

IBM OS/2

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Messages :

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From billg Wed Oct 30 15:59:27 1991

Subject: Os/2 compatibility

To: steveb

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 91 15:59:25 PST

Cc: bradsi, paulma, bobma

I think it is critical to make mince meat of this notion IBM is spreading around that Os/2 is Better Windows than Windows. Specifically we have to have concrete features that are neat in Windows that just aren't present in Os/2 2.0. It makes me mad that we dont have anything to point to. Let me give some examples:

1. 32bit applications. Does IBM map w/mem32? If applications can make DPMI calls I dont understand how the operating system is protected from bad application behavior - anyone who can set up and change selectors can bring the whole system down easily. If 32bit applications dont run then lets take some cool stuff in 32bit form and make it freewere as well as get the major vendors to ship 32bit versions and tout the performance.
 2. Fonts. Will IBM have the truetype rasterizer? If not lets make sure lots of truetype fonts ship when 3.1 does - not just the ones we bundle but lots of other fonts. I suppose they can add truetype in but lets say a lot of the standard help thing we ship with Windows is in a font only available in truetype which we control (no font with same width tables and glyphs) anyone who tries to look at that stuff under Os/2 it will look wrong.
 3. Code pages. Since IBM uses the strange approach to code pages in Os/2 doesnt that create some incompatibility with Windows?
 4. Metafile exchange - doesnt this break or show bad results or speed?
 5. Device drivers. Cant we get there to be lots of device drivers they cant do anything with?
- We should design some of our extensions explicitly so that IBM cant run them under Os/2. We need to put some real thinking into this. They think they get to clone us forever based on the stupid marketing stogan. We have to humiliate such a claim.
- At least we have to have some great 3.1 dependent stuff. Also we need to diverge our user interface from theirs. What does an app do not to run under Os/2?
- I would like to get together to discuss how we get this cloning off our back and make it visible.

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