OS/2 Takes the Wind Out of Chicago - Wins Best of COMDEX!

★ Ziff-Davis Europe (6Jun94)	Software Excellence Award, Grand Award for Technical Excellence
★ PC World - Spain (31May94)	PC World Special Award
★ Binary - Spain (19May94)	Award for Excellence
★ BYTE Magazine (May94)	COMDEX Best of Show, Overall (Personal OS/2 Beta 1)
★ BYTE Magazine (May94)	COMDEX Best of System/Development (Personal OS/2 Beta 1)
★ PC Magazine (31May94)	Editor's Choice - 32-bit Operating Systems
★ Jerry Pournelle/BYTE Magazine (Apr94)	Chaos Manor User's Choice Award - Operating System of the Year
★ InfoWorld Magazine (28Mar94)	Product of the Year 1993 - Overall (Reader's Poll)
★ InfoWorld Magazine (28Mar94)	Product of the Year 1993 - Software (Reader's Poll)
★ InfoWorld Magazine (28Mar94)	Product of the Year 1993 - Interoperability
★ Chip Magazine [Germany] (Mar94)	Operating System of the Year 1993
★ Datamation Magazine (15Feb94)	Product of the Year 1993 (Reader's Poll) - PC Software
★ PC Expert Magazine [France] (Feb94)	Technical Excellence Award
★ Windows Magazine (Feb94)	WIN 100 - 100 Best Windows Products of 1994
★ BYTE Magazine (Jan94)	Best Products of 1993, Award of Excellence
★ Computer Shopper (Jan94)	Best Buys of 1993: Best Operating System (Reader balloting)
★ PC Week Magazine (27Dec93)	PC Week Labs, Product(s) of the Year 1993
★ Houston Chronicle (Dec93)	Best Operating System
★ PC Magazine [U.K.] (Dec93)	Technical Innovation Award: Best Desktop Operating System
★ Taiwan IMAE Committee (Dec93)	10 Best Chinese Information Products of 1993
★ PC/Computing Magazine (Dec93)	1993 MVP: Operating Systems and Environments
★ PC/Computing Magazine (Nov93)	1993 MVP Finalist: Multimedia Software (MMPM/2)
★ BYTE Magazine (Nov93)	COMDEX Best of Show, Operating Systems
★ Ziff-Davis European Awards (7Jun93)	Software Excellence, Operating Environment and Desktop category
★ PC Professionell - Germany (May93)	Innovationen des Jahres 92/93
★ PC Magazine [Chile] (May93)	Best Operating System for Personal Computers
★ InfoWorld Magazine (26Apr93)	Overall Product of the Year 1992
★ InfoWorld Magazine (26Apr93)	Software Product of the Year 1992
★ Soft et Micro [France] (Apr93)	1993 Must Have
★ PC Magazine - Mexico (31Mar93)	Technical Excellence, Operating Systems / Software Standards
★ Computergram International (Mar93)	Product Excellence Award
★ PC Magazine [Brazil] (Mar93)	Best System for Multimedia
★ PC Magazine [Spain] (Mar93)	Product of the Year 1992
★ Computer Language Mag. (23Feb93)	Jolt Cola Award for Product Excellence 1992
★ Datamation (15Feb93)	Product of the Year 1992, PC Software
★ PC Magazine [Italy] (3Feb93)	PC Technology Award
★ Washington Journal (Feb93)	Best of 1992, Operating System
★ Softwarove Noviny (Feb93)	Product of the Year 1992
★ Corporate Computing (Jan93)	Best Buy for 1993
★ PC World [Norway] (Jan93)	Product of the Year 1992
★ PC Week Magazine (28Dec92)	PC Week Labs Top Products of '92
★ Information Week (22Dec92)	1992 Top Products - The 10 Most Likely to Succeed
★ PC Magazine (22Dec92)	Technical Excellence, Operating Systems and Software Standards
★ PC/Computing Magazine (Dec92)	1992 MVP: Operating System/Environment
★ PC World Magazine (Dec92)	PC Industry Achievement, Most Promising Newcomer - Software
★ BYTE Magazine (Nov92)	COMDEX Best of Show, Operating Systems
★ InfoWorld Magazine (Nov93)	Excellent rating (Technical Support)
★ Software Support Professional Association (SSPA) (Dec93)	Software Technical Assistance Recognition (STAR) award, High call-volume, (IBM PSP Service and Support organization)

