

The Eagle has landed...

... and the year is looking good for OS/2 Warpers. Terence Green comments on a range of goodies, and looks forward to the appearance of some really useful Internet products.

This year is beginning to look good for OS/2 Warp users: Warp Server should be shipping by the time this article appears. Warp II (codenamed Merlin) is about to go into Beta. Lotus has started shipping the InterNotes Server version 2.0 which now runs on OS/2, and Lotus SmartSuite for OS/2 should soon enter Beta test too.

And then there's the Internet. If 1995 was the year that the World Wide Web was hyped to death, 1996 looks like the year that the really useful Internet products start to appear. Thanks to Microsoft's recognition, in December, of the importance of the Internet (when Bill Gates threw out the four-month-old Windows 95/Microsoft Network strategy in favour of a more "open" approach) almost everyone now sings from the same songbook.

This doesn't mean an end to standards arguments in the near future. There is already a plethora of proposals for commercially secure Internet services, for 3D VRML www browsers, and for additional HTML extensions. It does mean, however, that network client software will take on the look and feel of a Web browser, while Web servers will increasingly be targeted at internal and inter-company publishing applications via private and secure networks, as well as the wider and wilder Internet.

IBM is well-positioned in this respect, with several Web server and client tools already shipping, not least the Lotus InterNotes server which is now in its second generation. InterNotes Version 1.0 ran only on Windows NT, but InterNotes 2.0 (which will be bundled with Notes Release 4.0) runs on OS/2 and Unix servers as well.

Much of the attraction of a Notes Web server is in the security provided by its user authentication and data encryption,

as well as in the multitude of tools available for the Notes platform. But there's more: at the end of December, Lotus introduced a Notes Mail client at £38 per licence and reduced the licence for the Notes Desktop runtime to £47. Both Notes clients can access the World Wide Web through a Notes Release 4.0 server running the InterNotes Web Publisher, and the new price for a single processor server is now just £341.

Of course, Lotus Notes Release 4.0 doesn't only run on OS/2; it also works with Windows, Macintosh and Unix systems and this level of multi-platform availability is apparently where IBM's application server line, currently codenamed Eagle, is heading.

Solving common problems

● NE2000 network adaptors

There's a known problem with the NE2000 Ethernet card, in some configurations, which will prevent the Warp Connect installation utility from completing. Sometimes this can be worked around by switching the computer power off, waiting ten seconds, and then turning it on again, which should reset the network adaptor card.

If this doesn't work, you will need to edit the CONFIG.SYS file on the second of the two installation diskettes — the one labelled Installation Diskette 1.

Add the following line to CONFIG.SYS making sure that it is the first BASEDEV statement;

```
BASEDEV=RESERVE.SYS /IO:xxx,20
```

(where "xxx" is the port address of the NE2000 adaptor). You also need to copy RESERVE.SYS from the OS/2 Installation Diskette to Diskette 1.

● IDE hard disk drives greater than 528Mb

OS/2 Warp recognises IDE drives with more than 1,024 physical cylinders if they are supported by the PC BIOS, or via a BIOS translation utility such as Ontrack or EZdisk.

If this is not the case, you must ensure that all FAT partitions and any bootable partitions (FAT or HPFS) are completely contained within the first 528Mb of the physical disk.

● Sound cards

There may be problems running sound in OS/2 and Windows sessions. By default, OS/2 does not allow sounds to be activated in both. You can enable sounds for both by remarking out a line in the CONFIG.SYS, but beware that this configuration is not supported by IBM, as unpredictable events may occur.

To enable sounds to be used in both OS/2 and Win-OS/2 sessions, comment out the line that refers to AUDIOVDD.SYS. The line is `DEVICE=D:\MMOS2\AUDIOVDD.SYS XXXXX1$` where D: refers to the drive and XXXXX will be something like SB16 or PAS16, depending on your sound card.

● Web Explorer

If you're having problems with a rapidly growing swapfile while using Web Explorer, and you're using a 256-colour video driver, try adding the -p parameter to the command line that invokes Web Explorer. Also, close down Web Explorer and have a look in the subdirectory \TCPIP\TMP. If it is full of numbered GIFs and HTMs and JPGs, delete them all.

This problem occurs when Web Explorer is started using LINKUP.EXE. This is the default setup. When you click on the icon to start Web Explorer it actually starts LINKUP which invokes the SLIP/PPP Dialer before starting Web Explorer. When started in this way, Web Explorer fails to clean up the \TCPIP\TMP subdirectory of temporarily cached files.

New products

Microrim R:Base 5.5

Microrim was demonstrating R:Base 5.5 at Comdex. R:Base was the first OS/2 database (even before Borland Paradox). At one time it was even in Microsoft's portfolio but it was handed back to Microrim when Microsoft fell for Sybase, the forerunner of SQL Server. The big news is that R:Base 5.5 at last has a graphical user interface. Look for <http://www.microrim.com>

IBM NetComber Internet Suite (Beta) for OS/2 Warp

Yet another Internet Suite. This one is designed for people who find Internet applications hard to set up and use, but the Beta looks like it needs a bit more work yet and it's a tad heavy on memory too. It relies a lot on Web Explorer (WE) components,

so if you're already successful with WE you may not want to bother with NetComber which includes WWW, Mail, News, ftp, Chat and Telnet. You can download it from <http://www.raleigh.ibm.com/ncr> if you can get on to the server. From the UK it is usually easier to access busy servers in the morning before the USA wakes up.

