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(Source: Dataquest - 10/90)

From richardf Mon Jun 25 13:27:15 1990  
To: carls nathanm  
Cc: fteam joachink  
Subject: SPARC in OEM accounts  
Date: Mon Jun 25 13:27:52 1990

Mail-Flags: 0000

Date: Mon Jun 25 13:23:59 1990

revived it's efforts to sell SPARC into the 2nd tier OEMs in the US. Renewed efforts at Everex, Compuadd, Northgate and Sun Moon Star have all emerged in the past month. We will do a full court press on each of these accounts in the next 2 weeks to derail these projects. i am having Christu contact you to set up a meeting later this week to discuss our thoughts on the arguments we will present to these guys and solicit your participation .

richardf  
From jeremybu Wed Sep 5 01:44:03 1990  
To: nathanm  
Subject: RE: response to sparcs threat  
Date: Wed Sep 05 05:27:47 1990

Mail-Flags: 0000

Date: Wed Sep 5 01:42:02 1990

Actually I am about to become US citizen, so I don't like to see American nose tweaked. However at a more practical level, I don't mind whose nose gets tweaked so long as it's not MS!

Bill and I see Piol at Olivetti tomorrow. He and I will have to do some tactical planning on the fly before that meeting.

From cameronm Mon Oct 15 15:47:05 1990  
To: davec jbal ralfha riscpc  
Cc: bryanwi  
Subject: RE: Windows on SPARC  
Date: Mon Oct 15 15:48:21 1990

Mail-Flags: 0000

X 194103  
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Date: Mon Oct 15 14:39:20 1990

Two points:

1.) Windows apps are notoriously dirty in terms of undocumented calls and poor app design that is going to make running these suckers very hard. I'd also like to know how these guys can run Win apps on a non-x86 environments when we can't seem manage to do that under OS/2 2.0 on x86 machines. I've got to believe that if we can't make the BCL work (which apparently we can't) a third party is going to have a hell of a hard time on a different chip and machine architecture and no source code/access to the developers.

2.) But even if they can run Windows flawlessly they are not home free. To what degree, if any, will Windows apps run on SPARC be integrated or able to communicate with other Sun/Unix apps? They certainly won't support DDE or the linking and embedding stuff with Sun apps. I bet they won't even support a common clipboard (though I imagine this would not be too hard to make work). Also, how different is OpenLook's UI and Windows? Won't it be awfully awkward if there are differences in the UI - things like mouse behavior, window mgmt, manipulation, etc. This will be very annoying and confusing for users.

How interesting is it to run an app I can't copy and paste into and out of? Do I want two separate environments on my machine that work differently? Do I memorize one set of mnemonics for one app or set of apps and then another for another app or set of apps?

The net is that if we do our job well in pushing ISVs to really take advantage of Windows and be very well integrated with each other, then there will be sufficient value add in the apps to make Windows on SPARC a substandard environment for Win apps irrespective of performance.

Sun, et al may still have the "check-mark" if that's all someone needs to justify a purchase, but if they really expect this to work they will have a very tough time. I would also hope and believe we have enough experience (arros in our back) with the OS/2 DOS Box ("Chernobyl Box") to turn around and give Sun some serious grief on this issue.

Cam

>From ralfha Thu Oct 11 11:51:12 1990  
To: davec jbal riscpc  
Cc: bryanwi  
Subject: RE: Windows on SPARC

Date: Thu Oct 11 11:47:15 1990

X 194104  
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Along the same lines, they said that for a period of time, before 33Mhz 386's came out Soft PC was "the fastest x86 machine a user could buy". When running on a high end HP precision architecture machine, there was no faster way to run a DOS app. (And that was their version 2.0, they are about to come out with 3.0 which is about 2x faster.)

The only catch when running Windows apps is that they have all of Windows within a single window of the host windowing system, like when running Windows in the PM compatibility box. Still, that's not so bad

for say a Sun user if it gives him access to the huge base of coming Win 3.0 apps and with decent performance (which SoftPC 3.0 on a Sparc will very likely do.) It's no wonder Sun is real hot on improving their emulator technology.

Ralf

>From jbal Thu Oct 11 11:33:53 1990  
To: riscpc  
Cc: bryanwi  
Subject: Windows on SPARC

Date: Thu Oct 11 11:31:52 1990

Yesterday, Insignia was in giving us a presentation on their DOS emulation products. Their current technology is OK but the interesting news was on the 3.0 product they plan on shipping in Q1 of 91. This product will allow you to run Win 3 applications on non-x86 platforms.

Though they said the product was contracted to a number of OEM's, most of their comparisons were with the SPARCstation. As Sun contracts their 2.0 product today, there is not much of a leap of faith that one of these companies is Sun.

We will soon be able to do some performance measurements ourselves (we are being sent a 2.0 SoftPC copy that runs on a sparc) but here are a couple of numbers that were given yesterday to pump up your ulcer.

Lotus 123 runs on a 20MHz Sparcstation 1 at the same speed as it runs natively on a 20MHz 286 AT using SoftPC 2.0. The new version (SoftPC

3.0) is targeted to run at twice the speed of the old (2.0) version. Therefore Lotus 123 should be able to run about 3 times that speed on a 33Mhz Sparcstation running SoftPC 3.0.

Makes you kind of glad that they don't sell IPC's with floppies.

From gideon@Microsoft.UUCP (Gideon Yuval 1.1114 x4941)  
To: special  
Subject: SPARC MMU (mis-)design -- in case this comes up  
Date: Thu Nov 08 12:41:38 1990

Mail-Flags: 0000

From: gideon@Microsoft.UUCP (Gideon Yuval 1.1114 x4941)  
Date: Fri Nov 9 11:36:29 PST 1990  
X-Mailer: Mail User's Shell (6.3 6/25/88)

/\* comment-delimiters added, so file can be compiled without chopping -- GY

>From unnet!rice.edu!Sun-Spots-Digest Sat Jul 14 15:22:23 1990  
>Received: from rice.edu by unnet.uu.net (5.61/1.14) with SMTP  
id AA08396; Sat, 14 Jul 90 15:10:23 -0400  
Received: by rice.edu (AA13562); Thu, 12 Jul 90 22:49:12 CDT

X 194105  
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