"It's fast, it's robust, and it works: OS/2 takes the wind out of Chicago. Windows 4 has been in beta testing for something like nine months now, and it is still too slow on an 8MB system and too unreliable. There are EMM386 problems, CD-ROM problems, SoundBlaster problems, and this new interface turns homely applications downright ugly. Suddenly OS/2 is looking very, very good. But wait, they'll speed up Chicago before it ships! Maybe, but the OS/2 2.2 beta is already faster, lots faster. It has networking built-in and makes Windows 3.1 apps look like Windows 3.1 apps. It may have taken IBM 7 years to get it right, but I'm finally coming around." **(Robert X. Cringely, InfoWorld Magazine, 06Jun94)**

Personal OS/2 from IBM, the beta of a 4MB version of OS/2 for Windows that is slated to ship this year, was named 'Best of Show' and 'Best System/Development Software Category' in BYTE magazine and The Interface Group's 'Best of COMDEX/Spring and Windows World '94' award ceremony in Atlanta today. Candidates for the 'Best of Show' award were the 12 winners of the individual categories. Personal OS/2 captured the award, surpassing Digital's Alpha microprocessor, Apple's PowerBook 500, and Microsoft's OLE Custom Controls, and Windows NT. It also won best of system/development category, beating out Microsoft's Windows NT Workstation, Windows NT, and Chicago, Microsoft's newest version of Windows (not yet released). When presenting the award Jerry Pournelle said it was because of the significant impact this product will have on the future of the industry. "We were surprised," said Lee Reiswig. "This is the beta test version, and it doesn't contain all the capabilities and exciting parts, but it still managed to get best of show."

"IBM has chosen to retrofit the existing OS/2 2.1 to support 80x86-based SMP platforms. Fortunately the necessary techniques are well understood--many Unix kernels have undergone the same transformation. OS/2 SMP should be an effective first implementation, delivering real scalability for multithreaded OS/2 programs as well as concurrent DOS/Windows sessions. An attractive solution

for inexpensive, small-footprint clients and servers." **(Michael Kogan, Byte Magazine, Jun94)**

"[W]hile W4WG [Windows for Workgroups] has some 32-bit features, it's not really a 32-bit operating system; and while it's not too bad at task switching, it's not really a multitasking operating system. It knows about objects, but it's not truly an object-oriented system. It will run some DOS programs well enough, but it's really awful with others. It's a bad gaming environment. The plain truth is that if you're running a lot of DOS programs, you'll really be better off with OS/2." **(Jerry Pournelle, BYTE Magazine, Apr94)**

"[OS/2] impressed us with its stability, its true object-oriented GUI interface, and strong DOS and Windows emulation. OS/2 is far less hardware-intensive than most of the other reviewed operating systems, running comfortably with 8MB of RAM, even on a 386. This and its low price make it a strong candidate as a corporate desktop standard. Additional high points include OS/2 2.1's implementation of SOM, a powerful language-independent object model; and REXX, IBM's cross-platform procedures language. OS/2 is an enterprise developer's dream. All of its components conform to published, open standards. Carefully layered to permit functional independence, the architecture is highly extensible, making it a versatile and flexible server platform. Its ability to handle multiple protocol stacks while running multiple applications concurrently makes it a secure and robust client platform, too." **(PC Magazine, 31May94)**

"And that ... is the real bottom line. OS/2 will do all that DOS and Windows will do, and more."

