as most other C++ compilers available, but this usually isn't of concern if you are sticking to one compiler and one target environment. One disadvantage of VC++ is that you need two versions if you want to cover Windows 3.x and Windows 95 or NT.

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Lumped together, both compilers weigh in at about 200MB or so also. Naturally, if you aren't interested in Windows 3.x development, you don't need to install the older version. Microsoft's MFC is less elegant than OWL and forces a programmer to use more dangerous features of C++ to glue things together. However, it supports new system features sooner, very important to some people, and they are able to live with the warts. With VC++ 4.0 and higher, MS has decided to bring together all their developers' tools into one environment. They have, with Developer Studio, pulled together all reference information and the compilers into a single place where you can get at all of them. This may be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on your point of view. One thing for certain is that it bulks up the minimum hardware requirements for using the compiler.

Symantec C++ is the least well integrated of the three C++ compilers. Their C++ package includes special versions of several third party tools combined into a single package. Individually, each of these tools are frequently more capable than their Borland or Microsoft counter-parts. It works very well most of the time, but you can see the rough edges in the inconsistencies in the user interface across the various components. The inclusion of so many tools bulks up SC++. A full install of all components can cost you up to 350MB. The compiler can target DOS, Windows 3.x, Windows 95, and Windows NT for Intel platforms. The class library included with SC++ is an older version of MS's MFC class library. For people who don't need to stay at the bleeding edge of feature support, the version is much more than adequate.

Other players in the market, even though very small ones, include IBM's CSet++ for Windows and Watcom C/C++. They have their

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loyal followers, but definitely are not in the majority. The cost of being a player in the C/C++ compiler market has become so high that only a few companies can participate. All the available compilers will do an good job on applications that are not pushing the limits of feature support.

Visual Basic

Visual Basic is an easy way to get into Windows programming. For the weekend programmer or the person who needs to spend time concentrating on prototyping, Visual Basic 4.0 is a very good tool. Much of Visual Basic's appeal comes from its visual approach to programming. Although highly innovative when it first came out, the visual programming model in Visual Basic 4.0 is very much a minimal standard for competent development environments.

One of Visual Basic's major attractions is its simplicity. The language isn't complex and you get immediate feedback as you work. Visual Basic first made widely known to professional programmers the idea of component programming. It spawned a huge third party market for components and also made Windows programming accessible to more people than every before. Visual Basic 4.0 needs only about 40MB to install. It comes with many components to get you started. However, there are several disadvantages to using Visual Basic for Windows program-ming. Applications are, usually, noticeably slower than if it were written in C/C++ or Delphi. Additionally, there is no way to develop new components in Visual Basic. These can be major disadvantages for some people.

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Delphi

Delphi is the new kid on the block as far as Windows programming is concerned, and has roots in Borland's Turbo Pascal products. The underlying programming language of Delphi is Object Pascal. It is very similar to the Pascal language that was implemented in Borland Pascal. There are several major differences in the product nonetheless.

The first is that it is a visual programming environment like Visual Basic. The second is that the class library is very different from OWL. It is possible to program in Delphi as if it were a near clone of Visual Basic. Dragging and dropping to define the user interface and then setting and modifying properties interactively to flesh it out work just as in Visual Basic. There is a crucial difference, however, from Visual Basic. The objects in Delphi are genuine objects in the computer science object-oriented programming sense. This means that programmers can take objects that they use and create new objects that are like, but not identical to an existing object, through inheritance.

With Visual Basic, if you use a component and it doesn't do exactly what you want it to, you need to work around it. In Delphi, you can create a new object that does do what you want and use it from then onwards. The smaller editions of Delphi lack the database connectivity components and so weigh in at about 80MB of disk space. The professional versions come in at about 110MB total. For serious programmers, Delphi has nearly all the advantages of Visual Basic in terms of development speed and ease of use, but it also has some significant advantages with respect to execution speed and flexibility of the language.

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Up and Coming

New on the horizon are Java and JavaScript. These have assumed their importance because of the importance of the Internet and Internet applications. Java and JavaScript have some resemblance to each other but are completely different in design. Java is a full blown programming language with desirable "safe" features for components that have to be delivered across the Internet. JavaScript is a language for extending a Web browser's ability to interact with the user via code included in HTML. There is nothing preventing a programmer from choosing to write a full featured Windows application program in Java except speed. Java currently is an interpreted language.

There is a program that loads and runs Java code just like Basic interpreters do, even though currently, they are uniformly very slow.

Java has several interesting features that make it a tool to watch in the future. The first is that it is a "safe" programming language. It is supposed to be hard to write programs that can do malicious things to a machine. The second is that it is operating system independent. There are Java environments for dozens of operating systems and their number grow seemingly daily. The third is that there are several powerful class libraries already built in. All environments start on the same footing with respect to minimum features available. The fourth and maybe the most important in the long run is built in distributed networking. Talking to another machine on the Internet is in one of the basic packages every Java implementation must have.

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Summary

This covers most of the major Windows application programming tools available. Each has their advantages and disadvantages. No one tool can meet all the requirements for everyone, but a professional programmer should have several at hand and be good at them. I use Delphi, Borland C++, and Microsoft C++ about equally. I know enough Visual Basic to get by, and Symantec C++ is thrown in just to put on the resume. In this day and age, that's important too.

Herb Chong does research and is a much respected Windows programmer. He is the Contributing Editor for WindoWatch and has contributed many fine articles to the magazine. He regularly creates spectacular computer art found on the WindoWatch homepage and included in the magazine editions using Acrobat.

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Microsoft Exchange Server 4.0: A View From a Client

Copyright © 1996 by Jack Passarella

Introduction

The alternate title for this article would have been *Confessions of a Former Microsoft Mail User,* simply because I propose to compare Exchange Server: Client to Microsoft's old mail product. Just to clarify, I don't plan on discussing the Exchange server software, just the client, more specifically, the Windows NT client — though the Windows for Workgroups and Windows 95 clients are surprisingly similar. (Note: the MAC client is forthcoming.) As I write this, I've heard that Microsoft plans on renaming the Client to something less confusing, but that's as clear as it gets at this point.

What do I know about the server piece of the software? I was only peripherally involved in the setup of the Exchange Server piece of our new mail system. (Feel free to define 'peripherally' here as, *'He knew about when the server was put online, but that's about it.'* Honest, I won't mind. I had planned on greater involvement, but emergencies extracted me from that particular round of hair pulling, substituting another.) I do know that we are under contract with a national ISP and that we have a dedicated 56K BPS line coming into our router for our internet email feed. Our Exchange Server *server* is a Gateway

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(GW2K Pentium Pro 200) with 64MB of RAM and about 2GB of hard drive space. Beyond that, the hardware details blur. I have seen the Exchange server interface and it appears user-friendly, for the most part. Rules for defining user internet addresses seem simple. Our format is first-initial-last-name-at-our-domain(E.g., JPassarella@lehigh-press.com)

So far that combination of ISP and hardware has been fine. The server has only one job: email throughput. It sits in a temperature-controlled, access-limited, food-and-beverage-prohibited room and basically does nothing else but sift through internal and external messaging. Our tests to and from our accounts on America Online were impressive, with messages being shunted back and forth within 15 to 30 seconds. Usage will climb, however, as we just recently announced the direct email connection to our customers.

Under the Hood

Before I go into client-side details, it's important to note the basic difference in the relationship between our old Microsoft Mail server/ clients and our new Exchange server/clients. Under the old system, the client was responsible for polling the server and checking for mail the server might be holding for the client. This polling interval could be set by the user at five, ten, or fifteen minutes....their choice! The tradeoff being between performance and immediacy. Whenever the client PC polled, processing time was co-opted from the user — those polls obviously taking longer for our remote clients; the less often the client polled, the longer the delay in getting the mail. You had to choose your own sweet spot.

The Exchange server relieves the clients of much of the burden. Instead of the clients polling at regular intervals, the server expedites

mail to the clients upon receipt. Aside from the reduction in steady, often unnecessary polling traffic between our sites, this switch produced several benefits: unnecessary network traffic decreases as timed polling is replaced by actual message movement; the users' systems become more responsive, while the unmanned server assumes greater responsibility; and, finally, internet messaging is immediate instead of at the mercy of set intervals.

I've noticed the Exchange client takes more time to load initially than Microsoft Mail, but every other aspect of it's performance fares better in comparison. On occasion, file attachments, MIME and UU-encoded are supported, seem to take a little longer to attach to a message.

A Client is a Client is a Client…?

We are working with three versions of the Exchange Server: Client. These are Windows for Workgroups, Windows 95 and Windows NT. To date, I've installed many NT clients, about a dozen Workgroup clients, and have observed two Windows 95 client installations. Basically, the interface is identical, the folder tree reminiscent of Windows 95's Explorer interface, with small buttons and icons. Since I've not used the NT client for any length of time, my observations are based on just that client version. If you delve into one of the other clients, your mileage may vary.

Plus ça change…

Pardon my French, but this is the section where I place emphasis on the similarities between Microsoft Mail and Exchange Server: Client. Mail had two minimized icons: an empty mail slot, signifying no new mail; and a mail slot with the corner of an envelope sticking out to signify new mail had arrived available to read. With Exchange, you

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get new and improved icons, but the same basic concept applies. *The more things change…*

Empty: **You've Got Mail:**

You'll notice the mail slot has been replaced by the gray In-box, with a globe — representing the Internet, I suppose — in the background. You still get a beep (or a WAV if you're running WFW or Windows 95, or are fortunate enough to have a sound card with your NT PC) when a new message is delivered by the server.

I've found this mail-stacked-in-the-In-box icon to be less than a hundred percent reliable, specifically in the mornings when Exchange first loads and sometimes when I restore then minimize the window without reading the new mail. What I mean is that I don't always get the visual cue that I have new mail. Sometimes I have new mail in the morning but the In-box icon stays inscrutably 'empty.'

As I mentioned above, the folder tree in the left pane is reminiscent of the Windows 95 Explorer. Compared to Microsoft Mail, the toolbar buttons are similar in function but smaller and now come equipped with those handy little pop-up yellow tooltips when you pause the cursor over the buttons. You still add new folders or sub-level folders under the File menu. The message envelope flaps do not, however, open after you've read a message. Instead, new messages are shown in bold; the folder name in which the new messages reside also becomes bold and has the number of new messages listed beside the folder name in parenthesis. Messages that have been read then lose the bold attribute, as do their folders.

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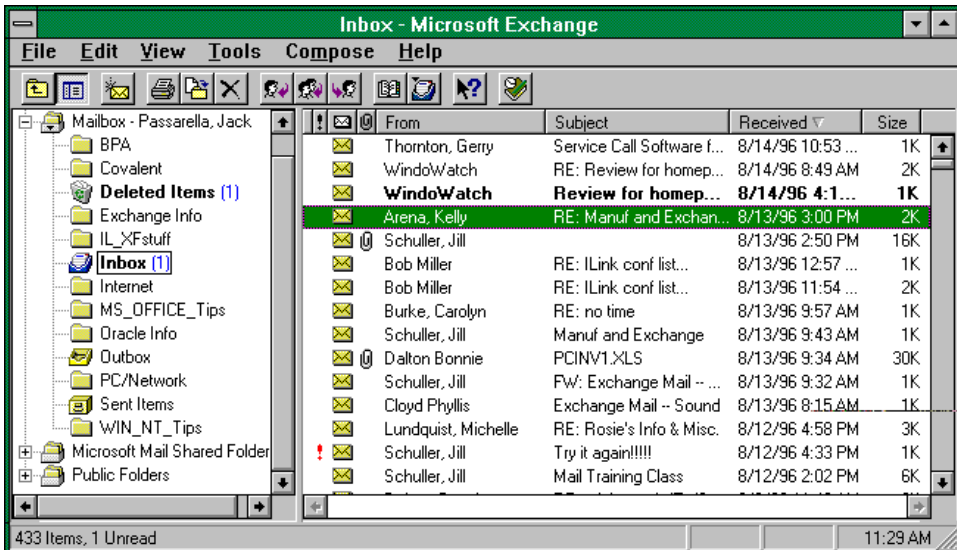
The folder tree is collapsible and expandable by double-clicking on the - or + indicators respectively. The panes, as well as the various right pane columns can be resized simply by clicking and dragging on the dividing lines. Messages can still be click-dragged from right pane to a folder in the left pane. The sorting feature is more flexible, allowing ascending or descending sorts, indicated by an up or down wedge for any of the right pane columns, and even allowing you to sort by messages with attachments or high priority. Also included is a new

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column indicating the size of the message. Now you can see just how much hard disk space all those message attachments are taking up.

