From: Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH)

Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2001 11:51 AM

To: Bill Gates

Cc: Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH)

Subject: FW: DMD Marketing Update - December

They are putting in dynamic time-compression into the build. It uses server-side code which streams data to the client at a faster rate, and client-side code that does the time-compression. LI-Wei in my MSR team is helping them. – Anoop.

--- Original Message----From: Richard Saunders

Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2001 11:38 AM

To: Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH)

Subject: RE: DMD Marketing Update - December

It's in current builds Anoop essentially as <u>speced</u>. We are doing an update to the UI design for the play speed controls, which is one of the says to manipulate it (the other is the Play/Play Speed menu setting which currently lacks the "Normal" setting.

When I get back from vacation I can walk you thru this too.

<u>file://icecube/latest\_Eclipse/us/i386/release/free</u> (I cannot currently get this share, there may be network problems...)

---Original Message----

From: Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH)

Sent: Wednesday, December 25, 2001 8:24 AM

To: Richard Saunders

Subject: FW: DMD Marketing Update - December

Hi Richard,

What is the latest answer for time compression (see thread below; close to bottom of message)? Can I try it out off some build? Thanks,

- Апоор

---Original Message From: Amir Majidimehr

Sent: Tuesday, December 25, 2001 11:40 PM To: Will Poole; Bill Gates; Mike Beckerman

Oc: Jim Allchin; Chris Jones (WINDOWS); Rick Rashid; Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH); Craig Mundie; Sam

Furukawa

Subject: RE: DMD Marketing Update - December

Answers below.

Amir

----Original Message----

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From: Will Poole

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2001 11:03 AM Tor Bill Gates; Mike Beckerman; Amir Majidimehr

Cc: Jim Allchin; Chris Jones (WINDOWS); Rick Rashid; Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH); Craig Mundie; Sam

Furukawa

Subject: RE: DMD Marketing Update - December

Answers below. Mike and Amir, a few questions for you also.

Bill, we're planning to fully announce Corona, including Beta shipment of player and encoder, and a bunch more deals, at NAB in April. I'm sending you a separate email to see if you could keynote there and highlight the importance of Microsoft's efforts for the broadcast industry which is increasingly looking our way for leadership.

----Original Message---

From: Bill Gates

Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2001 12:00 PM

To: Will Poole

Ce: Jim Allchin; Chris Jones (WINDOWS); Rick Rashid; Anoop Gupta (RESEARCH); Craig Mundie;

Sam Furukawa

Subject: RE: DMD Marketing Update - December

I need to understand Corona better.

I looked at the slides and some of the keynote speech and all of the press stuff including the articles but I am still confused about Corona.

it seems strange to me that we are release two new Codecs right AFTER we shipped Windows  $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{P}$ 

IV/Poole!

[WPoole] These are in preview now, go to beta in April, ship early summer. We have traditionally been on a 9-12 month release cycle with codecs to keep up w/ and ahead of Real, apple, etc.

- [WPoole] 2 channel audio WMA v9 codecs will are fully backwards compatible to Xp, v7, etc.
- [WPoole] The new 5.1 WMA will work on XP only, requiring a new Corona player.
- [WPoole] v9 Video is backwards compatible after a codec auto-install (same as we've done since 6.4).
- [WPools] Other new codecs are also part of Corona, but are not announced yet. They
  include a low-bitrate voice codec for spoken word, news, and future VTC use; a
  perceptually-lossless mode of WMA (basically peak-constrained variable bitrate audio),
  and a mathmatically lossless audio codec (for pro archival use, and next generation \*disk
  space does not matter, give me the best" consumer use).

Will these Codecs be part of the feature portion of SP1?

[WPoole] Everything in Corona will be in SP1, Including codecs. The Corona player is required to take full advantage of the Corona server in Windows.Net, and we have to update the client to address consent decree issues. [not that the server will work with downlevel players, but will not have all the new protocols available, etc.] Mike, pls confirm.

Will they be part of MSN 8?

[WiPoole] Bigitime. Texas depends on Corona for a variety of new capabilities (which we are fully in sync with and supportive of), including "buddy boogle" and others.

I don't understand Feststream - is it just optimistically assuming the network works ok for the first part of the video?

[MPoole] Correct. This makes a huge difference in the startup experience, and nobody else has done it. Current systems (ours, apple, real) do not opportunistically use excess bandwidth for

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MS-CC-Bu 000000071641 HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL startup or pre-caching. Corona [server, in Windows Net] will do both, meaning that startups can be nearly instantaneous on a cable modern, and conjection induced re-buffering during stream playback will be reduced. Users love this feature.

I don't understand the new audio codec. Who gets a benefit from it? Will people encode in it? [WPoole] Per above, the audio codecs will be broadly distributed and used. We have had good pickup by ICPs of each new generation of audio codec since they have been bitstream-compatible going back 2+ years, and are compatible with 80+ models of existing PDs and pocket PCs, old media players, etc. The 5.1 audio will be used by aggregators [such as moviefly, intertainer, movies.com] doing VOD applications, and by studios for next-generation movie products that will include 3+ high quality movies on a singe DVD for playback on a media center PC and/or individual downloaded movies saved on a CD/R (we can get a VHS+ quality movie w/ 5.1 surround in <700MB).

I don't understand the new video codec. How does it relate to Mpeg4? It is better because it is proprietery but I don't understand the rest of it.

