



Seven Software Servers

The idea is that any combination will work together, meaning the user should have to do less work. Terence Green tries it out. Plus, more new OS/2 utilities.

I've been using OS/2 as my primary desktop system for some years now and have become inured to the endless number of "OS/2 is dead" stories. So it was no surprise when the story re-appeared following the news that OS/2 for the PowerPC was being put on the back burner for 1996, while IBM went at the Intel version.

So many people believe that anything associated with IBM and OS/2 is bad that even when the company finally makes a serious public commitment to OS/2, the story is spun around. There are millions of Intel PCs out there. There are very few PowerPC systems. Where would you put your development for 1996?

So far this year we've had Warp Server

and IBM Software Servers, announced and shipping. There's also a Secure Internet Connection Server and browser which makes business on the Web less dicey. A Java-enabled Web Explorer should be around by the time this issue is in your hands. Merlin, the next revision of Warp, should be in Beta by then, too. And Warp SMP is nearly ready to roll.

Still, I expect the noise to become even worse now that IBM Software Servers have been announced with a commitment to ship them on Windows NT as well as OS/2 and AIX.

IBM supporting Windows NT? This couldn't possibly mean that IBM has recognised the reality of open distributed systems could it? But it *must* mean that.

The Eagle takes flight

IBM announced its Software Servers at the end of March. Formerly codenamed "Eagle", IBM Software Servers is the family name for a group of seven applications servers which it will make available for IBM AIX, IBM OS/2 Warp and Microsoft Windows NT this year.

Later on, IBM plans to ship the Software Servers on other Unix platforms, too. At least I guessed right when I mentioned this two issues ago but I was sadly mistaken when I suggested that OS/2 would be the first platform to sport a full working set of the seven applications servers that make up the Software Servers product. In fact, the AIX Software Servers will be the first complete set to ship.

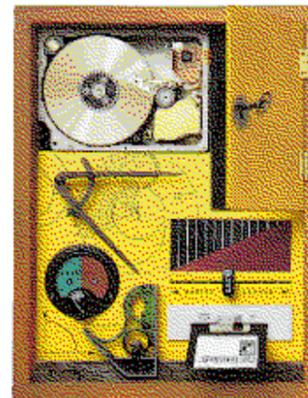
The OS/2 set of seven was ready to ship in March, with the exception of the Directory and Security Server and the Systems Management Server which will ship towards mid-year. Of the Windows NT set of seven, only Lotus Notes is ready now while the rest will trickle in between now and the autumn.

The premise behind IBM Software Servers is that any combination will work together. In other words, IBM is doing the integration work and testing rather than leaving it to customers. As customers, of course, we expected this to happen anyway but somewhere along the line the

Those Software Servers in full (with the exception of the OSF Directory and Security Services (DSS) server)



PartitionMagic™ For OS/2 and DOS



This is a **PERSONAL** license for use on **TWO** specific computers.

A separate **PROFESSIONAL** license permits use of PartitionMagic on an unlimited number of computers. Please contact PowerQuest for more information.

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PartitionMagic: live on the bleeding edge with software that does weird things with your hard disk partitions

PC industry kind of forgot this part of the deal.

You only have to cruise through the technical support databases of IBM,

Free WWW services

GoServ is a free EWS Web server but it may be slightly overshadowed now that IBM has decided to copy Microsoft by making its Internet server (Internet Connection Server for OS/2) freely available for download. Even so, it's worth a look if you're toying with the idea of putting up a Web server.

GoServ was written by Mike Cowlishaw, a highly-regarded programmer based at IBM UK's Hursley laboratory. Cowlishaw is also responsible for REXX, the programming language included in OS/2 and as a result GoServ's usefulness can be extended using REXX. Cowlishaw must be a busy guy; his latest project is porting Java to OS/2 and AIX.

At the time of writing, the Web Explorer home page (see www.raleigh.ibm.com) promised a Java-enabled Web Explorer update in early March. Curiously, IBM is also working on a Java-enabled browser for Windows 3.1.

You would expect Microsoft to do something about this but it's focusing on its 32-bit operating systems. IBM, on the other hand, is determined to prove that it is agnostic about user preferences and as Windows 3.1 still accounts for the vast majority of desktop systems, the company is continuing to support it.