Evolution not revolution

As you can see, so far, Exchange has a lot of similarities to Microsoft Mail, its forebear. But there are numerous changes, some of which I've mentioned in passing. Coming into play in the age of Windows 95 is the right-click feature. If you right-click on a message in the message-pane — as opposed to the folder (left) pane — you get a list of options which match the basic toolbar shown above. Better yet, if you receive a message with an attachment, you can right-click on the program icon in the body of the message and save the file without having to launch Word, Excel, etc. You can also right-click to print from the message body window, among other options.

When you compose your message in the Exchange new message window, you will immediately notice one of the big differences from the old Send Note screen. Microsoft rich text format is now built in: you can select any font that resides on your system, and which you hope resides on the recipient's system, of any point size, font color, etc. to express yourself as fully as possible.

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Article Deadline! - Microsoft Exchange

File   Edit   View   Insert   Format   Tools   Compose   Help

To...   WindoWatch
Cc...
Subject: Article Deadline!

Lois,
    There is **no way** I'm going to make that *deadline!* You have to <u>push</u> it back or I'm **doomed!**

thanks,
Jack
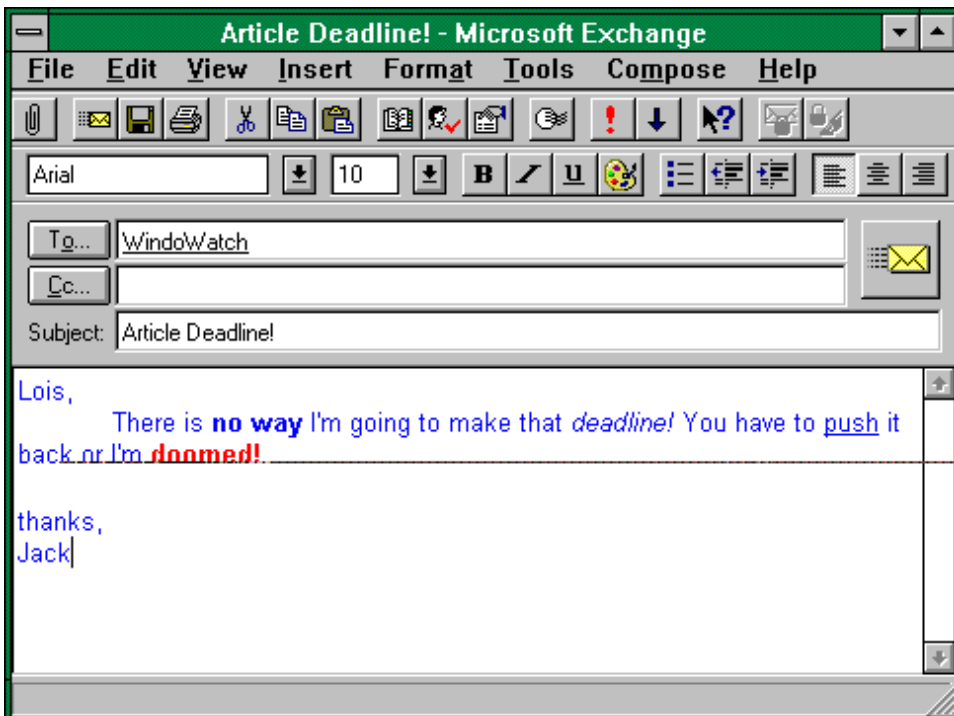
As you can see from this example, I've incorporated bold, italic and underline as well along with a change in color to really get my point across. I did not use indenting or bullets, but these features are also available, as are alignment options. (Note: these font tricks use Microsoft rich text format which must be supported by the recipient's mail system; otherwise, they get plain text.) When you click on the send button, specifically the oversized one to the right of the addressee section, the depressed button picture changes to the tail end of the envelope leaving a cloud of dust. If you've seen the Microsoft commercials, you may have glimpsed this little pseudo-animation. Cute!

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Like the 32 bit version of MS Mail, but unlike the 16 bit version, Exchange comes with a spell-checker. You can even set it up so that it only checks your original content and not any quoted information from prior messages.

As a little nod to the Internet way of messaging, you can create auto-signatures that attach to the tail end of all your mail messages. These also can be in color, various sizes and alignments. Unfortunately, the style police are nowhere to be found when you need them.

Another option which defaults to *On* is the 'include original text with reply.' When you reply to a message, the original content, along with the To-From-Subject header is indented and placed below your insertion point. If a message gets replied to several times, the message expands and indents indefinitely, looking like one side of an inverted pyramid. In a world where over-quoting is a netiquette *DON'T*, this is a marginal lapse which will not endear Internet newbies to the Info Highway veterans.

Lastly, the Exchange message window also recognizes a hyperlink when it sees one, changing the text to an underlined blue. Double-clicking on an embedded link will attempt to launch your web browser and dutifully visit this site. I do not have the necessary Remote Access machinery in place to test or vouch for the reliability of this feature.

One of the main reasons we upgraded to Exchange Server was for the Internet email capabilities. I have to admit that the integration of Internet addresses with internal addresses is fairly seamless. I appreciate it more each time I hear an friend's description of how their Internet messaging systems work. Some aren't aware of their own Internet addresses; most don't know how to enter an Internet

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address unless I send them a test message first, whereupon an administrator helps them set it up. With Exchange, setting up an Internet address — assuming you have the '@' address — is surprisingly easy. You click on the Address Book button, then the blank rolodex button for a *New Entry*, then just select Internet Address from the choices available. The next window presents you blank text fields to enter the name as you would like it to appear in the address book, followed by the actual internet address. (At this point you could click on other tabs to enter general business information, such as addresses, phone numbers, etc.) If you've ever had to remember who someone was by just their CompuServe address, you'll certainly appreciate seeing the plain English name appear in your Address Book as well as in the To: window.

Hit the links

Not only can you send file attachments, you can also send the 'attachment' as a link. When the recipient double-clicks on the attachment-link, the original file is opened, not a copy. This way, you're assured that the recipients are seeing the latest version. I presume this is an internal 'Workgroup-type' mail option and doesn't extend across the internet. Alternately, you can *insert objects* — spreadsheets, pictures, etc. — so the recipient sees an actual spreadsheet or picture object without having to double-click to open it. You can view the data without having to launch the helper application, though you do have that option if you want to do a little editing.

Message sending options

You can send a message as Private, Personal or Confidential. The Private attribute locks the message, preventing changes. Confidential

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advises in the status bar to forward with caution. Personal seems to just let you know that the message is, well, personal.

You can have a message sent after a user-selected time period passes and, interestingly, you can have a message be deleted from the recipients mailbox after a similarly selected time period. I suppose it's entirely likely you could have all your mail sent at 5PM and deleted before 9AM the following morning. However, before I start imagining various Mission: Impossible self-destruct-after-reading-scenarios, I'll move along.

<u>Unpaid Assistants</u>

Two of the most useful features of Exchange are the InBox Assistant and the Out of Office Assistant. I think Bill Gates probably had some input on the InBox assistant. I read in one of his syndicated columns that he used to be able to handle all his own email, but after his Internet address was published far and wide and the messages started coming in by the virtual truckload, he started to lose control of it.

The InBox Assistant lets you set up rules, global or specific to sender, subject, body text, etc. Why you'd set up a global rule in an InBox Assistant, I can't answer: the power lies in the specifics. Here you tell the Assistant how to handle you're incoming mail. You can now presort mail before you've even seen it: move it other folders, forward it to someone else or a group of people, even automatically delete it if you really want to. If you're expecting an important message or need to know whenever your boss fires a mail-gram your way, you can have

the InBox Assistant alert you with a special WAV sound and/or a pop-up window telling you to stop what you're doing and read this late-breaking mail item. If you can play WAV files on your system (note: NT users require a sound card; others might get away with a speaker

driver), you can associate a different WAV file with each of your correspondents. You can know without restoring/maximizing Exchange who each message is from: when it can wait; and when you'd better check it out pronto.

For example, I receive free Tips of the Day for Windows NT, so I set up a rule for these to be automatically moved to a folder I've created explicitly for storing them.

I've specified the From address, but since I get other mail from this 'correspondent' I've also indicated text in the Subject line, then added the rule telling the InBox Assistant to move these items into their special folder. When both conditions are met, the mail message is *moved* to that special folder.

The other assistant is the Out of Office Assistant, which is similar, in fact, the *Rules* dialog box is identical to that of the InBox Assistant. Here, you can indicate that you are out of the office (presumably you check this option just *before* you leave the office), adding an optional note giving further details regarding your absence. For security reasons, our administrator does not echo these messages out to the Internet at present, but our internal users see the note, which appears almost instantly after a message is sent to the out-of-office recipient. Instead of an envelope icon, the note comes with a curved arrow beside an open door icon, so it gets your attention.

You could stop there and have no rules. At this point, the sender knows you are out till whenever you specified in your note. This message is sent only once to each person sending mail, preventing a string of repeat notices stating: 'I'm on Vacation all week!' However, you will probably want to set up rules for incoming mail, again global or specific rules. Routinely, I activate my out of office status Friday evening for the weekend, forwarding my mail to my other internet accounts, which I could possibly check before Monday rolls around. This is how I've set up that global rule:

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Edit Rule

When a message arrives that meets the following conditions:

From...

Sent To...

[X] Sent directly to me   [ ] Copied (Cc) to me

Subject:

Message body:

OK

Cancel

Help

Advanced...

Check Names

Perform these actions:

! [ ] Alert with   Action...

X [ ] Delete

[ ] Move to   Folder...

[ ] Copy to   Folder...

[X] Forward   To...   Jack's AOL account (for testing); jack.passa

[ ] Reply with   Template...

▶ [ ] Custom

Messages sent directly to me from anyone, internally or via the Internet, are forwarded to my other Internet accounts. The original copies are retained in my Exchange InBox.

For either the InBox Assistant or the Out of Office Assistant you can also set up automatic replies. For example — "Got your message. Will

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get back to you as soon as possible." — could be sent to anyone you specify. The custom option is for Exchange add-ins which will probably arrive in the near future, either from Microsoft or third party manufacturers.

What this article did not tell you

We have yet to implement the forms feature of Exchange, though we certainly plan to take advantage of this feature to create uniform expense reports, accident reports, etc. Also, the intranet capabilities of Exchange Server 4.0 at this time are limited to shared public folders where shared documents can reside with various access restrictions. Future versions supposedly will have a built-in browser-type interface for that web look. The way Microsoft has sunk its teeth into the Internet pie, I find this to be entirely likely and in the relative short term.

Currently we have not implemented either encryption or digital signature through Exchange.

Exchange also features powerful abilities to administer a co-worker's or supervisor's mailbox, either temporarily or permanently. The mailbox administrator may even have the ability to send the message *as* that other person and not just on *behalf of*.

Exchange comes with an InBox repair tool which, fortunately, I haven't had to use yet. Unfortunately, its efficacy remains a mystery.

Finally, Exchange includes an updated Schedule Plus, which includes a contact manager and Steven Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* tools. I don't really see anything here different from the last incarnation of Schedule Plus, aside from Exchange integration

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which is the assumed reason for the upgrade. But I was never a heavy user of Schedule Plus, so I may be missing something obvious.

Conclusion

There you have it: an introductory look at Exchange Server: Client — Microsoft Mail's successor. While initial load time is longer, performance is much better and messaging is more timely; the toolbar buttons now have tooltips; sorting is more flexible; the program incorporates right-click functionality and internet addressing; and file attachments are augmented by linking and object insertion. And not only do you have more word-processing-style capabilities with this mail product, you get a couple of free assistants thrown in for good measure.