"On the marketing front, OS/2 for Windows presents an almost no-risk buy for the individual user. Many a customer has paid more than the Special Edition's introductory price for a DOS memory manager.... And if nothing else, OS/2 for Windows certainly excels as a DOS memory manager and multitasker. Under close scrutiny, OS/2 for Windows turns out to differ very little from OS/2 itself. Our initial tests indicate that other than the missing WIN-OS2 components (which are supplied by [your copy of] Windows itself) and a few changes to the device drivers and DLLs that handle Windows-to-OS/2 communications, very little has changed from OS/2. The similarity... decreases the chance of radically different problems occurring at sites using both flavors of version 2.1. Since OS/2 for Windows relies on Microsoft Windows code running under OS/2 rather than modified Windows code integrated into OS/2, we expected performance degradation with respect to WIN-OS2. Surprisingly, OS/2 for Windows was faster in all tests. Typically, the performance improvement was ... under 5 percent. ...OS/2 for Windows establishes a new level of confidence in IBM as an operating system developer. While IBM no longer has access to new Windows source code, OS/2 for Windows demonstrates that IBM doesn't need that code to enable Windows compatibility under OS/2." **(Bradley Kliewer, OS/2 Professional, Jan94)**

"It looks as though OS/2 has won the battle to become the 1994 champions of 32-bit desktop operating systems." **(Datamation, 15Apr94)**

"[I]f you're a Windows user and you install the new OS/2 you keep your old Windows, complete with desktop and applications. You can then move all your DOS applications to OS/2. They'll run a lot better. This is particularly noticeable with visual and sound-intensive games, which in Windows are either jerky and clunky or won't work at all. In OS/2 you can have several of your favorite DOS games running all at once. Game developers tell me the interface with Windows wasn't designed to allow the kinds of things game developers like to do. Now, you might not think games important, but consider: games are a good example of what hands-on multimedia is really like." **(Jerry Pournelle, OS/2 Professional, Jan94)**

"OS/2 2.1 is indeed the most superior OS available. It is technologically far ahead of any rival."

"And that ... is the real bottom line. OS/2 will do all that DOS and Windows will do, and more. Many DOS games won't run in Windows but give OS/2 no trouble at all. OS/2 networks extremely well to other OS/2 systems and acceptably well to W4WG [Windows for Workgroups]. It's true 32-bit code, it truly does multitasking, it really knows objects and object linking in ways Microsoft doesn't seem to have learned, and as long as you're not experimenting to find the limits, it's solid as a rock. Technically, OS/2 is a winner, and it's sure to get better." **(Jerry Pournelle, BYTE Magazine, May94)**

"A PC equipped with IBM's OS/2 2.1 operating system is well-armed to tackle multimedia -- even more so, in many ways, than a PC running Microsoft Windows or a Macintosh with System 7. Unlike Windows, OS/2 and its Multimedia Presentation Manager/2 (MMPM2) provide extensive multimedia support straight out of the box, including digital sound recording and playback, and viewing of IBM's Ultimotion and Intel's Indeo AVI video formats at up to 30 frames per second.... Further, the 32-bit architecture and preemptive multitasking of the OS/2 operating system arguably give it a major boost in tackling the demands of full-motion video, and are especially well-suited for video and playback from CD-ROM." **(Rich Santalesa, Computer Shopper, Apr94)**

"[A]cclamation by peers--not a bad measure, but it doesn't reflect what the customers think about the product. That's how InfoWorld's Product of the Year differs; we give you a chance to tell us and the industry which products made it to the top. In January, we asked 100,000 InfoWorld readers to vote for the best products in the software, hardware, and networking categories and the top overall product of 1993. The results are in and very interesting. [I]n hardware, the IBM ThinkPad 720C beat the competition; and in both Software and Overall, OS/2 2.1 was the clear winner. For IBM it was a very good year. [W]e have to declare OS/2 the reigning champion when it comes to our Product of the Year balloting. Version 2.0 ... won last year's overall category as well. [T]oday's OS/2 both meets expectations and can run comfortably on the average new PC. At one time thought of as the Rodney Dangerfield of computer operating systems, OS/2 is getting plenty of respect from InfoWorld's readers." **(InfoWorld Magazine, 28Mar94)**

