Date: Thu, 18 Jul 1996 18:13:00 -0700
From: Rick Schell <rick@netscape.com>
Reply-To: rick@netscape.com
Organization: Netscape Communications Corporation
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Paul Maritz <paulma@microsoft.com>
Subject: Re: Request for OS Information

As sent

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Paul Maritz wrote:
>
> Be happy to discuss, however this is little hard to figure out with
> reference to specifics. Can you educate me?
>
> If you can send me phone number, I will ask for time to talk with you.
> thx
>
> >----------

Paul,

Netscape's concern, as expressed in my original note, is that we don't know the specifics.
Any undocumented or new OS features are, by definition, not known to us until Microsoft elects
to disclose them. Conversely, Microsoft can develop features in Windows that benefit its own
Internet client and server development groups, which have complete and early access to these
features.

I can only provide you specifics on a backward-looking basis relating to features that have
since been discovered or disclosed to us. What we are most concerned with, however, and where we
need your involvement, is timely disclosure of those features and APIs that are known only within
Microsoft.

Here are some examples from the past to help illustrate the issue:

By June 1995, we learned that Windows 95 would include the RNA phone book and dialer, and abandoned
plans to include our own dialer in our Win95 client. We repeatedly asked for the API set that
would allow us to make phone book entries. Microsoft did not provide these APIs until
October 1995, which caused us to miss most of the holiday selling season. However, these APIs were
used prior to that by Microsoft's Plus pack, available at the time of the Win95 launch.

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We also attempted to include support for configuring dialup networking .

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and using the RNA adapter
and Win95 TCP/IP stack. Your Premier Support group eventually helped us with installing the RNA
adapter and the TCP/IP stack, but not with dialup networking. They eventually told us, but only after
we had shipped our product in October. Again, this was included as a feature of the Plus pack.

In April of 1995, Tom Reardon told us that we would need to support the Microsoft Internet Shortcuts
API. Microsoft failed to provide us documentation for the API, and forced us to deduce the clipboard
format so that we could use Internet Shortcuts. We have to believe that this information was available
within Microsoft to the team that implemented Internet Shortcuts.

In September of 1995, Microsoft released NT Service Pack 3.0. We discovered new APIs in this release,
APIs that IIS took advantage of in its initial beta release that appeared less than 8 weeks later. These
APIs , specifically the AcepetEx API, provide HTTP servers additional performance. After we discovered
these APIs, it required us substantial redevelopment in order to use them, costing us schedule time that
clearly was not required of the Microsoft team. In addition, had we known of the existence of these APIs
at the time Microsoft's internal developers clearly did, we would have saved some wasted development time
aimed at improving performance that was obviated by the inclusion of these APIs in the operating system.

The 3.0 Service Pack also included support for a new concept, called fibers, which are an even lighter-weight
analog to threads. We certainly could have taken advantage of these when the Service Pack was shipped had
their existence been disclosed in a timely fashion to help improve server performance.

Inclusion of such features in the operating system is clearly beneficial to ISVs such as ourselves, and
makes it possible to develop superior products for Windows 95 and NT. Assuming that Microsoft is interested
in creating demand for its operating system products, it is in the interest of both companies for you to
disclose information regarding Windows and NT in a full and timely manner.

Once again, you can reach me at (415)937-2660 if you would like to discuss this further.

Regards,

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Rick Schell
Sr. VP, Product Development
Netscape Communications Corp.

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