From: Thomas Reardon [thomasre]
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 1995 5:10 PM
To: Dan Rosen
Cc: John Ludwig
Subject: FW: Netscape Completey Ignores MIPS/NT?

this is more up your alley, but i took a shot at it. jon is their 'client' dude, he's been very helpful lately with info about their Web protocol extensions.

From: thomasre
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 1995 5:04 PM
To: Jon Mittelhauser
Subject: RE: FW: Netscape Completey Ignores MIPS/NT?

we have a sort of shaken-hand agreement that we would give y'all fair warning about our release plans and technical directions. more specifically, netscape execs and we agreed that it would be good for both of us if we cooperated on interop issues. part of that is us licensing ssl, perhaps doing things in our client that could be optimized for your server. we are open to any suggestions you have. right now, my interop issue is HTML v.netscape. perhaps api's (CCI) are another cooperative area?

its interesting to me how these sort of alliances evolve. in much of the industry, its random attempts thru consortia, ones that just completely bog down. our approach is to align ourselves with strong, *de facto* standard setters: HP on printing, Compaq on Plug&Play, Intel on just about everything, Shiva on remote access, etc. We absolutely want to publish specs, have consistent community input, and make concrete progress on open standards, but we sorta feel like the actual *process* of most bodies hinders any effective work. some are successful (ITU), some are not (pick just about any Unix group), some are hard-to-call. One of these is W3C, which we'll participate in good faith, but which we need backups if it fails. Strong relations with just a few important vendors is that backup.

i can't really say what our product release plans are right now, except to repeat what has been said publicly: a lot of our work is being done to complement The Microsoft Network. it is Win95 focused.

additionally, we want to make sure we can field a browser which is competitive with OS/2 Warp. we take every competitive threat super seriously, and besides that, we think we can do a better job giving the user a 'Windows experience' on the Internet than IBM can giving a user an 'OS/2 experience'.

this is a weird time for this stuff. we want to make sure we meet the minimum bar, but we also need to leave room for isv's. os competition, unfortunate or not, continually forces us to rewrite the definition of operation system. our take right now is that HTML with Netscape enhancements *is* the minimum bar. their will of course be leapfrogging among vendors for quite a while, but we don't want our first effort to be completely lame. probably the most important point here is that we don't perceive and don't want Netscape as competition, we've already got plenty of that, we want to find ways to help you guys and vice-versa.

-Thomas

ps: have you folks received 'Final Beta' yet? its build 347, and its looking pretty great. let me know if you have received yet. also, we want to share this stuff we call 'Internet Shortcuts' with you, its a simple way of embedding url's in the filesystem.

From: Jon Mittelhauser
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 1995 12:55 PM
To: thomasre; <thomasre@microsoft.com>
Subject: RE: FW: Netscape Completey Ignores MIPS/NT?

>>>You need to keep in mind that we are less than a year old and have
>on the order of 5 announced/shipping products and another whole
>set in the works...we've gone from 0 to 150 people but are still
>very much interrupt driven when it comes to things like this...<<
>
>hey, buddy, why don't you try writing less cool software then?

Thanks...:^)

>seriously, i was just passing along a query, i think the nt folks here
> underestimate the extra time babysitting these other machines costs
> isv's. i am in win95 group, so i've never even seen a mips box (ok,
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>i will respond to the nt folks, and let them schmooze you directly for
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Sounds good. I'm sure that we will get around to it...just a matter of time.

How much are you allowed to tell me about what you guys are doing?
Needless to say, everyone is interested...I don't envy you if you
are stuck looking at the Mosaic code (I know how much of a mess
it was since I wrote a lot of it...:^)

-Jon

From: Dan Rosen [drosen]
Sent: Monday, March 20, 1995 8:15 AM
To: Thomas Reardon
Cc: John Ludwig
Subject: RE: Netscape Completey Ignores MIPS/NT?

thanks, Thomas. One of the "concessions" I got for the SSL endorsement was fair warning/cooperation on movements in the market. Looks like their true to their word.

Dan

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