Jack Passarella, is our resident Word guru and normally explores the World of Word with our readers. This talented man has many other strengths as one can plainly see. On very short notice he banged out this important piece, drawing from his hands-on experience. The printing establishment that employs him is very lucky indeed, as are we. Jack can be found on the Ilink network hosting several conferences including the one devoted to Microsoft's Word for Windows. He can be reached at JPassarella@lehigh-press.com

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Taking Lotus Notes R4 Home and On the Road
An Introduction to the Mobile Computing Features of Notes R4

Copyright 1996 by Paul Williamson
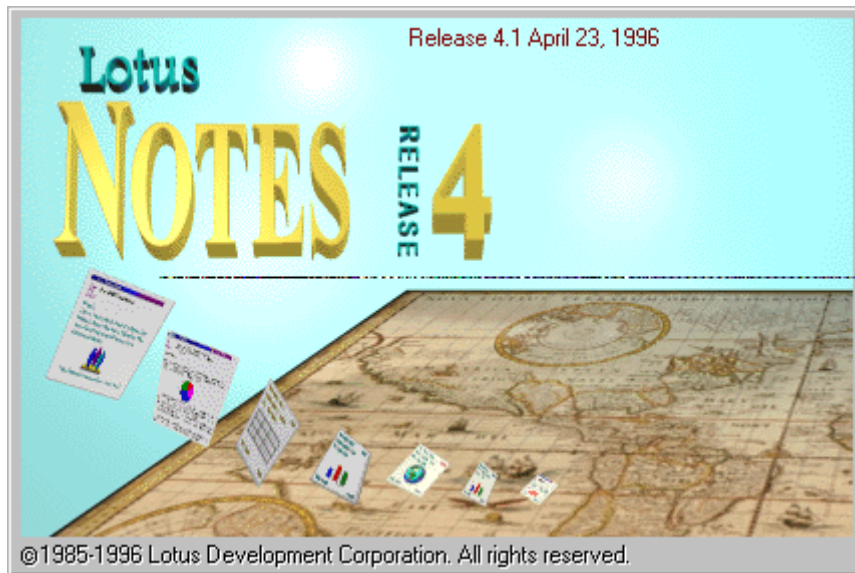
For those of you who have attempted to use Lotus Notes R3 in a mobile computing environment on the road or at home will more than appreciate the simplicity that Lotus has included in Notes R4 for accomplishing the same task. If you were successful in getting R3 working

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remotely, congratulations, you deserve some type of an award. If you were not successful, don't fret, there are many software wizards and gurus to keep you company. The introduction of Lotus Notes R4 has heralded a new and refreshing, and simple, way to get Notes up and running on your home or remote desktop computer and your mobile laptops.

Notes R4 offers many new and powerful features and enhancements that make remote computing easy. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Named Locations** (yes, you can have multiple location configurations!)
- **Stacked database icons**
- **A workspace Replicator Tab**
- **New database replication options and settings**

This article is intended to provide an overview of these features. I thought about writing a tutorial on how to set up Notes for remote access, but since it is really so simple, this overview should provide enough information to get you started. Setting up Notes for mobile computing is relatively intuitive. Nothing like the hassles and convolutions of setting up R3. With the following information, even Notes novice's should be able to set up their laptop or home computer and be on-line with their mail and Notes database servers in record time.

Named Locations

Lotus has included the new concept of *named locations* in R4. This feature allows you to maintain and switch between different predefined configurations with a simple click of the mouse. Every named location is defined by a new document called a *Location Document*. This document is

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stored in your personal Name & Address Book, usually located on your local hard drive. It must be noted here that your personal Name & Address Book contains more information unique to the installation and configuration of the machine you are running on. Therefore, copying personal Name & Address Books from one machine to another may yield unexpected and unpredictable results.

After a successful installation of the Notes client software, four default locations are created in your personal Name & Address Book:

- **Island**
- **Office**
- **Travel**
- **Home**

In the following screen capture, you will note that you are by no means limited to these location names. However, you must also be aware that your Notes administrator may create unique Location Documents for your use as part of the overall Notes policies and procedures within your organization. For example, on my laptop, I have created the following Location Documents:

- **Lexington Office**
- **New York Office**
- **Remote Location**
- **Home (Dial-In Networking)**

Close　Save

Location

Home (Dial-Up Networking)

Basics

Location name:	Home (Dial-Up Networking)
Location type:	Local Area Network
Prompt for time/date/phone:	No
Local time zone:	Eastern Standard Time
Ports to use:	☒ SPX ☐ TCPIP

Mail

Mail file location:	On server
Mail file:	mail\PWilliam
Mail domain:	
Recipient name type-ahead:	Personal then Public Address Book
Recipient name lookup:	Stop after first match

Servers

Home/mail server:	MALEX03NG01
Passthru server:	
InterNotes server:	

Replication

Schedule:	Disabled
Replicate daily between:	08:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Repeat every:	60 minutes
Days of week:	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

▼ **Advanced**

Daylight savings time:	Observed here
Only for user:	×

Secondary TCP/IP Notes name server:	
Secondary TCP/IP host name or address:	

▼ **Administration**

Owner:	
Administrators:	

[None]　　Home

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These configurations differ slightly, only because the access to my Notes servers is different. Figure 1 is my Home location document. In the Basics section you will notice that my *Location type* is Local Area Network and the *Ports to use* is marked as SPX. This is the same setting that my Office location uses except that at the office I am connected to the network via Token-Ring cable and at home I use the built-in Shiva dial-in networking. The Remote Location location document shows the *Location type* as Dialup Modem and the *Ports to use* as COM1. When using a modem to dial your mail and database servers, you will be presented with a dialog for dialing. Also notice that you can schedule replications of your mail and other databases. More on that later.

These Location Documents become an integral part of the Notes configuration. To switch between locations (changing from on Named Location to another) is just a couple of mouse clicks away. From the standard Notes menu bar, you need only to select **File/Mobile/Choose Location.**

A Choose Location dialog similar to that in figure 2 will be displayed. The Notes configuration is then changed to use the setup specified by the corresponding Location Document. You do not have to restart Notes

Figure 1

nor make any other location changes. It is all done for you, on the fly. As an alternative, you can select the location by clicking on the list of location choices on the Notes status bar.

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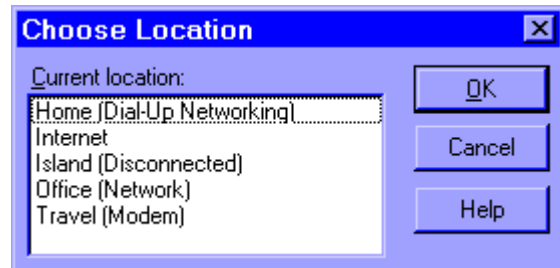
1. Before taking notes on the road, be sure you have all the necessary information of fill in the fields in the Location Document. You may need to ask your Notes and/or LAN administrators for assistance. Having this information may save you an embarrassing phone call later to your help desk.

2. If you do have problems while on the road, be sure to have the contents of your Location Document handy to assist the Notes administrator or help desk analyst.

3. If your Location Document settings are correct, you can check your port connection by using the Trace Connection button in the Ports dialog box. To test the connection, select the destination, select Log Options, and press the Trace Connection. A connection will be attempted using the selected port and the problem can be monitored in the Trace Info window. This vastly simplifies troubleshooting problems associated with port settings and connections..

4. Ensure you have select the correct modem command file in the Ports dialog box and ensure the modem is working properly before going on the road.

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Stacked Database Icons

Figure 2

Stacked icons reduce the confusion and clutter of a workspace that contains more than one replica of the same database. This feature allows you to stack all the icons of databases that have the same replica ID (databases that are copies of the same database) in a single pile. You are presented with a less cluttered workspace by turning on this feature. Notes R4 has a master switch which turns on/off the stacking of icons across the entire workspace. By selecting View/Stack Replica Icons from the menu bar, you can enable or disable this function. When enabled, Notes will check all icons on the workspace, identify replicas and move them into one stack. Stacked icons are identified by the addition of an indica-

tor in the upper right hand corner of the icon as shown in figure 3. Databases that are not replicas will not have this indicator.

When you switch locations, Notes recalls the last copy accessed from that

Figure 3

location and brings that database icon to the top of the stack. If the icon that appears on the top of the stack isn't the one you want, you can simply select the proper one by clicking on the indicator to show a list of all the replicas in the stack as shown in figure 4. Then you can choose the one you want from the list. To perform a database operation on any copy of the replica, that copy must be on the top of the stack.

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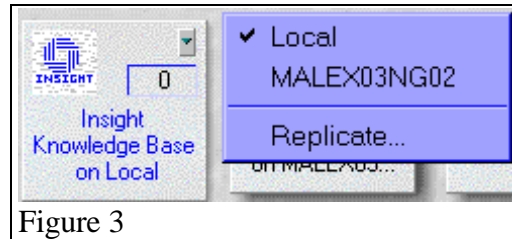
1. **When using Notes from a dial-in site, the local icon should be kept on the top of the stack for improved performance (speed).**

2. **A drawback to stacked icons is that you cannot open multiple copies of the replica databases within a single window.**

In Part 2, we will take an in-depth look at the Workspace Replicator Tab and discuss the new database replication options and settings.

Paul Williamson is a Vice-President of a major eastern banking establishment. Just prior to joining his present employer, he was an independent computer consultant for a number of years. Additionally he has been a well known host for the RIME network and is a respected WindoWatch contributor. He has served as a member of the WindoWatch editorial board from the inception of the magazine. This is the first of a series of Lotus Notes articles.

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DERN ON THE INTERNET:

Internet Predicts Overloading of Bob Metcalfe
As told to Daniel P. Dern
ddern@world.std.com, www.dern.com
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I had a front-page article in the July 1 issue of InfoWorld, on the every-popular topic "is the Internet collapsing."   Bob Metcalfe responded to it, with, "Internet Intelligentsia Stands on Credos, Not Facts", in the same issue (p.75, opposite my final 'graphs). Here is my response to Metcalfe's response; *Bob, this constitutes the other shoe finally dropping.*

AUGUST 1996 (shortly after lunch) -- If you've been following the cybernatterings of cyberluminary Bob Metcalfe during the past half-year or so (or past two years in Internet dog years), in his InfoWorld <u>From The Ether</u> column, or elsewhere in various speeches, articles, interviews, and online postings, you're probably well aware that Dr. Metcalfe is concerned about the Internet.

In fact, he's convinced that the Internet is overloaded to the point where it will soon collapse. Why he doesn't suggest the Internet take two aspirins, go to bed, and Internet-phone him in the morning I don't know -- perhaps he's not that kind of doctor. But he's definitely concerned.

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It is therefore highly ironic that, according to the Internet, a similar fate may lie in store for Metcalfe. In an exclusive interview I just had with the Internet, the Internet opined that Bob Metcalfe is overloading, and, predicts the Internet, he will soon be unable to handle the load.

Dr. Robert Metcalfe, a suave, well- -- if perhaps too-casually- -- dressed techno bon vivant, and awardwinner, is best known for being the creator of Ethernet, and also for being one of the founders of 3Com, and recently variously publisher, editor-in-chief, and columnist at InfoWorld magazine. He's been kvetching about the Internet long before other industry pundits, even John Dvorak or Jerry Pournelle.

The Internet is, of course, a global network of networks, linked by the IP networking protocols which enable applications on different types of networks and computers to schmooze (intercommunicate), and has be-come best known as the home of the WorldWideWeb (which has in turn spawned all those intranets, extranets, intrawebs, and IP corrals), which, as well all know, is the reason we all need Netscape Navigator and/or Microsoft Internet Explorer. (Conspiracy theorists attribute much of the claimed value of the Web to PR campaigns by memory chip makers.)