"How well does an operating system get along with others on the network? The top grade went to OS/2 2.1. In the interoperability tests published in November, OS/2 2.1 provided the broadest native connectivity of all the operating systems tested. Network access integrates easily into the Workplace shell, down to the printer objects. OS/2 was the only operating system where we could get NetWare, LAN Server and TCP/IP running simultaneously and still be able to run all our OS/2, DOS and Windows applications with RAM to spare. Combine that with the multitasking and powerful OS/2 Workplace Shell, and we can't imagine ever going back to a DOS/Windows environment." **(Nicholas Petreley and Laura Wonnacott, InfoWorld Magazine, 28Mar94)**

"OS/2 will enjoy some advantages over SMP products such as NT, ... Solaris for X86, UnixWare 2.0 ... and ... SCO UNIX and Open Desktop, according to John Navas, a principal with The Navas Group, a ... market research firm. 'OS/2 SMP will be able to multiprocess conventional OS/2 applications without recompiling,' Navas said. 'OS/2 SMP will run in 8MB credibly, but NT and UNIX systems require 20MB or more to support SMP.' IBM is claiming another technical advantage. 'UNIX kernels, even in SMP implementations, are single-threaded, while ours is multithreaded,' said [John] Soyring [director of strategic relations for IBM PSP]. 'This makes the operating system itself go faster, since operating-system tasks can happen in parallel.'" **(Mary Jo Foley, PC Week, 07Mar94)**

"Gates would love to see Microsoft Home take off--because Win-

dows NT certainly hasn't. As it turns out, NT is getting as warm a reception as New Coke. Even Microsoft has pushed back development of native versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.... And the biggest surprise of all is that OS/2 seems to be making some real headway in the [home] marketplace. IBM may have the last laugh after all." **(Home Office Computing, Mar94)**

"IBM's OS/2 is seen more as a full-size environment, particularly with its well-defined object strategy in SOM (System Object Model) and DSOM (Distributed SOM) and the way that IBM has clearly committed itself over the long term to migrating to the new Taligent object model. Combined with the growing number of users and a trickle of both desktop applications and of unique, useful application design tools, OS/2 continues to be a viable choice for customers, and IBM--ironically--ends up being a much more comfortable choice than Microsoft." **(Stewart Alsop, InfoWorld Magazine, 21Feb94)**

"OS/2 is ... here now, and it's winning hearts in Corporate America for its robustness, excellent development tools, and broad range of connectivity options."

"IBM's desktop operating system comes of age in a version that provides performance equal to (and in some cases, better than) Windows 3.1 while running Windows applications." [At the presentation of the WIN 100 awards ceremony, beating out Windows NT] **(Jake Kirchner, Executive Editor, Windows Magazine, Feb94)**

"So, you've written off IBM's OS/2? Not so fast. Of five 32-bit GUIs we took to task for this story, OS/2 is ahead of the pack. Its Workplace Shell is a sleek, well-crafted control center. Aside from proven compatibility with more than 50,000 Windows and DOS applications, OS/2 has thousands of native apps written for it. If you're going to choose a 32-bit GUI, you can't lose with OS/2." [Comparison of NextStep 3.2, OS/2 2.1, SCO Open Desktop 3.0, Solaris 2.1 for x86, and Windows NT 3.1] **(Randy Kennedy, PC/Computing, Feb94)**

"Running OS/2 2.1 on an 8MB machine that hasn't a prayer of running Windows NT, I find that it delivers many of the same benefits: robust multithreading and multitasking, a comprehensive 32-bit API, an advanced file system, and support for Windows 3.1 software. Software developers have known for years that that OS/2 is a far more productive environment than DOS plus Windows. With the polish and maturity of version 2.1, more and more users are discovering the same advantage." **(Jon Udell, Senior Technical Editor-at-Large, BYTE Magazine, presenting the Award of Excellence, Jan94)**

