

From: Ben Sivka  
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 1997 11:35 AM  
To: Bill Gates; John Ludwig; Charles Fitzgerald  
Cc: Aaron Contorer; Paul Mantz; Brad Silverberg  
Subject: RE: DirectX and Talisman Update (Java JDK 1.2 support)  
  
Categories: MMedia

To quote charles on JDK 1.2 support: "No fucking way!"

The Java community is having a hard time digesting JDK 1.1, and while it has important new features (like Beans), it still has that crappy AWT stuff, shitty printing, the list goes on and on. JDK 1.2 has JFC, which we're going to be pissing on at every opportunity.

This summer we're going to totally divorce Sun. Apple's announcement yesterday that they will encourage Rhapsody developers to write in Java and call native Rhapsody services was a mere shadow of what we're going to be encouraging developers to do.

We'll come out swinging with AFC, with our new Multi-Class File format (for packaging both native code as well as byte codes, saves lots of space), with Java language extensions (peteku/andersh are driving), with very easy-to-use support for calling Win32 DLLs (we demo'd a Petzold app written in Java, complete with message pump, windprocs, etc. —you had to look very close to see that it was Java), with classes for DirectX and DHTML, with Enterprise AFC classes (that's all I can remember off the top of my head) We're really juicing up our JIT compiler — peteku just checked in function inlining last night, and we've got a P5 instruction scheduler, too. Our latest VM beats all comers (Sun, Netscape, Symantec) in almost every single benchmark.

--bens

-----Original Message-----  
From: Bill Gates  
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 1997 11:21 AM  
To: John Ludwig  
Cc: Aaron Contorer; Ben Sivka  
Subject: RE: DirectX and Talisman Update

I would be very glad to talk about this. Christine - see if we can get a time to talk in the next 2-3 week setting aside an hour.

I did stick a few "barb" comments into that email about cross platform which I should have avoided but it's a key topic that has me worried.

The email exchange this morning with Charles Fitzgerald was very helpful to my thinking on this. I think supporting JDK 1.1 is fine and I am hard core about NOT supporting JDK 1.2. I really needed to understand where we were going to draw the line because I am so afraid of the slippery slope.

If you think we should support JDK 1.2 its ok but you will really have to explain why and where it stops.

Sivka  
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From: Ben Silvka  
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 1997 10:09 AM  
To: bsew@msn.com  
Subject: FW: billg

Fyi...

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Maritz  
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 1997 10:02 AM  
To: Ben Silvka  
Subject: RE: billg

We can discuss if we get a few minutes, but the quick response is that altho' Billg has been incredibly pissy on the Java front, it is not personal, it is because he does know what to do. I know from talking to him that he has very high opinion of you and what you have done. One of Billg's faults (and it is a real fault) is that he does not positive feedback when it is needed. You should not have to wonder what he thinks of you. You have gotten things moving when others have been mesmerized.

Also for what its worth, being called "stupid" by Nathanm puts you into the company of myself, jimall, bradsi, davec, darryr, etc..

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Silvka  
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 1997 5:12 PM  
To: Paul Maritz  
Subject: billg

May I ask for some advice? Review time is coming up, and I'm always a bit introspective at this time of the year.

My recent interactions with billg have been anything but positive. Going back to the internet offsite 2 years ago, where bill and many of the folks were down on my view of what we should be doing. All the while I was building IE 1, 2, and 3 I never got much positive feedback from bill. Every time I saw billg speak, he kept saying how important IE 3 was. But I never got even a simple "thank you" from him after we shipped.

During the STAC trial, the STAC lawyer showed me a copy of e-mail from nathanm that said something to the effect that "I cannot believe bens is so stupid". Of course the lawyer read this out loud, and of course this was the first time I had seen that. But I also suspect nathan has a less than positive opinion of me. It really galled me to read the New Yorker article on nathan and how hg is leading MS into the future...

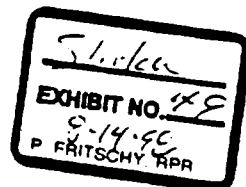
And of course bill is really pissed about this Java stuff, doesn't respond to my e-mail, and that one review meeting we had he just jumped all over me, accusing me of trying to destroy Windows. He was amazingly, unnecessarily rude to me.

From my perspective, it seems to me that I "am" doing the right thing to help move Windows forward, so it sure hurts to have bill accusing me of exactly the opposite motivations.

I know I'm not a kiss-up like some other folks. That's just not my style, and frankly I don't think I would be as effective if I were.

So, what does bill really think of me, should I care, and should I do anything differently?

Just curious...  
Thanks, bens



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