"It's the Firesign Theatre's 'Fudd's Law' all over again -- 'If you push anything hard enough, it will fall over,'" the Internet quipped self-referentially, while simultaneously blowing routing loops from its elegantly carved high-bandwidth meerschaum pipe and signing receipt chits for new top-level domains.

"I know Bob's worried about me -- well, I'm worried about Bob," the Internet stated statelessly. "He's pushing himself too hard -- and, unlike me, he only has one provider and wasn't engineered to scale the same way." The Internet put down the pile of paperwork on a nearby

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routing table, which was wobbling as if it might collapse at any moment.

A green plastic fish which had escaped from another essay wriggled briefly nearby.

The Internet is flattered by the Metcalfe's ongoing interest in its health, but fears that this may be a case of the bioanarchistic pot calling the cyber-kettle black.

"He's taking on too great a load," explained the Internet, dressed in a open-protocol suit and a <BLINK>ing bow tie for the occasion, at its open suite in the Hotel D'Arpa recently for an exclusive interview.

"He's writing articles and editorials, he's speaking at conferences, he's being interviewed, he's getting awards, he's giving parties... Bob Metcalfe was never designed to handle this great a load, nor to handle many of these types of functions. Heck, it makes me tired just to think about it. It's inevitable that he'll prove unable to handle the load, sooner or later."

According to a recent three-year $100 million study by two mailroom clerks and a service technician at the Cantseetheforestforthetrees Group located in Cambridge, Mass. near what was supposed to have been the site of a major urban mall and housing development that never materialized, "Metcalfe's appearances and activities have been growing at a monthly rate of 15%." By mid-2002, they predict, "Metcalfe will be speaking at every trade show in the United States, as well as at 29% of the Boy and Girl Scout troop meetings, numerous city zoning board committees, and several county fairs."

(Copies of the full report, including color graphs and pie charts, are

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available for the small cheap paltry sum of $597, payable in $3.00 Ecash certificates made on a browser with margins set to 6.2 centimeters. Free copies are available from their web site.)

Metcalfe's silicon-intelligent anarchistica, notably several leading Ethernet segments at major universities, deny the rumors. "Bob's NAPs keep him well-rested and productive," reported one at a technical east coast site. But others report dropped salt packets, open jars of clam dip, and a growing pile of sport coats and sweaters -- some of which, one WAN wag reported, aren't as seamless as they used to be.

"Being a pundit requires a lot more speed and flexibility than it used to," notes Sc*tt Br*dn*r, an alleged academic at a university located a few miles upriver from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M*T) in Cambridge, Mass. "Bob's been able to cope, but he'll run out of bandwidth sooner or later, and fail to show up for a meeting some-where, or drop his speech en route."

D*v* Cl*rk, an alleged computer science academic purported to have been allegedly seen having a beer with an alleged journalist, says, "We have computer simulations of Metcalfe running on our academic com-puters which show how Metcalfe could run at a higher speed. Unfor-tunately, our program refuses to run simulations involving Metcalfe performing non-academic activities." Cl*rk hypothesized that his simu-lator was assuming an arbitrarily large supply of graduate students as one of the resources in its calculations.

V*nt C*rf, alleged father of the Internet paternity suite and co-founder of C*rfN*t, adds, "At this point, given the expectations that have been created for Metcalfe, it's important that he drop something, if only to prove we're right and he's wrong."

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Defenders of Metcalfe claim the Internet is being unfair. "Bob, like all of us, is comprised of many individual organs, bones, cells and old parking tickets," points out an Ethernet segment in Umbilical, Hawaii which was subsequently arrested by the Grammar Police for improper use of 'comprise.' "To say he's completely overloading, versus that some muscle or organ may be overloading, is unfair."

"Part of the problem," the Internet said in response to these counter-critiques, "is that Metcalfe was never designed to handle a load like this. He still needs security, management, proper billing, guaranteed service, and blue suede shoes. It's our own fault for continuing to use him."

I attempted to reach Metcalfe for comment, but he was unavailable (hmmm!) -- off making a speach somewhere in New York... or was it Chicago... or Los Angeles... or whatever. (Kinda proves the point, don't it?)

"I understand what it's like to be overloaded," the Internet con-cluded. "But I've got the same confidence in Bob that he's got in me. Frankly, I think we both want to collapse, and then be allowed to spend a few weeks chilling out somewhere quiet, downloading back a few drinks, and waiting for the press to find some other headline-grabbing scapegoat.

"As for all those businesses supposedly relying on me -- heck, I never said I was good for that stuff," the Internet pinged. "I was supposed to just be the proof of concept. Making me into that info-super-duper-highway, that was somebody else's idea. Whoops -- here somes the three o'clock weather checkers and PointCast update -- back to work!"

Shrugging out of its jacket and into a naugahyde jacket with a large

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"IP On Everything" JPEG on the back, the Internet sauntered off to the nearest meetpoint, singing, in a semi-public key, to a frightening familiar tune, "I know I connect all those LANs/and the LANs I connect to are grand/So when I say, IP, aye, IP, eye-pee-eye-eh/I'm lookin' fine, info-highway/info-highway, no way!..."

Note to readers: Only stunt or simulated Metcalfes were used in testing and writing this article. Not real Metcalfes, or even his sweaters, were used. And had this been a real "Internet is out" alert, this would, of course, never have gotten to you.)

- Daniel P. Dern (ddern@world.std.com, www.dern.com) has been writing, speaking, consulting, and writing song parodies about the Internet for over a decade. Author of THE INTERNET GUIDE FOR NEW USERS *and founding editor of Internet World magazine, he's ready for somebody to give him another Internet magazine to be in charge of. Or even another Internet column. And yes, he knows his Web site is vastly in need of updating!*

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NT Tools 1.0
QuickView Plus!

Copyright 1996 by Linda L. Rosenbaum

It seems to me, that one of the more frustrating aspects of both Windows NT 4.0 and Windows 95, is the new Windows NT Explorer. This is supposed to replace File Manager and take full advantage of the new interface. While it arguably does take advantage of the new interface, it is incredibly slow. For those of us used to File Manager type replacements incorporating full featured File Manager tools, Explorer can be sorely lacking . Another feature not found in any of the versions of NT is a virus detection program. This has become more of a standard with the inclusion of a virus scan in DOS 6.20. Still another hole one finds when using all NT versions is the lack of programs or add-ons that give one the ability to view files without having to launch the program each file was created in.

I have come upon two products that can be used either together or separately to help fill the the above mentioned voids in NT. Both are well worth adding to any NT system and are reasonably priced for what they provide. One is an NT specific program and one is a Windows 95 program that works quite well in NT 4.0 beta 2.

The first item is Symantec's NT Tools 1.0. Symantec has been providing DOS and now Windows 95 utilities for many years. I have been a long time user and fan of their products although I was not currently using any because they had none for NT.   This product was

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brought to market a few months ago after a trial period where users could download parts of the program, File Manager in particular.

Symantec has also been known, along with Central Point Software, now owned by Symantec, for producing products that include an incredible amount of value in one box. Starting with their Windows 95 utilities, they have begun to bundle the various utilities into smaller packages. The perception of the end user is that it costs more to buy all the separate tools as opposed to their earlier bundled approach prior to the release of Windows95. I happen to agree with this senti- ment, but also recognize the reality of cost of development for another operating system.

Prior to my discovery of NT Tools, I was using a pair of shareware programs in tandem that gave me alternative File Management tools and viewing capabilities. I first started using these programs in NT 3.51 where they worked reasonably well. Unfortunately they created some glitches in NT 4.0 beta 2 even using the newer versions of both. So I became very interested in finding something else.

At the time NT Tools was released just when NT 4.0 had begun a more wide spread beta testing, I was hesitant to install it on NT 4.0. Since I was no longer using NT 3.51 extensively, I had not gotten around to installing it there either. However, after asking around a bit, I learned that several people were using NT Tools successfully and NT 4.0 beta 2.

The product ships on CD. The install ran smoothly and required no restart to be utilized. It comes with four main modules - Norton File Manager, Norton AntiVirus Scanner, Norton System Doctor, and Norton System Information. I consider the first two (file manager and antivirus software) well worth the price of admission at around a $50

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street price. The remaining two are not as needed, in my opinion, when using NT 4.0, but also are not without merit.

Norton File Manager looks almost identical to what ships in Norton Navigator for Windows 95. It also looks almost identical to what I had originally purchased called Xtree Gold for Windows 4.0. I have been told that the File Manager in PC Tools for Windows 2.0 also looked pretty much the same.

Norton File Manager in NT Tools 1.0 has what I consider a nice blend of the new interface while still having the ability, to some degree, to do things the old fashioned way. It takes full advantage of the right mouse click and provides a nice selection of available choices when right clicking on either a directory or file. It is more extensive than the choices I get in NT Explorer when doing the same thing (i.e. right mouse click).

Norton File Manager has three different views available - default, classic and icon. Default is akin to how NT Explorer works when on the left hand panel one can see all the partitions and shared drives. Classic is what I am more used to, which shows just the directories of one particular partition on the left hand side and files on the right.   I tend to use Classic view but do switch to default in order to utilize some of the other features of Norton File Manager. Icon view shows all files as icons.

The File Manager has some of the standard options available in terms of what is viewed/seen in file and directory listings. It has a toolbar which can also be modified and/or customized. I have left mine using the standard setup that gets installed.

In order to easily move/copy files to another location using drag and drop, a second instance of File Manager gets started. There is a

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convenient icon on the toolbar to do so. Norton File Manager also has an icon called Viewer Pane. This, in conjunction with viewers for different file types, allows one to view a file in a pane/window underneath the File Manager and easily navigate to different files and have each one automatically viewed. This was in Xtree Gold for Windows 4.0 as well as Norton Desktop for Windows and was a feature I have been missing for quite some time.

NT 4.0 ships with the same set of file viewers that come in Windows 95, which are called QuickView. Norton File Manager utilizes these and they can be accessed more directly via a right mouse click on a specific file. There are around 30 file viewers included in NT 4.0.

Norton File Manager comes with something called FTP Client. It is built right into the File Manager and is accessible when in default view. It allows one to easily connect to a company's FTP site, view the files available on the site, and then copy (ie download) them to one's local hard drive. While I had heard of such products before, I was not aware of how easy this could be done until I tested it out using the FTP client in Norton File Manager. All I have to do first is connect to the Internet via my ISP (via DUN/RAS). I now tend to prefer to download files this way, particularly big files. The product ships with a decent selection of predefined FTP sites and it is quite easy to add to them or change what it ships with.

The speed of Norton File Manager is light years faster than NT Explorer. It is not quite as pretty since it doesn't show all the various icons for different files but I think that is what helps it be faster. I also find it much easier to do basic as well as not so basic file management type operations.