Microsoft and Novell, to name but three, to see how they've done so far: try to manage NetWare 4.1 and NetWare Directory Services from a Microsoft NetWare client for Windows 95, as an example. Funnily enough, during testing of the Software Servers, IBM discovered that a fully-configured database server and communications server "just argued" — as an anecdote it's funny but not if you're a customer.

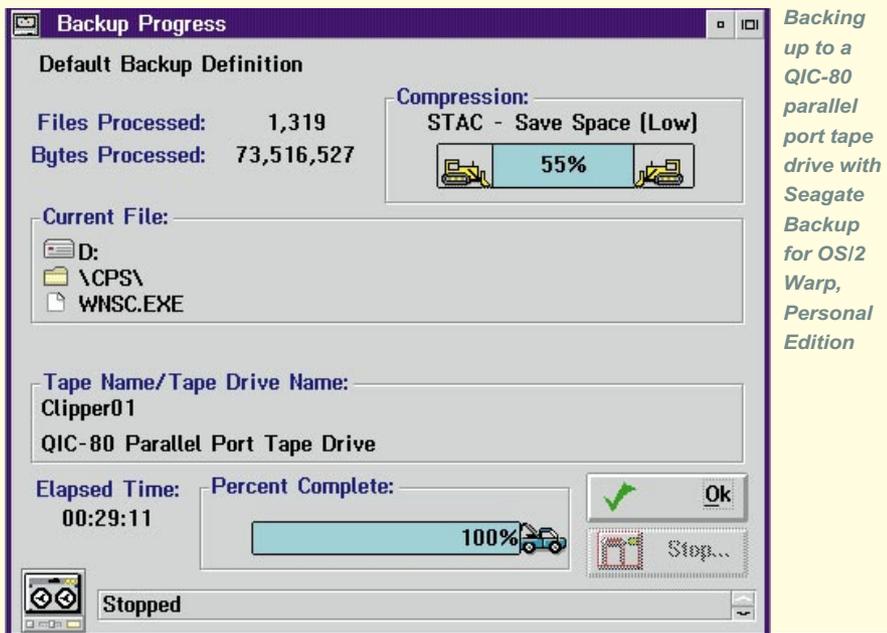
The full set of IBM Software Servers includes database, communications, Internet, Notes, transaction services, systems management and directory and security services. I've been playing with the Beta of IBM Software Servers for OS/2 of late but I want to see the full set, in a box and ready to roll before getting too excited.

Warp Server provides the OS base for the OS/2 Software Servers and the file and print services. It shipped at the end of February. It combines Version 5 of LAN Server and Warp and includes file and print sharing, systems management, backup and recovery, remote access, advanced print function, TCP/IP and LAN Internet access.

At the launch event in San Francisco, IBM demonstrated Warp Server running on a four-way SMP system. SMP support should become available as a free upgrade later on in the summer. Oracle, Sybase, Lotus, Compaq and Hewlett-Packard are among those assisting IBM with the development.

OS/2 utilities

OS/2 is well-supported by utilities. There are hundreds of free, shareware and shrinkwrap tools, ranging from the very neat PartitionMagic 2.0 (which manages



Backing up to a QIC-80 parallel port tape drive with Seagate Backup for OS/2 Warp, Personal Edition

Boot or Boot Manager. As you migrate from DOS and Windows programs to OS/2 you can downsize the FAT partition and increase the size of the HPFS partition with PartitionMagic 2.0 and you can convert FAT partitions to HPFS, too.

The principle caveat that springs to mind is that, wonderful as it may be, you shouldn't consider using PartitionMagic without first ensuring that any data you can't afford to lose is safely backed up.