"OS/2 2.1 leads the way with our readers' votes. In a year flooded with new operating systems--Windows NT, UnixWare, Solaris, and NeXTStep--OS/2 emerged victorious. Actually, it has done more than simply beat the newcomers. This version has broken Microsoft's iron grip on today's computers. Another plus for OS/2 is IBM's legendary support. If your new program goes haywire under OS/2 at midnight on Friday night, you don't have to wait for Monday morning to get help. IBM's HelpCenter is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week." **(Stephen J. Vaughan-Nichols, Computer Shopper, Jan94)**

"Microsoft would like everyone to call this the year of Windows NT. But it's not there yet. It came too late, ran too slowly, and delivered too little. The most impressive 32-bit operating system by far is IBM's OS/2 2.1. OS/2 2.1 offers full, fast support for Windows 3.1 (including 386 Enhanced Mode), DOS, and all versions of OS/2--especially the major applications developed for the Workplace Shell. Don't sit waiting around for the next-generation operating system. It's here now, and it works great. IBM's OS/2 2.1 is a multithreaded, 32-bit operating system that finally has a steadily growing body of applications using it.... OS/2 has the most attractive interface available on a PC, and it's fast, even at Windows emulation. It is, in short, everything you'd want an operating system to be." **(John Montgomery and John Taschek, PC/Computing, Dec93)**

"Offered as part of IBM's OS/2 2.1, Multimedia Presentation Manager/2 beats anything you'll find in Windows. It's full of intuitive extras, from simple things like a volume-control knob icon to a well-laid-out master screen. Build on this with IBM's Ultimedia software, and you've got a killer combination." **(Matthew Lake and Ron White, PC/Computing, Dec93)**

"A staggering technical achievement." **(Tony Westbrook, Editor-in-Chief, PC Magazine, presenting the Technical Innovation award, Dec93)**

"Right now, OS/2 seems to be riding a new wave of popularity. Published reports put sales past the 3 million mark. With Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT sputtering at the starting gate and UNIX vendors still unable to deliver a unified version of the operating system for the Intel platform, OS/2 is looking better all the time. And although LAN Server is not an integral part of the OS/2 kernel, it was built to run as a set of networking services on top of OS/2. 'OS/2 is probably the best environment for communications. The OS/2 Communications Manager supports so many protocols, you can connect [OS/2 and LAN Server] with almost anything,' [Steve] Rabin [director of development technologies at American Software Inc.] says." **(Alan Radding, InfoWorld, 29Nov93)**

"Of the products reviewed, OS/2 2.1 is best suited for the majority of desktop PCs today. [I]t offers the best connectivity of the bunch. Also, OS/2 runs more 16-bit Windows programs than NT and runs them faster. OS/2 offers functionality that NT does not--right mouse button support, hierarchical folders, and objects on the desktop. Also, dragging and dropping is better in OS/2 than NT. Although OS/2 does not have built-in network support, its integration with NetWare is mature and stable. This allows connectivity with a proven mission-critical server. OS/2 [works] with all the leading LAN standards (LAN Server, NetWare, Vines, and LAN Manager). OS/2 got top honors [for technical support]. We received in-depth answers to our questions as well as more than one solution to a problem in many cases. OS/2 offers fine documentation -- easy to read and comprehensive." [Comparison of 6 operating systems, including NextStep, Open Desktop, Solaris, UnixWare, and Windows NT.] **(James Armstrong and Les Kent, InfoWorld, 22Nov93)**