[WPoole] This is another generation the video encoding technology we've been working on in the past. At this time it is long diverged from MPEG4. (We do still support ISP MEG4 encode and decode). We're now getting really good at high quality encoding, and we're blowing away the studios and broadcasters with our ability to deliver near-DVD quality at tast DSL speeds (< 1mbit), and deliver HD quality at < 1/3 the datarate/size of MPEG2 (and better than 50% improvement over ISO MPEG4). The key thing that grabs studios is that we can get a highdef movie on a current generation DVD. The Japanese are pushing blue laser technology to go to ~30GB DVDs to store mpeg2 highdef. If we play our cards right, and figure out how to apply studio-acceptable security (be it ours or GSS or other) to the media for non-PC as well as PC use, and continue to get DVD player manufacturers behind us, we can potentially move WMV into the position of being the standard format for highdef DVD distribution. There are a lot of moving parts that need to be aligned to make this work, but we're laying the foundation and have a chance based on the video quality we're showing in Corona.

[WPoole] We will be announcing at CES that the #2,3,4, and 5 DVD player manufacturers [as measured by US market share — Sony is #1] will all be including WMA playback in their next generation players. We've licensed them for video also, but don't have commitments yet b/c of the need for new silico. Once we have the video decode in silicon problem licked, we should be able to start to deliver on the idea above, hopefully by CES 03.

There is even another standard besides MPEG2 people talk about [WPoote] There is a new video encoding std making its way through the bodies, but it is a long ways off, from both the standardization process and the CPU required to support it. Amir, pis explain the ITUMPEG4 effort:

[Amir] ITU 26L is a next generation video compression standard that improves substantially on existing standards such as MEPG-4. MPEG has adopted this activity and will basically be rubber stamping 26L as "MPEG-4 part 10". This compression scheme however, is 100% incompatible with current MPEG-4 standard. While 26L provides very good quality, it does so by using considerably more CPU horseower on both encode and decode. Our new "Corona" Windows Media Video codec achieves similar efficiency to 26L but uses substantially tower amount of CPU cycles. We do not expect 26L to become a factor in the marketplace for another 2 to 3 years due to licensing and CPU overhead issues.

Do we want people like Echostar to use these new formats or will they just stick to Mpeg2? [WPoole] The satellite guys are going to be very hard to move off of MPEG2 for all the obvious reasons. Before we can even take a run at them, we need to have affordable WMV decide in stillon, in ASTBs that are ready for deployment reasonably soon. I have a number of meetings at CES to push this initiative forward, with Thompson and others. We have 3 stillon providers actively engaged, as well as Equator, who has a high performance media co-processor that does mpeg2 and other decoding in software, and would be much quicker than the full stillon spins required for others. We probably also need to figure out a standards play with WMV to get that

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MS-CC-Bu 000000071642 HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL kind of adoption. I will set up a review for February to get together with you and the CC fine (and jonde, miketout, etc.) and go over our long term plans around video encoding and standards and get some feedback on flow to best position ourselves for success.

I need to understand the encode/decode overhead for the various things.
[WPoole] Without knowing exactly what you're looking for, here are a few datapoints:

- 640x480 30fps WMV9 encode takes about 90% a 2GHZ P4 to do in real time.
- Decoding the highdef video we showed in NY took a dual proc ~1.8 plus a very fast graphics card.

(Amir) Actually, we can do this on a \*single CPU\* 1.8Ghz AMD CPU. The current Tech Preview code is not fully optimized and hence the need for dual-processor configuration for the show.

All of this will get MUCH cheaper once we have hardware encode and/or decode. For eHome Slalom, we're looking at a hybrid two-pass encode, where a cheap pre-processor does a partial real-time encode, CPU copies to disk for immediate use in trickplay, and then does a full encode in the background to save disk. This gives the best of both: cheap and immediate high res capture, and storage of high quality with limited disk space, which will be a great selling feature over dedicated PVRs with mpeg2 only and big expensive disk packs (compare to the recently announced Replay 4000/320 that costs \$2,000 and has 320GB of disk — we'd be able to ge the same quality & quantity on a Slalom-era media center PC with 80GB of disk.)

How does any of this relate to MSR China stuff? [WPoole] Amir should address what exactly we've taken in from MSR for this release.

¡Amir] We did not use any technology from MSR (China or otherwise) in this area. MSR China's work is currently focused in other areas such as fine grain scalability. They do not work on our own audio and video compression technologies.

I thought the next generation included fast viewing and I don't see that at all (speed up). [WPoole] Corona includes time compression at encode time. I don't recall how much of the speed-up / playback-time compression made the release. Mike/Amir? [Amir] Mile has to answer since this is really a player feature. But yes, we have had the encoder side features for quite a while.

FYI - DMD is rockin' with consumers, enterprise, press, and industry. Dave's team is kicking ass promoting all the new technologies DMD has out this fall, and the customers are eating them up, world-wide.

A few highlights from below:

\* Corona (v9) announced - we cleaned up in the press

 DVD penetration — we have floensed WMA (and in some cases WMV) playback to suppliers to 90% of current DVD players

\* Plus: 346,000 units at retail, 10% over plan

\* Media Player is #1 in US MediaMetrix reach, home & work; internationally it is ahead or tied in 9 of 10 countries surveyed (behind in France).

 Making more progress than even on content supply on top sites; leading Real on top-10 US sites

Producer: 142,000 downloads in under a month!

\*Sable solution shipped and off to a great start

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