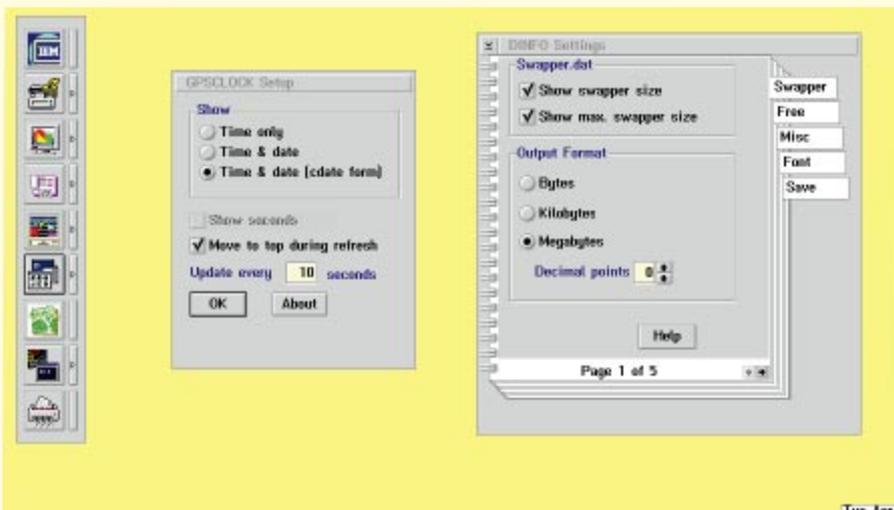
Backing up is easy

Recently I've been trying a couple of easy backup utilities. Seagate Backup for OS/2 Warp Personal Edition Version 2 is one of them. In actual fact it's Arcada Backup for OS/2 Warp, which was a Conner product, but will soon turn up in a new wrapper now that Seagate and Conner have merged. Arcada, acquired by Conner a while back, also has backup software for DOS, Windows and NetWare.

Seagate Backup for OS/2 Warp Personal Edition backs up to QIC-80 and QIC3010/3020 drives attached to floppy drive and parallel ports and high-speed QIC tape controllers. So far, it seems to work OK and does have the useful feature of allowing you to restore an OS/2 system from a set of three emergency diskettes, rather than having to completely reinstall OS/2 before being able to run the restore program.

IBM also has a basic QIC tape backup product, which has a similar emergency restore facility. IBM DualStor Backup for OS/2 is more fully featured than Seagate Personal Edition in terms of its file selection handling and it can backup NetWare bindery files, which Seagate doesn't support.

Both Seagate and IBM's backup products include a scheduler which supports automatic, unattended, backup. For SCSI tape support there is a professional edition from Seagate and Personally Safe'n Sound from IBM.



I use DINFO to keep an eye on my swapfile and drive statistics, and CLOCKGS to place a small time and date bar at the bottom of my desktop

FAT and HPFS partitions), to GoServe an efficient freeware World Wide Web server.

In addition to shareware and the stuff you have to pay for before you can see whether it works for you, there is a plethora of OS/2 software written by IBM employees which can be found in OS/2 forums on CompuServe and IBM Internet sites. It is free and is tagged as EWS (Employee Written Software). I use DINFO to keep an eye on my swapfile and drive statistics and CLOCKGS to place a small time and date bar at the bottom of my desktop.

Really useful stuff

PartitionMagic 2.0 is a utility which allows you to organise large hard disks more effectively by partitioning them into

separate logical drives. Most PCs these days are shipped with large drives of 500Mb to 1,200Mb, but on a single FAT partition.

This can be inconvenient and usually leads to a waste of space because large FAT partitions have large cluster sizes (32K on a 1.2Gb partition, for example). As file space is allocated in clusters, the "slack" or unusable space in large clusters quickly accumulates and can amount to hundreds of megabytes on a large partition.

PartitionMagic 2.0 does everything FDISK and FORMAT can do as well as shrink, expand and move partitions. There's a FAT-only version — PartitionMagic for Windows 95 and DOS — and the upmarket PartitionMagic 2.0 for DOS and OS/2, which supports both FAT and HPFS partitions. The program has a graphical interface and is extremely easy to use.

It's particularly useful on systems running DOS/Windows and OS/2 with Dual

PCW Contacts

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PartitionMagic 2.0. Detailed information from PowerQuest on www.powerquest.com.

IBM software enquiry service: 01329 242728.

OneStop (OS/2-savvy people) is an excellent UK source for OS/2 software of all types: ftp.onestop.co.uk or phone 0117 985 3370