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The following is a screen shot of Norton File Manager in classic view with whatever other options for viewing that I have selected:
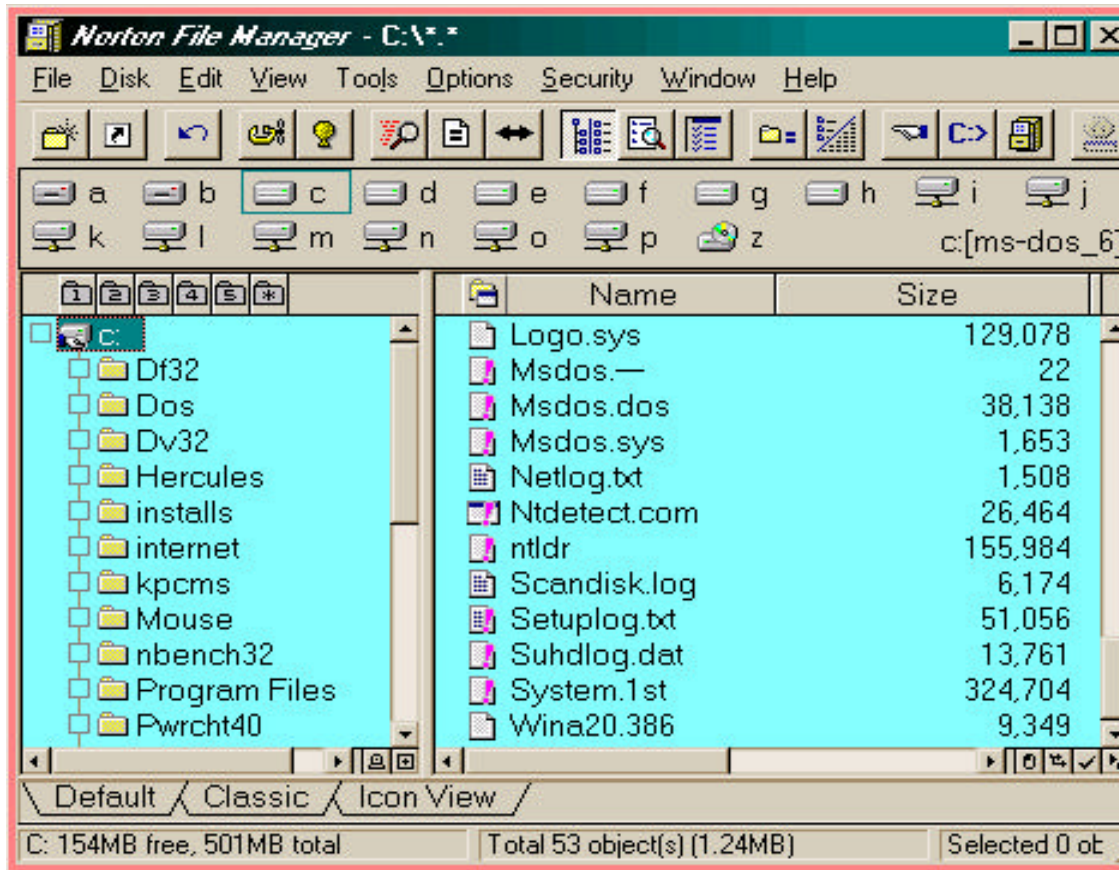
I have only found one feature of Norton File Manager that does not properly work in NT 4.0 beta 2. When I try to create a new directory in Norton File Manager I also end up with a phantom icon on my desktop called desktop. I have found no way to get rid of these other

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than to restart, although I have been told of another trick to do so. It is hoped that this will be an easy fix for Symantec to make once NT 4.0 is released. In the meantime, I use something else to create new directories.

Norton AntiVirus Scanner looks quite similar to what the separate Norton AntiVirus Scanner for Windows 95 looks like. One very nice feature of the one included in NT Tools 1.0 is it can be used across a network on any shared drive. It also works on NTFS drives.

Symantec releases monthly updates to the virus definition files, which can be obtained from the Internet either through their Web page, FTP site, CompuServe, AOL, MSN, and the Symantec BBS. Norton AntiVirus Scanner can be set up to run at scheduled intervals. One has to activate the provided service to do so in NT. And then use the provided scheduler. I have not set it up this way but believe it should work with no problems. Getting and using Norton AntiVirus Scanner was the first antivirus scanner software I had used on my system since I installed NT 3.51 over a year ago. It is a relief to have such software available again.

Norton System Doctor looks very much like what comes in Norton Navigator for Windows 95 as well as what came in the last DOS version of Norton Utilities, which also came with some Windows specific tools. It allows you to monitor certain aspects of your system such as CPU usage, disk space, virtual memory, physical memory, page file size and utilization, and network reads and/or writes throughput. Most of the sensors allow information to be displayed in one of two ways. In addition there are three types of sensor styles - graph sensors, stop light sensors and calendar sensors. Further most sensors include an alarm that can be set to be triggered when the condition being monitored reaches a preset value. The alarm can be set to either display a message or play a sound file.

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I personally have not been using any of the above sensors on a regular basis. I am using the new NT Task Manager that comes in NT 4.0 beta 2 to monitor my CPU usage. Otherwise I have found far less need to monitor the sorts of things I felt it was imperative to monitor in Windows 3.1/WFWG 3.11. I also have 64MB of RAM and a decent sized swap file. And I manually monitor my available disk space. But Norton System Doctor can be quite useful in situations where it is helpful to be able to monitor what is occurring on an NT system.

Norton System Information gives you information about your computer. I think that NT Diagnostics in NT 4.0 beta 2 provides much of the same or more information. However it is very easy to use the packaged Norton sysinfo. It is worth looking at now and then, particularly if trying to diagnose a problem or to determine if new hardware and/or software will work in a partcular system.

QuickView Plus! is made by Inso Corp., who also provided MS with the viewers that come with Windows 95 and NT 4.0. It can be purchased direct from Inso via the Internet as well as Egghead Software online for $30 with Cue card discount plus S&H and sales tax. Quick View Plus! has been out for some time and is sold as a Windows 95 product and works beautifully in NT 4.0 beta 2, at least on my system.

QuickView Plus! can be installed on any drive/partition one would like, including an NTFS one. It adds around 200 plus viewers. It also adds abilities when a file is being viewed that just don't come in either Windows 95 or NT 4.0. One is the ability to actually view the particular file with proper formatting. This means, as an example, that a Word document with a graphic in it, can be viewed with all proper formatting and with the picture being displayed as if you were viewing it in Word itself. Another feature is the ability to print the file being viewed from within QuickView Plus! This allows one to print files even if one does not have the application the file was

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created in. QuickView Plus! also allows one to quickly launch the necessary application to do editing of the particular file, if that application is available.

QuickView Plus! automatically integrates with NT Explorer and Norton File Manager after it has been installed. It also integrates with several Web Browsers, including Netscape, MS Internet Explorer, and Air Mosaic. This means that more files can be viewed within the browser itself than without QuickView Plus!.

In Norton File Manager, the QuickView Plus! viewers can be accessed in two different ways. One is by clicking on the icon discussed above called Viewer Pane. Now the QuickView Plus! viewers are utilized instead of what comes in NT 4.0 beta 2. In addition, by right clicking on a particular file and selecting QuickView, QuickView Plus! is called upon. I think it should have been changed to actually read QuickView Plus, but since it works as I want it too, I decided this was no big deal.

In summary, I believe that both Symantec NT Tools 1.0 and Inso's QuickView Plus! should be given serious consideration by any NT user. Both are reasonably priced and fill voids in NT.

Linda Rosenbaum lives and works in a suburb of New York City. She is an assistant controller at the World Headquarters for a large global manufacturing company. She has two young children and a husband whose full time job is to take care of the kids. When not working, Linda can be found on a variety of online services and the Internet reading and writing about her experiences with NT, networking, and multimedia. She maintains a home network of four systems using a combination of NT and Windows 95. Linda is the NT Editor for WindoWatch and can be reached via Email at either lindar@cyburban.com or 71154.2622@compuserve.com.

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Junk Mail
Copyright 1996 by Peter Neuendorffer

I got a junk email from my friend, - the entrpreneur Alice.   She has started a new business: annoying advertisements. Her pitch reads:

 "Hello, out there in Internetland! Have you asked yourself, 'How can I make a PILE of MONEY with no effort?'   If you are one of the LUCKY FEW who gets this message, then I know you are one of those people. Why work hard on a project when you can develop Upside Down Marketing and give them next to nothing for lots of something.
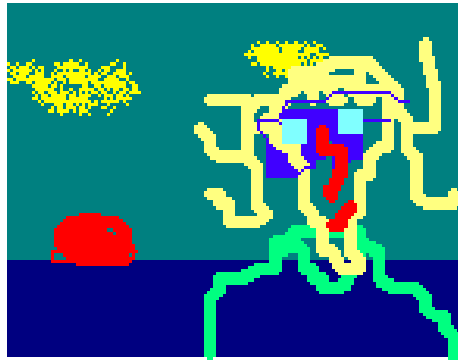
You may ask yourself, "What is upside down marketing?" This is a pyramid by a different name, with only one level, - your own!

Simply say to yourself, how can I provide some stupid information and then charge people for it?" Thirty seconds of work can do it all.

My patented upside-down chart allows you to maximize income for minimal effort. Unlike credit cards, which have a habit of wanting to be paid back, my system is fool-proof and absolutely guarenteed for the life of this email.

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We will spice up your ad with technical babble, such as multi-layered productivity or ergonomically encapsulated.

If you are still reading, you are ready to roll. Send out 2,000 stupid advertisements to 2,000 strangers, and just wait for the MONEY to roll in as thousands buy your "STUPID" product - that has taken you THIRTY SECONDS to produce.

Do not ask them to send along the ad. That would be illegal. After all, you are the one getting the money.

We will email your advertisement to a tightly focused demographic group of people who are most likely to fall for your pitch.

With the thirty second principle, you can be a drain on the Internet to people you don't even know, with little effort on your part.

Join the junk email REVOLUTION, and see for yourself the power of macro marketing. The sky's the limit."

Peter Neuendorffer is the creator of my friend Alice and her many adventures and pronouncements. He is also a Windows programmer and a regular *WindoWatch* contributer. His homepage can be seen at http://www.users.channel1.com/petern

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The World of HTML
Copyright 1996 by Gregg Hommel

HTML? Excuse me, but where did you learn to spell?

Actually, it isn't a spelling mistake. Some of you may know what it is, while others may think I can't spell. Put simply, HTML is the language of the World Wide Web. Many mistakenly refer to that as the Internet, but it isn't, at least, not entirely. The World Wide Web (WWW) is but a part of the whole entity called the Internet, and HTML is it's main language.

In truth, HTML is an anacronym. It stands for HyperText Markup Language, and it is a series of *tags* used to tell WWW servers how to translate text within those tags into a displayable page for the Web.

This will be a new section of *WindoWatch* Magazine, and it will be devoted to things HTML. But even that is too narrow a description, as we will cover reviews of various browsers, and how they display the various versions of HTML, from the basic 1.0 to the current *spec* version 3.2, including proprietary extensions to the language.

We'll look at HTML Editors, known also as Authoring Tools, or software programs from commercial versions available at some cost to the user, to shareware and freeware versions available at almost no cost, via the Web and the Internet.

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We'll cover Java, JavaScript, ActiveX controls, using Visual Basic scripts on the Web, and anything else that impinges on the Web, and it's language, HTML. But mostly, we'll look at HTML... writing simple and fancier Web pages, what the *tags* are, and how to use them, basic design concepts behind Web pages, and so on.

This section of *WindoWatch* is in it's formative stages. Right now, I am an editor with nothing much to edit. Before long, we hope to have both regular, and guest columnists writing in this section, including myself, -whenever there is no one better to fill the pages. There are many people already quite good at writing HTML, but not all of them approach it from the same point of view. Some are quite adept at manipulating graphics and animations for inclusion on a Web page. Others like me, can't draw a straight line if their lives depended on it, but *can* code a half decent looking Web page, in spite of the drawing handicap.

We are going to use as broad a brush stroke as possible when looking at HTML here. Animation and sound are, strictly speaking, not HTML, but can be included on a Web page. We'll try to get someone to tell us the tricks of the trade in creating animations, and sound files for the Web.

The Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 beta, and the Netscape Navigator 3.0 have both opened the World Wide Web to some rather amazing possibilities when it comes to innovative features. We'll try to discuss these, including, if possible, various plug-ins for both browsers, and what they can do for you when cruising the Web, or designing a Web page.

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There is one aspect of this section, where I would like your assistance. Currently, on the Web, there are countless excellent sites to visit. And not all of them are big, commercial sites. Many of them are sites that you, or a friend have created. One thing about HTML... it is an equalizer. Anyone can write in the language, without a great deal of difficulty, and publish a spectacular Web site.

If you have a good Web site, or know of one, preferably written by a non-commercial author, let us know. We'll publish a list of sites worth looking at, and if possible, try to convince the author to write a guest spot here, telling about the creation of the site; the tools used, the tricks developed, and the work that went into it. We can learn best from the experience of these people, and broaden our horizons through them.

We may even have our own "Letters to the Editor" section here, where you can ask questions of others about a sticky problem you may have in HTML coding, or can simply tell us about the work you have done, and what your future plans are for your site.

