
From: Bill Gates
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2000 11:10 AM
To: Will Poole; Jim Allchin
Cc: Eric Rudder; Chris Jones; Mike Beckerman
Subject: RE: Windows and Multimedia

That is a good plan.

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

From: Will Poole
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2000 10:57 AM
To: Bill Gates; Jim Allchin
Cc: Eric Rudder; Chris Jones; Mike Beckerman; Will Poole
Subject: RE: Windows and Multimedia

Bill, I understand and hear these issues. We have two action items now:

1. Review current Whistler shell integration with you. It is better than you think, but clearly can go further. This is scheduled within the next couple of weeks I believe.

2. Develop a clear technology strategy that outlines current philosophy of media integration in Windows, addresses medium [backcomb] and long term opportunities to do further integration with IE, Mars, etc., and provide rational answers to the questions below. ChrisJo and I discussed this need the other day; we're all in agreement that we need more integration, less duplication, and a strategy that we can all get behind fully. We should deliver this by 1st week in January

Does this sound OK?

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

From: Bill Gates
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2000 10:20 AM
To: Jim Allchin
Cc: Will Poole; Eric Rudder
Subject: Windows and Multimedia

It seems to me that we are not on an approach to have Windows and Multimedia come together.

Today the Windows Media Player is essentially its own world. It uses a database to track properties. It uses its own UI for everything.

The media player does not integrate with the browser. In fact when you click on some multimedia thing the browser does one funny thing and the player something else.

We have a chance to innovate by getting the player and the browser to be one product - not two different products.

We have done that with Mars but there is a lot of negative feedback out of the WMP group about the idea of not having the player as a separate application on its own.

I don't understand our philosophy. Should they be a different search command for music that you get to by running WMP? When you want a set of radio stations should that be completely different than a set of file or a set of printers?

Should the forms approach used inside the player have any relationship to the forms approach of the OS? When you skin the OS should the forms styles apply to the player or just be separate?

If someone wants to write VB code to customize their player should they be able to do that?

Lets say I want to take some photos and sequence them with some music in the background - which UI do I use for files

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Plaintiff's Exhibit

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like this - the WMP shell or the Windows shell?

A lot of our staffing size comes from having so many different ways of users doing things.