

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
3196  
Comes v. Microsoft

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Setup has detected that the operating system software running on this machine is not MS-DOS. Microsoft Windows was designed to run with MS-DOS versions 3.1 and higher. Windows is tested running on MS-DOS on many machine types and peripheral configurations (see system requirements and hardware compatibility list for details). Running Microsoft Windows on an operating system other than MS-DOS could cause defective and or unpredictable performance and is at the customer's sole risk."

Word-smithing

Rather than tackle this whole message at once, let me throw out a few ideas on how to make MS-DOS and Windows appear more integral in the message. Let me know what you think. These are not very refined of course, but I want your feedback on the spin I'm trying to put on it. Personally I'm not happy with any of these yet, but thought I should toss some ideas your way to get started.

Spin 1:

Setup has detected that Windows' base operating system, MS-DOS, is not present on this machine. Microsoft Windows was designed to run with MS-DOS versions 3.1 and higher. Without MS-DOS serving as the foundation, Windows may not function properly. bla bla bla

Spin 2:

Setup has detected that MS-DOS is not present on this machine. Windows, running with MS-DOS version 3.1 or higher as the foundation, provides a rich, full featured, reliable operating system. Using Windows on a system without MS-DOS as the foundation may cause unpredicatble results. bla bla bla.

Spin 3:

Setup has detected an operating system conflict, MS-DOS is not present on this machine. Windows requires the use of MS-DOS version 3.1 or higher in order to provide a full featured, reliable operating system. bla bla bla.

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Here's a re-cap of today's meeting on how Win 3.1 should warn users about untested operating systems, I.E. operating systems other than MS-DOS. This summary is considered the final spec on this feature. Note that this describes what we WILL do, I'm not covering the history of stuff we've thought about and rejected in this email.

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1. The basic warning message from setup:

Setup has detected that the operating system software running on this machine is not MS-DOS. Microsoft Windows was designed to run with MS-DOS versions 3.1 and higher. Windows is tested running on MS-DOS on a vast variety of machine and peripheral configurations (see system requirements and hardware compatibility list for details). Running Microsoft Windows on an operating system other than MS-DOS could cause defective and or unpredictable performance and is at the customer's sole risk."

Press ENTER to stop, C to continue

Notes:

- when HIMEM.SYS and SMARTDRV.EXE load, the same message will be shown except a) "setup" will be replaced with either "HIMEM.SYS" or "SMARTDRV.EXE" and b) the user will not be required to press ENTER or C, the message will just scroll by.
- when MSD.EXE is run, the same message will be shown except "setup" will be replaced with "MSD.EXE".

2. Detection of MS-DOS/other OSs

We will detect for the absence of MS-DOS only. We will not be explicitly testing for specific MS-DOS emulators.

3. Where Warnings appears

- a. When setup is run, either full setup or MS-DOS maintenance mode.
- b. When MSD.EXE (Microsoft Diagnostics) is invoked.
- c. When HIMEM.SYS loads in the Config.sys file.
- d. When SMARTDRV.EXE loads in either the autoexec.bat or config.sys.

4. How should OSes other than MS-DOS be referred to

We will refer to systems without MS-DOS as either "non MS-DOS" or "non MS-DOS system" or some flavor of that depending on the room for the string. The following places are affected:

- a. MSD, in the "OS Version" button
- b. Setup in the "system" list screen.

5. What will be in the Final beta

Detection for the absence of MS-DOS will be in the Final Beta Release (AKA beta 3) but the message will not. Instead, the message will say:

Non-fatal error detected: error #  
(Please contact Windows 3.1 beta support)

This will allow us to widely test our detection scheme, but not cause undue PR problems.

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