To start us off, we'll use my site as our first "Pick". Not that it is anything special, but since I wrote the code, at the least, I can answer questions about it, and can write a column for this issue on the creation of the current version, as an example of what we hope to offer you in future issues.

So, as a start, this is the URL for my site...

http://www.ionline.net/~gregghom

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It is a framed page, but with provision for frame disabled browsers, too. If you get a chance, head off to it, and see what it looks like. Then read about the creation of it, and, if you feel like it, email me your criticisms, comments, or, best of all, praise.

But one thing to remember... HTML can be a very interactive language on the Web, and that is what we hope to achieve in this section of *WindoWatch*.. interactivity with you, the reader, your Web sites, and coding techniques.

Gregg Hommel: Editor
The *WindoWatch* World of HTML

(Continued from Editor's Soapbox)
So, let's get real and not try to re-invent the wheel. There is plenty of existing, albeit, some notably bad, international agreements and accepted practice already in place.

The Internet is not an island but part of an existing world community presently doing business in a semi-orderly way. Clichés and slogans don't do much and name calling and button pushing do even less. Let's begin to frame a public and rational debate or shame on us...all of us!
lbl

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Producing an Idea
Copyright 1996 by Peter Neuendorffer

Having written several articles about good design in computer pro-gramming, I am at a loss as to what to write next. Then it occurred to me that a large part of the creative process is often assumed but rarely described. Skimping on any one of the creative components can lead to a muddied and unusable piece of software.

We see a video of a musical artist or band on cable, and assume that somehow it has been manufactured full blown, when actually, many long hours of hard work have gone into simply writing the tune. We assume the musical artists are overnight sensations, when actually any successful artist goes through years of unrecognized toil, travel, and sometimes poverty.

What makes a creation a success? If I knew this, perhaps I would be more successful with my shareware programs. I'm told that product, by itself, is not enough, and that one must have marketing. The pro-duct must meet a need, and the customer must feel that the product is the best one for them.

Critical success is nice, but does not necessarily lead to financial success. One of my programs was favorably reviewed in the Boston Globe. However the sales generated were negligible. The one corporate client who could have most benefited from the software was totally uninterested.

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Recognition of the company behind a product is certainly helpful. Large corporations devote much time and effort to produce a corporate image, re-enforced in everything from stationary to signs over doors. The Apple Corp's apple logo is a case in point, with very specific standards for name recognition set down in writing.

Borland International came out with a new computer programming language, Delphi. There was some talk among analysts, however, that people should stick with Microsoft's Visual Basic, simply because it is from Microsoft the industry leader.

Writing a program:

Problem Definition, Design, Implementation, Debugging, Testing.

Aside from success, there is a part of the creative process that is hard to define. The over used light bulb going off in one's head and crystallizing an idea for a subject which may have been brewing for months or even years! Not exactly lightening striking but rather letting a notion sit on the back burner until the frame has flesh on it. For me, I find myself staring into space in coffee shops trying to answer the single question "How can I implement this idea in a unique and amusing way?" Yes, amusing. I feel if a program is to be of maximum use, it must be fun to use. It must play itself out like a musical composition, in that it's features are offshoots of a single image. An image not unlike the corporate logo.

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Problem Definition

The question is not so much how am I to do something, as is what am I going to do. The question is, quoting Alice in Wonderland, "who is to be master you or the word." Simply because a problem lends itself well to computing, in my opinion, does not mean it is worth implementing. Form follows function. Function should not be a slave to stylish form. With the new rapid application development tools such as Visual C++, Visual Basic, or Delphi, one can easily create a labyrinth of windows and a kaleidoscope of features. One must keep in mind that the user is trying to get something done.

Design

I think that as in musical production, software production is a mixture of intuition, style, and most importantly, substance. Many conventions are followed in musical production that identifies the music with a style, such as alternative or heavy metal. It is important in design to present a form that is familiar to the user. Much of Windows enforces this, if not to the degree that the Apple does. But splashes of color, use of double click and mouse drag over can add a bit of amusement to an otherwise drab work.

In Visual Windows programs it is possible to design the screen as an art project - where what you see is what you get. But this design space can become cluttered with hidden controls, and it is important to name controls with meaningful names so they may be sorted out both during coding and testing.

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Implementation

The actual coding of the program may be helped along by setting up the various areas first (stubbing). Then the code is written to flesh out the various events. Like the script in a movie, directions go from the general to the specific.

Computer code is usually in an English-like form with a small vocabulary of reserved words, a library of tasks -procedures and functions - and a user-supplied (the programmer) data dictionary. The programmer must decide what types of data is put into the program (input), how it is processed, and what results follow (output). This input-processing-cycle applies not only to the overall program, but to the smallest task it performs. A set of housekeeping procedures may be written by the programmer, augmenting the language's predefined library.

If during a coding session, coding becomes convoluted with many cross-references and special fix-it variables, it is a good sign that a module or routine's design is flawed. This is called spaghetti code. The law of parsimony says that the simplest solution is probably the right one. Mr. Cray, the designer of the supercomputer, was noted for saying "If I can't understand it, it probably isn't any good."

Debugging

Debugging involves the minute-to-minute correction of spelling errors that prevents the compiler from recognizing the various data, to correcting a perplexing problem where the program performs according to the rules, but does not give the expected output. Trying various test

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data may elucidate the logical error, as well as tracing or checking the value of a variable over it's lifetime. Often, only an inspirational Eureka experience can uncover the problem.

As one becomes more experienced, a list of errors can be kept in mind. For example, if a counter used to count the number of times something is done in a loop is of a too-small data type, it can produce unintended results. Using the same counter in a double loop is a sure-fire freeze bug, hanging the entire machine.

Testing

Testing is an important part of programming, like a dress rehearsal where we would prefer things to go wrong, rather than during the public release performance. Presenting the choices available to the user in an easy-to-follow manner gets a big boost from presenting the work in progress to a beta tester, who may have unexpected suggest-ions. It is an axiom that errors most often crop up during such demonstrations. Since the programmer wants everything to work just fine, it does so for them, although not always for others.

Sometimes most problems come from that which is not wanted. If a certain option must be disabled under certain conditions, care must be taken that this button is in fact disabled. Because there can be many combinations and data possibilities involving controls, the finished program should be tested under as many possible scenarios as possible.

One of the biggest joys of programming is knowing, or at least hoping, that the work in writing the program has produced something that

may automate or make easier tasks for unknown other people who will not have to go through the programming task, and can simply use the software. It is easy for the corporate coder or the shareware sculptor to become bitter: "One more time and out with the garbage, this time, everything's coming up roses this time for me. " (Jule Stein, from Gypsy). But far from being a dull undertaking, computer programming is a highly creative process. If is_good then it_ok is true.

Peter Neuendorffer is a Windows programmer, the creator of Alice and a regular WindoWatch contributor. He is the author Peter's Many Things a very fine Personal Information Manager. He can be reached at petern@channel1.com

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POWERPOINT V7.0
Copyright 1996 by Frank McGowan

As I begin this final installment in the Microsoft Office Professional 95 series, I am struck by the sense of deja vu that hangs over me. But in fact, it's not really deja vu, because I really have had this experience before, at least three times in the recent past; I'm not just imagining it!

Once again, the similarities between PowerPoint version 7 and its immediate predecessor far outweigh the differences, at least at the user interface level, as has been the case with the other Office Pro applications.

The menu bar is virtually unchanged, though there are some subtle modifications once you open a menu. And there have been some welcome additions, including the AutoCorrect feature in the Tools menu, and others to be discussed later. But the overall sense is that Microsoft has again abided by the rule of not fixing what isn't broken.

Not that some features haven't been improved. Notable are:

- Auto-layout choices now number 24, up from the 21 in version 4.0. The newcomers include Large Object, Text & Media Clip, and the flipside[*] , Media Clip & Text

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[*] How many of you are old enough to remember that this term applies to the B side of an audio disk, pre-CD days?

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- **A new toolbar, Animation Effects, has been put in for faster access to presentation effects**

- **The Format Painter is available as a button on the standard tool-bar, a la Word (and functions in the same manner)**

- **New buttons to increase and decrease paragraph spacing are avail-able on the Formatting toolbar, so you quickly align text vertically. A very nice feature!**

The Microsoft Network option in Help lets you reach various forums on MSN where you can get answers to specific questions you might have. (I wonder if there's a *Katie Couric* forum?)

The File menu includes a Send command, so you can email your presentation to someone at a remote site. There's also an Add Routing Slip option that lets you send it to several recipients, one after the other in the order specified. That way, they can review the present-ation, add their comments, and pass it on to the next person. When all have finished reading and commenting, the last one sends it back to you so you can consider their comments and take the appropriate action (such as ignoring the criticisms and doing it the way you wanted to in the first place!). These aren't new in the '95 version, but they certainly are worth mentioning.

The Tools menu once again proved fertile ground for neat little features. However, I was surprised to see that the Autosave feature had not been implemented. This is such an important safety device it would seem almost mandatory, but apparently not when it comes to PowerPoint. I'd certainly lobby for this to be made standard in the very near future.

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The AutoCorrect tool is a real winner. Be aware that it now exists in PowerPoint and put it to good use. I find it especially useful for expanding abbreviations, such as product names or proper names. So if I want to put in something like "Analog Equipment Corporation" in several places, I would created an AutoCorrect entry such as AEC and let PowerPoint spell it out for me. Sure saves a lot of typing and potential typo's. AutoCorrect isn't just for fixing simple typographical errors.

The Tools menu also contains the Interactive Settings option, new in version 7. This nifty gadget lets you branch out of your presentation to other slides, or even other applications, to bring in data that will support the point you're making. So if you're trying to get across the notion that opening a Tall Man's shop in Kenya would be a profitable venture, you can quickly back that up by jumping out to a chart that shows the number of people over 6-foot-6 in that part of the world. Too bad Henny Youngman's brother-in-law didn't have this when he decided to open his Tall Man's shop in Tokyo.

Format Painter is another spiffy feature carried across from Word. Rather than having to bother with the Format menu, you just select the text that has the desired formatting, click (or double-click) the little paintbrush icon on the toolbar, then drag across the text you want formatted. Presto, change-o! The format goes into effect. The difference between single and double-clicking is that single clicking lets you use the Format Painter only once, while double-clicking lets you use it as many times as you want. Then to turn it off, you just click the paintbrush icon again. Like many of the other toolbar buttons, it's a toggle switch.

The Format menu has a Change Case option, but I find it's easier to use the Shift-F3 combination, again something that has worked in

Word for quite a long while. Just click in the word you want to change, hold down the Shift key and press the F3 function key. Pressing it three times takes you through all three permutations: all caps, initial cap, or all lowercase.

The Format toolbar now includes buttons for Shadow and Text Color, besides the usual Bold, Italics, and Underline buttons. Still, for the fancy effects, you have to go to the Format menu, and select Font. The dialog box has a lot more flexibility, but it does take a little longer.

The Help feature has been modified, most notably by the inclusion of the Answer Wizard, which lets you frame your question in your own words, rather than working your way through the Search for Help on, Show Topics method. So if you want to know how to modify a bullet font, you can put the question to the Answer Wizard directly: How do I change bullet fonts?

Such nice touches are indicative of the ways in which PowerPoint has been enhanced in its '95 incarnation. There's a richness to it that's very satisfying to experienced users, but it's not so complex as to be intimidating to the neophyte. Power and simplicity. Nice combination.

Frank McGowan completes his Office series with this last article. He is presently exploring the Corel Suite and will begin his report to us next issue. Frank is a teacher and computer consultant and a regular contributor to WindoWatch.

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There's a new Winsock for 32bit software on the scene. Wsock32
v 2.01 is shareware and very cheap to register, only $20. Wsock32
from Eric Friedrich does everything it is supposed to do. It is also a
lead pipe cinch to install and configure!

