
From: Bill Gates
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2002 12:17 PM
To: Executive Staff
Subject: Windows/Office Roadmap

Late last year we decided to have our next major release of Windows called Longhorn prioritize advances for knowledge workers. A key element of this was the decision to have a version of Office that fully exploits and requires Longhorn.

When we announced these plans we were trying to get these releases to come together before the end of 2003. Since then the focus on security and the work on this joint design have made it clear that it will take until mid-04 to complete Longhorn. Based on this we have decided to make an intermediate release of Office in 2003 which we refer to as Office Net. So both MSN and Office have one release before their Longhorn specific releases.

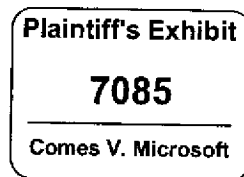
The resulting Roadmap is:

Aug '02: Windows XP SP1 RTM
Nov '02: Windows.Net server RTM
Apr '03: Office.Net RTM (including STSv2 available as web download for .Net server)
Mid-04: Longhorn Client and Server RTM
Late-04: Office-Longhorn and MSN-Longhorn (v9) – the versions that require Longhorn and fully exploit it.

Office Net will deliver significant new innovation for knowledge workers in existing application along several new applications: Scribbler, Xdocs and Business Intelligence. These are the first new Office applications since Outlook 97. Office.net will also take full advantage of STSv2 which will be offered as a platform upgrade of the .Net server, and we will evangelize the APIs to ISVs.

The breakthrough advances in the Longhorn release remain our top priority. The Office team has dedicated resources focused on the Longhorn design and they will stay focused on these efforts. The Longhorn file system (both client and server) will include SQL and will superset STSv2. I am spending lots of time with the joint-Office/Windows teams working on the key scenarios for Longhorn. There is a lot of great progress being made despite the size of the challenge.

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