
From: Bill Gates
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2003 2:57 PM
To: Bill Gates; Senior Leadership Team; Will Poole; Brian Valentine; Eric Rudder; Bill Veghte; Steven Sinofsky
Cc: Alexander Gounares
Subject: RE: Corporate Windows Client

Meant to include Eric and Steve on this...

From: Bill Gates
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2003 2:48 PM
To: Senior Leadership Team; Will Poole; Brian Valentine
Cc: Alexander Gounares; Bill Veghte
Subject: Corporate Windows Client

One element of Longhorn that has in a sense been drowned out by other issues is the question of Will Corporate users and IT departments find future releases of Windows exciting to their problems?

Whether done as an interim release or as part of the full Longhorn release there are a number of things corporate customers need in order to embrace a new client OS.

I think in the short and medium term doing these things are actually more important to our competitive strength than some of the other elements of Longhorn.

We should be sure that in putting very ambitious things in that are long term benefits (Winfs, Avalon, CLR...) we don't starve out the features that will allow us to be responsive to our corporate customers.

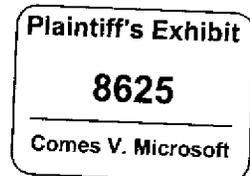
Being on a crash schedule that includes Winfs in some form is likely to cause these features to either never be designed or not to be fully implemented.

I am unclear on who is the champion for these various features.

My list of these things would be:

1. Distributed Firewall implementation. Doing this so that it works and allows defense in depth. I have had meetings asking for a roadmap on this for years. Corporations know that just having an external firewall is not enough. They want to be able to control individual capabilities. The role of using IPsec and having the client firewall on needs to be determined.
2. Finishing Client Side caching. If we can have the client really work offline with speed and reasonable logout and no funny messages from a portable when it is not VPNed in we would really have something that is a huge benefit. I believe most of the work on this has been done.
3. Roaming. People want to use multiple machines. The current design where AD tries to roam the registry including all the stupid app entries in their doesn't work for any corporation. Roaming is a huge user benefit and we are close to have it but we don't. This is a key piece of making it easy for people to updrage.
4. Side-by-side execution. Less reboots when things get patched.
5. Some SMS features built in. Steal code from SMS and ship it with the system.
6. Certificate infrastructure done right
7. Reading, and searching done right in the browser. I have a lot of thoughts on this and how we use SPS/corporate sites to create an experience that is federated so people don't just use google but they get something better because local files and corporate servers get included in. Other browser improvements.
8. Management infrastructure. SQM built in logging information as well as Office does.

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9. Help moves onto the web. Like Office help requests and error elicitation requests go to the web so that PSS and Communities can add value to those things. We let corporations intercept if they need to but we also host and let them view the things that have come from their users as part of an annuity relationship.
10. Infrastructure so that updates can include table driven behavior blocking so that all "fixes" don't have to be path oriented.
11. A decent UI for managing patches. Silent updating done a way that corporates will like.
12. Improvements to the WMI infrastructure on the client.
13. Error message handling. Use the spirit of Watson-error and take the major common cases like can't connect to Internet and 802.11 doesn't work and put local analysis and logging code into that reports back through SQM/Watson infrastructure. Errors should allow navigation to Microsoft code/text to help you deal with the error.
14. Speed improvement work that comes from the improved caching code that we have.
15. Install whatever bits are needed to that calls to PSS can be connected through our LiveMeeting (placeware) infrastructure so that 80% of calls to PSS include a digital connection
16. Systematic improvements relative to code security problems. Start with server code base. Compatibility issues on this?
17. XML rich UI. Do we have anything we could include in the OS to promote creation of client side applications? Shipping the CLR is part of this but not enough
18. Netmeeting infrastructure.
19. Windows Instant messenger improvements.
20. Instrumented installer.

I am very interested to get other people's feedback on this question. I am sure groups like Office have ideas of what these improvements should be.

I think it is critical to have this as an input to the current Longhorn discussion.

There may be some interesting things I did not include.

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