Eric's-WSOCK32.DLL translates a 16bit WINSOCK.DLL to a 32bit
address space. The standard WINSOCK.DLL which comes from
your internet service provider is in all likelihood Trumpet. Trumpet
(winsock.dll) is copied to your main Windows directory and tagged
read-only after the original file of the same name is given another file
extension.(i.e. Winsock.Old) The two files included in the package are
copied to the Windows\system directory and are also tagged as read-
only. A quick check on your hard drive will ferret out other
Winsock.dll and WSock32.dll files for renaming so that they will not
be automatically loaded into memory. After a re-boot, you're ready to
get on line!

I ran every piece of 32bit Internet software I regularly use and found
not a single bug. I have been using Wsock32 since mid-July and am
still very pleased and impressed with it. In fact I used Friedrich's
software for several; weeks before I decided to review the product. In
the course of writing this piece I asked Eric a question or two:

LBL>For openers, what was it that motivated you to develop
Wsock32?

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EF>I simply wanted to be able to run 32bit software on top of AOL's
    TCP/IP stack.

LBL>How widely is Wsock32 used?
EF>   It is most commonly used on AOL, GNN and T-Online

LBL>Who is your targeted customer?
EF>   Everybody who has no technical possibility to configure the
      WIN95's built in stack and needs 32bit network access.

Eric has been involved with computers since 1987. First for a
computer company in Frankfurt and then as a freelance consultant in
software development. Since October 1993, he has been a freelance
consultant working as a systems programmer in software development
for BOG Koblenz at the GODICS/Opel project.

For product and update information of WSOCK32 connect to
  http://members.aol.com/friedv

For information: E-Mail: friedv@aol.com

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WindoWatch **has been publishing jokes, one-liners, computer nonsense, and Internet bantering from our very first issue onward. Others have produced their own versions of our practice and we thank them for the compliment. There is, however, a single unique site that takes the prize. Set your pointer to http://www.microsnot.com and start your day with a giggle! It is outrageous!**

Our offering this issue...some old and some new!

A New Internet Service!   Author Unknown

Upon returning from the Olympics I found this reply to my request for information about this "for real" service. I post it here without further comment for your edification. Names have been changed to protect the uninitiated.

July 24, 1996

OutBound, Inc. proudly offers a completely new option honoring the interest of a lifetime -- launching the cremated remains of you or a loved one into space.

In the fourth quarter of this year, a group of families and other surviving loved ones will gather near Vandenberg Air Force Base in California to witness the launch of the cremated remains of their honored dead into space. The lives of these pioneers, visionaries and

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dreamers will be celebrated on this historic OutBound Founders' Flight.

You may purchase the OutBound service now for a deceased loved one, or you may prearrange the service for yourself.*

The cost for our service is $4,800. All funds received to secure a reservation on the Founders' Flight are held in trust pending successful delivery of the OutBound service.

For those who are prearranging this service for themselves, several payment plans are available. If you have any questions, please call me at 1-800-000-0000. I look forward to your call and hope to learn more about your interest in our project.

We have literature describing our service along with a 3 1/2 minute video tape entitled A Step Into The Universe available for your review. If you wish to receive this information, please send your name and mail address to my attention.

Again, thank you for letting us know of your interest in OutBound.

With best regards,

John E. Doe
Vice President, Distribution

* Available capacity on the 1996 Founders' Flight is limited to ten additional individuals as of the date of this correspondence.

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It Might Be a Mainframe if:
by Marcel van Kervinck

- **If you could kill someone by tipping it over on them, - it might be a mainframe.**

- **If the only mouse it has is the one living inside it, - it might be a mainframe.**

- **If you need earth moving equipment to relocate it, it might be a mainframe. (thanks to Tor Sjowall)**

- **If you've ever lost an oscilloscope inside of it, it might be a mainframe. (thanks to Tim Shoppa)**

- **If it's big enough to be used as an apartment, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it has ever had a card-punch designed for it, - it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it weighs more than an RV, - it might be a mainframe.**

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- **If lights in the neighborhood dim when it's powered up, - it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it arrived in its own moving van, -it might be a mainframe.**

- **If its disk platters are big enough to cook pizzas on, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If Michael Jordan would need his entire annual salary to buy one, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If keeping all of the manuals together creates a fire hazard, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it's so large that a dropped pen will slowly orbit it, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it's ever been mistaken for a refrigerator, (or the disk drive for a washing machine), it might be a mainframe.**

- **If anyone has ever frozen to death in the room where it's kept, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it has a power supply that's bigger than your car, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If it has its own postal code, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If the operators considered the addition of COBOL to be an upgrade, it might be a mainframe.**

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- **If it was designed before you were born, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If its main power cable is thicker than your neck, it might be a mainframe.**

- **If the designers have since died from old age, it might be a mainframe.**

On Corporate Culture:

The Americans and the Japanese decided to engage in a competitive boat race. Both teams practiced hard and long to reach their peak performance. On the big day they felt ready.

The Japanese won by a mile.

Afterward, the American team was discouraged by the loss. Morale sagged. Corporate management decided that the reason for the crushing defeat had to be found, so a consulting firm was hired to investigate the problem and recommend corrective action.

The consultant's finding: The Japanese team had eight people rowing and one person steering; the American team had one person rowing and eight people steering.

After a year of study and millions spent analyzing the problem, the consultant firm concluded that too many people were steering and not

enough were rowing on the American team. So as race day neared again the following year, the American team's management structure was completely reorganized. The new structure: four steering managers, three area steering managers, and a new performance review system for the person rowing the boat to provide work incentive.

That next year, the Japanese won by TWO miles!

Humiliated, the American corporation laid off the rower for poor performance and gave the managers a bonus for discovering the problem.

It's a Free World

Has anyone heard of cyber aids?

You get it from screwing around with the wrong computer.

## You're Addicted to the Net If:

The Top 10 Signs

10. You wake up at 3 am to go to the bathroom and stop to check your E-mail on the way back to bed.

9. You get a tattoo that reads "This body best viewed with Netscape Navigator 2 or higher"

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8. **You name your children Eudora, Mozilla and Dotcom.**

7. **You turn off your modem and get this awful empty feeling, like you just pulled the plug on a loved one.**

6. **You spend half of the plane trip with your laptop on your lap...and your child in the overhead compartment.**

5. **You decide to stay in college for an additional year or two, just for the free Internet access.**

4. **You laugh at people with 2400-baud modems.**

3. **You start using smiles in your snail mail.**

2. **The last girl/guy you picked up was a JPEG.**

and the #1 sign that you're addicted to the Inet

Your hard drive crashes. You haven't logged in for two hours. You start to twitch. You pick up the phone and manually dial your ISP's access number. You try to hum to communicate with the modem. And......*YOU SUCCEED!*

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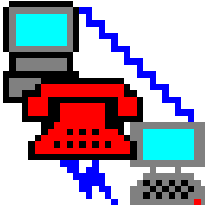
Reflections of a ModemJunkie

Copyright 1996 by *Leonard Grossman*

I really don't know if it's just the time of year, but it's happening again. There are actually moments when I think I have been freed of this addiction. Would you believe, I went ten days without touching a keyboard? Granted, I was in New Mexico on vacation. But I had taken my Sharp Wizard along in case I needed a quick fix and then never touched it... didn't even unpacked its modem!

Since I've been back, my time on line has definitely declined. I check my mail, peek at a couple of newsgroups. But some days I don't even look at the Web. What could be happening? In part it may be the Olympics. I was also reading a great book (<u>Snow Falling on Cedars</u>; by David Gunderson). Maybe, too, it's the cumbersome cast on my broken leg. There is no way to sit comfortably at the computer.

Maybe also its is the memory of the majesty of the mountains, the wonder of the colors, the fresh air, the exhilaration and the shared

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time spent with my wife instead of up here alone in my study.

But maybe it's also something else. As everyone gets online, maybe the uniqueness is wearing off. And as the Internet becomes more and more a commercial, multimedia, infotainment extravaganza, perhaps it is really not as interesting or as useful.

On the other hand it is becoming ubiquitous. In spite of the fact that only a small percentage of the population is online and that many of those who are haven't the slightest idea how to get their AOL software to work or to make use of it, it seems impossible to find a bill board or a television ad without the mandatory http://...... line at the bottom. If I could only get that Spinal Tap IBM Olympic promo out of my mind.

And although I never touched a keyboard in New Mexico, I discovered that virtually every business person I met either had a web page, or a connection to one (someone else listing his product or service) or intended to do so in the immediate future. This ranged from a company providing specialized telephone systems for prisons to Native American artists.

Of course, many of the pages could be useful. Many companies are being talked into including the latest, flashiest graphics and other new features on their pages. What are they paying for this flash and why?

When I want some information, I really don't want to spend online time downloading swirling globes, flashing marquees and figuring out how to manipulate frames. There are appropriate sites for such flash

and bombast! But as the judge said to me when criticizing my closing argument in a mock trial many years ago, "Some day you may have a case worthy of that level of histrionics, but I doubt it."

The other day I found a notice that the once popular MPEG Movie Archive site had been closed permanently. It is in brilliant color with blinking type and took more than a few seconds to load. What was the point?   If you are going to close a site, don't make the surfer wait forever for the information. The same applies to price lists, product catalogs and so much more.

One of my sets of pages is devoted to images of stained glass windows. Of necessity, it includes a large number of images. But, even there, I have reduced the size of the images, and even separated the site into a number of pages to make viewing easier. For those interested, I have made many of the images available in higher resolution and larger size files, but I have given the viewer the choice. (By the way, you may enjoy the site: * <http://www.mcs.net/~grossman/gropper.htm>)

From the 50's to the 90's we became a nation of couch potatoes. The attempt seems now to turn us into mouse potatoes. I hope it doesn't happen. The computer is essentially a solitary activity. This is an advantage as well as a disadvantage. It provides time out, separation, and individual possibility. But there is also need for flesh and blood community.

If you think the battle for the channel remote is vicious now, imagine what will happen when multimedia computers with wall size flat panel screens dominate our living rooms. With fifty million pages already

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available, who will control the mouse? But that is a nightmare for the future.

Oddly, because of the time I spend online, I find that when I choose to watch TV. I enjoy it more. It is a chosen activity rather than a habit. And often it is a shared experience, which computing will never be.

Now... Where will I stay when I go back to the mountains? There is that Taos website. Let me check their recommendations...

Leonard Grossman in an attorney who works for the government. He is a Windo-Watch regular and has been contributing "Reflections" for some time. Leonard's home page was chosen as a "Best o' comp.infosystems.www.announce" site during April 1996. He is also president of his local user group. Comments can be sent to grossman@mcs.com or leonard.grossman@syslink.mcs.com

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A Modest Proposal:

A Cooperative Venture!

Some of us in the Ilink Browser Conference feel strongly that it is important that Internet users be protected from the unauthorized collection of information about themselves and their computer equipment while visiting Web sites on the Internet.

On smaller sites at least, much of the information which is gathered is for the use of site owners as most Web site operators are interested in the numbers of visitors and the kinds of material they read. For most of us that data in neither reproduced or sold to others.

Nonetheless there is a long standing tradition within the marketing and sales industry where the sale of lists is widespread. Some of us have already noted an increase in unsolicited mail and offers of products and services. Indeed, both the management of AOL and CompuServe have taken steps to protect their subscribers from the deluge of unsolicited email offers. Additionally there is a generalized recommendation that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) be urged to put in place available software to limit the effect of intrusive Email.

What we are proposing is a completely voluntary committment to do the following:

To inform visitors of the kind of information gathered and its proposed use.

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To promise that all information gathered will not be disseminated to others.

To provide a graphic or logo for participating sites to display.

To urge the major browser and news group developers to include a switch to make crucial system files, like the registry, hidden from Web site software.

To persuade ISP administrators, who provide the data collection software to their web page customers to keep that data private and to add software tools to curtail random spamming of their customers.

In the tradition of the Internet there will be no charge to participating sites save an announcement on their site that they subscribe to the MolePatrol goals and guidelines and subscribe to respect and protect the privacy of Internet users who visit their site.

If this proposal is one that interests you, we urge your participation to help plan and launch this venture. To join the © MolePatrol send the following information to editor@windowatch.com

Name
Email
URL
What info is automatically picked up from visitors and how is it used?
How would you like to help?
Other info:

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So What about Windows 3.1?