IBM VisualAge for the Web

Based on VisualAge (IBM's object-orientated application development tool), VisualAge for the Web will enable developers to create applications, particularly database applications, based on the Web's HTML and CGI standards. Plug-ins supporting SQL and Cobol wrappers will allow VisualAge for the Web applications to access both legacy and relational databases.

Seven up

Eagle is IBM's codename for a modular system comprising seven server applications: database, directory and security, transaction, communications, groupware, systems management, and Internet. The groupware server will be based on Lotus Notes. The Internet Connection server is already available, with a security-enabled Web Explorer for commercial work (announced last December).

Initially the aim is to offer Eagle on Warp Server and AIX, but other Unix versions and Windows NT are also likely platform candidates under IBM's Open

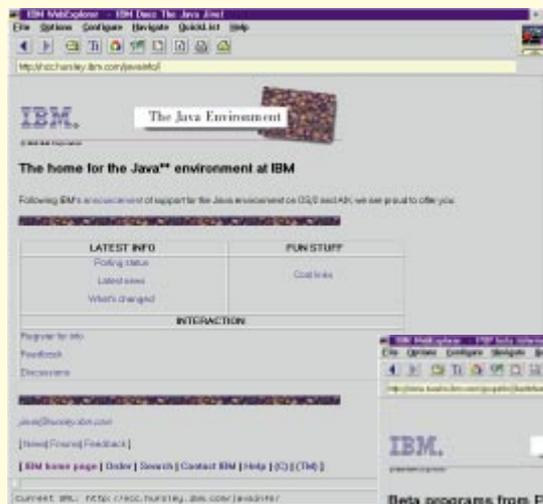
Blueprint design framework. This aims to create a coherent product line from the mess of similar products which have been spawned in IBM's many autonomous hardware and software divisions. The idea is to make it easier to select a server application by removing the operating system and hardware platform from the equation. If it all comes together, it will be an effective antidote to the Microsoft and Novell one-size-fits-all Windows NT and NetWare server platforms.

Where Eagle is most likely to come together first however is on Warp Server, the merged LAN Server and OS/2 Warp



WarpServer brings Warp and LAN Server together in one box at last





The home for Java development is right here in the UK, at IBM's Hursley laboratory

network operating system. The Eagle directory and security module, based on the OSF Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) and the Communications Server, are now out as Betas on Warp Server. The Warp Server base should just about be shipping in the UK by the time you read this.

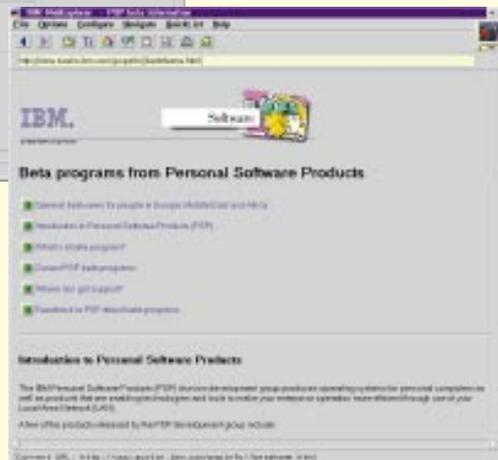
Warp Server is expected to ship in Workgroup and Enterprise versions with the latter version having greater capacity and some Eagle components — for example, the Communications and DCE Directory & Security services modules. The workgroup edition includes file and print services, systems management, remote access, backup and recovery and advanced print services.

The Beta programme for Warp Server, which should have ended in mid-December last year, was effectively extended into January 1996 with the shipment of Warp Server Beta 2, also called the Gamma version. What this means is that the product is feature-complete, but IBM wanted a little more time to tidy it up before sending it to manufacturing. It almost certainly means that users will have to wait for Merlin (the next major Warp revision — Warp 96) for the new improved high-performance file system (HPFS), new local security and new Warp SMP (symmetric multiprocessor) support, but this column is ever-prepared to be overtaken by events.

Information on current Betas

If you want to keep up to date with the various OS/2 Beta programmes from IBM as they pop up, have a look at <http://www.austin.ibm.com/pspinfo/betahome.html>.

Several of the products mentioned above are detailed at this location, and additional products, including those from



Keep up to date with Warp beta programs through the Austin WorldWide Web site, or check on CompuServe (GO PSPBETA)

Lotus, are being added to this relatively new site. A complete 32-bit Lotus SmartSuite for OS/2, that will be feature-compatible with SmartSuite 96 for Windows 95, is just waiting on the completion of a 32-bit Lotus 1-2-3; a Beta may well appear shortly.

One of the more interesting developments in recent months has been the sudden acceptance of Sun's Java scripting language (which everyone rushed to license in the dying days of 1995). The work on incorporating Java into IBM products is being carried out at IBM's Hursley laboratories right here in the UK. Go to <http://ncc.hursley.ibm.com/javainfo> for up-to-date news.

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