I just got the premier issue of this thing. an incredibly impressive
magazine from the self-styled" National Windows Users Group Network,
an idependent technical organization." that has been around
since 1988 and has a section on compuserv under the ms connection.

this thing is great. they are going to reprint the best of ms online;
best of mswin forum etc.

topics include: configuration forum; development forum; corp strategies;
new wave forum; connectivity forum; worksheet forum; words forum;
dtp forum etc.

40 % of their membership has experience with win development and
they claim lots of f1000 members.

we might want to think about how to use this for our benefit (maybe we
could have interviews with key ms folks or something to keep them
on the right strategy—i.e. darrylr talking about our objects
strategy to kill the new wave enthusiasm).

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161
From markche Tue Oct 9 08:26:53 1990
To: bradsi russw w-maria
Cc: kathrynb w-carrin w-maria
Subject: Long Mail RE: dr dos
Date: Tue Oct 09 08:26:26 1990

Attached is a summary of dr dos 5 compatibility issues. The
compatibility testing was done by an outside testing lab - I have
their formal write-up if you need it. The Windows 3.0 compatibility
testing was done internally.

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General DR DOS 5.0 Compatibility Issues
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1. Paradox/386

Paradox/386 fails when DR DOS 5.0 is loaded high with default
parameters. A "Protection Error" message is displayed on invocation of
Paradox/386.

2. Professional Oracle

Professional Oracle fails when DR DOS is loaded high with default
parameter, resulting in the display of the "Protection Error" message on

invocation.

3. SpinRite

SpinRite fails when DR DOS is loaded high with default parameters.

4. Peachtree Complete Accounting

Peachtree Complete Accounting cannot be invoked with the startup command

('Peach') under DR DOS 5.0, whether DR DOS 5.0 is loaded high or low.

5. Other Problems in DR DOS 5.0

A) Misc Problems caused by Upper Memory Block Implementation

The automatic linking of UMBs (Upper Memory Blocks) into the DOS arena
chain will cause many problems for users. We know from talking to
Qualitas and Quarterdeck that there are many applications which hang if
the arena chain goes above the 640K limit. Examples of such
applications include

If DR DOS 5.0 fails to load high, the HMA (The memory between 1MB and
1MB+64K) is not deallocated. Thus no other application can use it. This
is be a problem for LAN Manager and Novell environments set up to use
the HMA.

B) Problem with the HIDOS driver

If the user loads the HIDOS driver, DR DOS 5.0 will try to move high
even if the user specifies HIDOS=OFF. This becomes be very annoying if
the user wants to load Novell or LAN Manager into the HMA.

C) Problem with HIMEM drivers

DR DOS 5.0 is not friendly to other HIMEM (or XMS) drivers. For example,

the HIMEM.SYS driver shipped with Windows 3.0. DR DOS 5.0 will refuse to

load high under this XMS driver.

D) Problem with loading DR DOS high in certain configurations

On machines with 512 Bytes of system memory and extended memory,
the HMA exists, and the user will expect to be able to load DR DOS 5.0,
but DR DOS 5.0 will refuse to load high in this situation.

Windows 3.0 Compatibility Issues

DR DOS 5.0 provides the ability to be loaded high (to reduce the amount
of lower 640K memory occupied by DOS. However, there is no way to run
DR DOS 5.0 high and run Windows 3.0 at the same time. This is because,
to run high, DR DOS 5.0 requires the use of their EMM386.SYS, or their
HIDOS.SYS - either of which causes problems for Windows 3.0.

DRI's EMM386 is used on Intel 386 based computers and it maps
Upper Memory Blocks into the DOS arena. This will cause Win 3
to get very upset. It will hang. DRI states in their manual that in
order to run Windows 3.0, you will need to remove their EMM386 from
the system. This could be very painful as it forces the user to reboot
in order to run Windows 3.0. This means that Windows 3.0 users can't get
the benefit of a Dos loaded high using DR-Dos.

Using their HIDOS.SYS causes Windows 3.0 to issue an unrecognized himem
driver message and terminate. DOS critical section handling is broken.
DOS has a very sensitive mechanism for signaling when it enters and
exits a critical section. Windows uses its knowledge of that critical
section behavior to keep DOS from doing blocking I/O. DR DOS 5.0 fails
to implement this properly and causes Windows trouble. The behavior will

be seen in a Dos VM running a program that calls Dos function 3fh
(ReadChar from Console). In this scenario the user will experience what
they believe is a system hang. Even though they are not actually hung,
it will be tricky for the them to figure out how to get out of the
situation and they will likely reboot.

The following is a scenario under which problems would arise:

1. Run any communications app in Windows 3.0.

2. Now start a VM and run any of the following:

a. The C compiler
b. 4DOS (a very popular shareware utility)
c. The Macro Assembler
d. Link (which is included with MS-DOS)
e. Copy Con filename commands (which many setup programs use)

Macro Assembler (or a number of other - C Compiler, "4DOS" which is a
very popular shareware product, Link, copy con filename commands which
many setup programs use - all of these are other examples.

What the user sees is a start up banner and nothing else in the VM
Window. Further, since the VM hang is now blocking windows apps from
doing anything, all the windows apps freeze up too. The result in this
case is loss of data coming in through the communications program.

There are a number of similar scenarios where the user will believe they

are hung, will then reboot and lose some data as a result. It is
generally not a good idea to reboot when Windows 3.0 is running. Lost
FAT clusters and cross linked allocation chains can result.

Password Protection Problems

This feature of DR DOS 5.0 is very poorly implemented. It simply marks
the file as hidden. Running MS-DOS 5.0 or OS/2 to look at one of these
files completely bypasses any security. Further, any shell program like
PC-Shell from Central Point or the Norton shell (or the MS-DOS 5.0
Shell) will ignore the hidden attribute and allow the user to see and
open these files. No attempt is made to try to make the files really
secure, even from within the DR DOS 5.0 environment.

The result is that users who rely on this feature to provide real
security for their data are severely misled, for there is no protection
that is anything close to secure. The password protection can be very
easily be defeated by anyone with MS-DOS 5.0, OS/2 or a common third
party shell program.

> From   w-maria Mon Oct 8 19:33:02 1990
To: bradsi markcha russw
Cc: kathrynh w-carrin w-maria
Subject: dr dos

Date: Mon Oct 8 17:25:55 1990

What can we really say about bonafide compatibility issues with DR DOS.
I always hear vague stuff about this wht relates to MS products which
makes us look self-serving. If we have a real "user alert" type story
to tell about DR DOS compatibility issues, PR should be all over it.

I don't think compatibility problems with a future, unshipping Microsoft
products is a very good story. Then the press could say, "good, if it's
not shipping, you have time to fix it..."

FUD about compatibility is our best weapon but we need real stuff. Any
input? Marianne

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From debbish Tue Oct 9 08:27:08 1990
To: bradsi marybo sharonb
Subject: Re: sys guy