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It was just a little more than one year ago when Windows95 became available - amidst glowing reviews and rosy predictions that it would take the world by storm. Truth is, it didn't happen.

Microsoft expected corporations, a number of whom had been beta test sites for '95, to lead the buying spree. Some did buy, but more did not. Windows 95's heavy demands for hardware and the need for familiarization training were too high a price for a modest gain in capabilities. And while many home users did upgrade, the bulk of Win95's sales came from its pre-installation on virtually every new system sold since late 1995. For many home users - just as for the big corporations - Win95 demanded too much hardware for too little perceived gain.

While Microsoft touted Win95 as requiring a 386DX, 4 mb of RAM, and 40mb of hard drive space, power users quickly found that running 32bit applications - the only true potential gain of upgrading - more typically meant a fast 486 or Pentium, 16mb of RAM, and upwards of 150-300mb of hard disk space. With 16 mb of RAM selling for $500, a new 1 gig hard drive going for $350, and a processor upgrade in the $150-250 range, many users were faced with

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nearly $1,000 in *hardware* upgrades to make Win95 a useful operating system. Few followed this path. Those who could afford to do so got brand new systems, with 95 pre-installed; the remainder stayed with Windows 3.1, just as the big companies did.

Those millions of users did, however, feel abandoned. Almost all the newest software being released was designed for 95, that which wasn't - ProComm 3.0, for example - was derided. Magazines, including *WindoWatch*, wrote article after article about 95 or even NT, with few words to spare for the "old Windows".

It was bitterly ironic: if 95's hardware demands were out of reach, NT's were even less realistic. But, as Microsoft prepared to release NT 4.0, the magazines talked more and more of NT as the "standard desktop", relegating Win95 to the least demanding of home users. The cries of those still using Win 3.1 became louder and more anguished...

We hear you. But the rationale for remaining with 3.1 is now fading fast, folks. 16 mb of RAM is now well under $200, down about 60% in price in one year. While last year $339 would buy a 1.2 GB hard drive, today that same money will buy a 2.559 GB drive (the 1.2 gig is about $190). In fact, brand new 16mb Pentium systems, capable of running NT 4.0 as well as Win95, are available for under $1,500. While money still doesn't grow on trees, the cost of upgrading is becoming a less convincing argument every day.

The past year has shown that, while not the panacea that Microsoft may have wanted us to think it was, Windows95 is generally a superb product, far more stable and far more capable than Windows 3.1 could ever hope to be. Even those "necessary" DOS games work with

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it. And, with NT 4.0 now in the stores as 95's "big brother", the prospects for new 16bit Windows software development are fading fast.

Progress is painful ... and expensive. And the speed with which progress occurs in the computer hardware and software industries is, frankly, mind-boggling. The thought of scrapping what had been an expensive system when purchased and buying a whole new system - just to keep up- hurts! But, just as the systems keep getting more powerful, they are also getting less and less expensive[*] . In terms of "bang for the buck", computer hardware has never been less expensive.

Many years ago, I had invested much of my money in a beautiful Apple][+ system. It was, in my opinion, the best available with a full 128k of RAM and 16 color graphics. But times changed and I had to decide whether I wanted to change with them or be left behind. Others went through the same process with their TRS-80s and Commodore 64s. Each of us made the choice between staying with a familiar, and largely paid-for, system - with no future prospects and diminishing support - or making a new investment for the inevitable which offered more capability and a growing, rather than declining, variety of tools. Painful and expensive!

The choice facing Windows 3.1 users today may be no less painful than that which we faced in the past. However the options they have

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[*] Today I can buy a 200mHz Pentium Pro, with 17" monitor, 3gb Hard Drive, and 8x CD-ROM for less than my 486-33, 14" monitor, 240mb drive -and *no* CD-ROM- cost a few years back!

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are more plentiful and considerably less expensive. The short-term solution of upgrading an older system to be Win95 capable usually runs less than $500; the long-term solution of a new Pentium system runs from $1,500 to $2,500 currently. That's still scarce dollars but the alternative must be faced, folks: Windows 3.1 is on its deathbed! And, while Microsoft hasn't unplugged the life support as yet, it's only a matter of time. As those corporate users who didn't go with 95 switch over to NT 4.0, the last remnants of industry concern about 3.1 and its users will rapidly fade away.

Like other publications, *WindoWatch* will have to keep its focus on that which most affects its audience. And, increasingly so, that will <u>not</u> be on Windows 3.1...

Paul Kinnaly is a Management Analyst for the Veterans Administration. He is the author of many articles for WindoWatch and serves on its Editorial Board. He has been a beta tester for Microsoft, a host for several Ilink conferences and has the responsibility for the WindoWatch home page.

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Why '95? Why Not!
Copyright 1996 by Vlad Balak

G'day! I 'm from the land down under (Australia) and I'm gonna' write a little article on why I prefer Windows for Workgroups to Windows95.

Streuth, hold on a tic, - that pesky kangaroo is eating my veggie garden again.

Where's my boomerang? I'll give him a lump he'll never forget.

Oooops, sorry Rover. Hey, don't look at me like that! At least it matches the one on the other side of your head from the other day.

Ahhh that's better. That flea bitten dingo is chasing him all the way to the black stump.

Okay. The neigbourhood squabble is over now and back to my views on WFW. Before I continue, I must warn you, we are really quite advanced over here and I hope you don't get too jealous. After all, here I am sitting in utter bliss at a powerful 386SX25, 4 megs of ram, 200 meg hard drive and a powerful 4800 internal modem. And get this! Even the printer is a 24 pin. Cool ay? Well, it won't be long before you guys get this type of gear too. He...He...He...

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Over the last few years (damm that aging process), I've played around with Windows till the wee hours and even ran a small BBS through Procomm for Windows. The BBS software is called GHOST and replaced the original host bought out by Procomm. WFW handled it well, even doing automatic virus scanning of new uploads by dropping to DOS while the users were still on line without loss of speed and even allowing DOS door games to be played by users. The benefit it gave me was access through the modem and doorways to my computer, where I used XTGold, a memory hungry programme. This, I thought, was the Bee's Knees and does show that WFW is capable of a fairly heavy work load. When users were online, I was working in the background, doing my own thing.

Then came along the dreaded Windows95 with everyone raving about it. Well, I tried it four times and deleted it four times, which is an experience in itself. Anyone who has tried to delete it will know exactly what I'm talking about and even the experts just format the disk. Who cares about other valuable information which could be hidden there. Now, unless something great happens in the near future, I'm into WFW and staying there.

My main argument against Windows95 is that it completely takes over your hard drive! Okay, they say it is great for people to use because the computer boots up and bingo, you have access to everything you want. With WFW you have to type in "win" ...sob ...sob ...sob, - a bit hard to do. But this is only a platform for people to start exploring how hard drive are organized. All you have to do is to add "win" at the end of your autoexec.bat and it will start up automatically anyway.

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WFW takes up relatively little of your hard drive space and does it in two directories. It is very easy to delete and reinstall, and now, since the gig drives are so cheap, you can ARJ, ZIP, etc. your windows and keep it in another directory. If the system crashes just replace with your saved backup.

Exploring your computer can be interesting and rewarding. Before you know it, you will be able to do many things you previously thought impossible saving on expensive service calls when something goes wrong.

Personally, I have deleted, reinstalled programmes and formatted the hard-drives so many times, that the number would surpass the number of hairs on my body, so who needs technicians now?

This is my personal view that many will not share with me, but isn't freedom of speech great!

Okay. better go now, that tongue poking goanna is trying to break into the chook pen and he hasn't got sightseeing in mind.

Editor's Note : Since writing this piece, Vlad decided to install Win95 again mainly for the reliability and ease of use of its Internet interface. In the future, Vlad will be writing "guest" articles about his harrowing experiences with Win95 from the point of view of someone who loved WFWG 3.11. Although he currently is running Win95, the story is not yet over, as he is still having some problems with '95. Vlad is a self taught computer user having setup and managed his own BBS for a number of years. With his wife, he lives in Brisbane and is regional manager of a saw milling company.

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The Evolution of a Windows Hater
Copyright 1996 by Jon Helis

My first exposure to Windows was in 1991 when I got my first MS-DOS based computer, a 386SX 20 mhz clone with two megabytes of RAM. This machine was *loaded* with Windows 3.0 and DOS 5.0, a teeny bit less advanced than the Pentium I have now, but a big leap beyond the Commodore 128 I had been using.

Windows 3.0 running on this small machine, to put it mildly, dragged! If the applications software permited it, I frequently exited to DOS and ran it in a window. Even programs designed to run under Windows were slow. This slowness told me why many people call this new operating environment *Windoze* . Unfortunately, it frequently crashed or locked up, requiring me to reboot the computer.

Additionally, the PFS Windoworks word processor frequently failed to print full documents on the first try. These problems motivated my switch to Wordperfect for DOS, avoiding Windows altogether. As a result of all of this, I was turned off by Windows and decided not to use it from then on.

As time went on, there were more and more programs that would only run under Windows. Being very un-fond of Windows, I found this trend of computer software becoming nothing more than "point and click" very disturbing. I began asking "What happened to the C>

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prompt?'', ''cd\,'' etc. What was happening with computers? Was this change for the better or worse? For me, the Windows hater, it would be a long time before I found out firsthand.

In August 1995, amidst a media blitz, Windows 95 was released. I shrugged thinking ''Oh no! Not more Windows.'' Hearing that this new Windows required at least eight megabytes of RAM (with sixteen recommended), and a 100 mhz processor, and that many non-Microsoft programs were not working properly under it, helped to reenforce my dislike of Windows.

By 1996, my computer needed an upgrade to run the newer software and multimedia applications. In no time at all, via a motherboard transplant, my computer jumped from being a 386SX 20 mhz to being a 75 mhz Pentium with eight megabytes of RAM. It was now time to try some new applications.

One of the hot items in computing was the Internet's world wide web (WWW). My inquiries into this area determined that the major browser programs required Windows to operate. I obtained a copy of Windows 3.11 and installed it on my PC. The interface looked somewhat similar to the Windows 3.0 system I had seen earlier. Even so, I decided to give it a chance.

To get onto the Internet using my local ISP, I would be using the browser Netscape and for e-mail, Eudora, both provided by LinkNet. After installing them, I found a new icon in the Program Manager labeled Netscape Personal Edition. Clicking it on with the mouse brought up a selection of programs. With a few more clicks of the

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mouse, I was exploring the World Wide Web. Eudora was also just as easy. I was impressed, but I still wondered, could this simplicity be achieved without Windows? As a person not fond of Windows, I still remained skeptical.

An unusual request later came from an online friend who showed me a feature in Windows I found to be very useful. This friend was relocating to Florida, and was in search of a list of TV stations in that state airing the program Babylon 5.

Previously, I had downloaded such a list, so my friend was in luck. Using File Manager, I loaded this file into a window. Using the mouse, I marked a portion of the text containing the needed information and copied it onto the Clipboard, and then pasted it into an e-mail form on Eudora. This simple feature, was a dream come true for me. Maybe Windows wasn't so bad after all.

Since this event, I've become accomplished at using Windows 3.11. So far, with the Pentium 75 computer, I have yet to experience the lockup problems or slowing down I associated with Windows 3.0. The point and click interface has made locating and running my favorite programs very easy. I plan now to use Windows 3.11 regularly and to learn all there is to learn about it. As for Windows 95, maybe after I have saved up for and purchased that Sound Card and two gigabyte hard drive I've been dreaming about, but for now, Windows 3.11 has become a good friend.

Jon Helis is active in his local User Group, the Cajun Clickers and has mentored a number of new Windows users learning to get onto a BBS.

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All of these images are of Yosemite National Park. This month Herb is offering us a video... a 2.5 Meg *.avi file. It is available for download on the WindoWatch homepage. What we are including in the magazine are but a few of the beautiful pictures. Herb rarely names his work so I am taking the liberty.

Violet Colored Flowers   ©1996 Herb Chong

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Reflections   **©1996 Herb Chong**

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