"If you've never touched a GUI before, you'll probably fall in love with OS/2 2.1. It's easy to use, attractive, and includes lots of online help. If you're coming from the DOS world, or don't like what you're getting in Windows 3.1, you'll probably find that OS/2 is a slicker operating system overall [than NT]. OS/2's Drive Manager beats Windows NT's. Why? You can drag and drop between it and OS/2 applications. Windows NT's File Manager ... is one of the worst features of Windows 3.1, and it's made its way into Windows NT intact. Hey everybody: There is an alternative to Windows." **(John Montgomery, PC/Computing, Nov93)**

"Suddenly, OS/2--last year's underdog in the 32-bit play-offs--has hit a home run with its Version 2.1, which surprisingly provides a better 32-bit environment for many current Windows 3.1 players than Windows NT does." **(Frederic Davis, Windows Sources, Oct93)**

"Now that the NT team is back from vacation, I suggest that they ... look for inspiration in a most unlikely place: IBM's OS/2 Version 2.1. Because while the NT team was feverishly swatting NT bugs in Redmond, IBM was quietly turning the Workplace Shell into a work of art. If I were in charge of NT, here is what I'd steal first: Multimedia Presentation Manager: You get 30 - frames - per - second video and a robust set of tools that developers are raving about. Multimedia is what 32-bit operating systems were made for, so do it right. Individually Configurable DOS / Windows Sessions: NT requires you to stuff all your Windows 3.1 apps in a single virtual machine; if one goes down, they all go down. OS/2 lets you load each one in its own protected space. No More File Manager: Why can't files,

directories, and even entire drives simply have icons that sit on the desktop alongside programs? That's the OS/2 way, and it's amazingly easy to get used to. You can even drag files into the shredder ..., a GUI gotta-have-it that Windows still doesn't have. Online Help: Microsoft's is good. IBM's is amazing. In OS/2 2.1, every word of every manual is online and searchable. Every piece of software should offer this much help." **(Ed Bott, PC/Computing, Oct93)**

"OS/2 [2.1] has clearly bested Windows NT in its ability to run 16-bit DOS and Windows applications along with native apps. OS/2 is ... here now, and it's winning hearts in Corporate America for its robustness, excellent development tools, and broad range of connectivity options. IBM says it's selling 300,000 copies per month. OS/2 is an operating system that's going somewhere. IBM has articulated plans to move OS/2 to a microkernel based architecture [Workplace OS] that will implement object orientation, portability, and support for multiple CPUs. With TrueType support and vastly improved display and printer drivers, OS/2 makes an excellent case for itself as a mature operating system. IBM's plans for Workplace OS should give developers confidence in OS/2's staying power." **(Bill Machrone, PC Magazine, 14Sep93)**

"We have to declare OS/2 the reigning champion when it comes to our Product of the Year balloting. Version 2.0 ... won last year's overall category as well."

"Nick's become nothing short of an OS/2 fanatic, and that really has us worried. Since he switched to OS/2, he definitely looks like he's enjoying his work more than he should be. [After a] couple of weeks with the OS/2 desktop, the Workplace Shell, it becomes painfully obvious just how rinky-dink the native Windows [NT] interface really is. And right now, there's no Norton Desktop that's going to come to your rescue." **(Nicholas Petreley, Nancy Durlester, and Laura Wonnacott, InfoWorld, 13Sep93)**

"OS/2 is more than just another pretty GUI: It provides a library of graphical interface objects, an industrial strength embedded programming language and multiple threads for nimble multitasking. The REXX language [which originated on IBM mainframes] is the result of more than a decade of worldwide user recommendations and feedback.... With its convenient ... features, such as unlimited precision arithmetic and extendable unlimited hierarchies of data structures, REXX is well-matched to the class of hardware that users can finally afford to buy." **(Peter Coffee, PC Week, 2Aug93)**

"While other 32-bit operating systems are struggling to just make it to the desktop, OS/2 is all grown up. With version [2.1], OS/2 (a PC/Computing 1992 MVP winner) is not just powerful, but incredibly usable. The best news about Version 2.1 is its uncompromising support for Windows 3.1 applications and popular peripherals--specifically CD-ROM players and a longer list of printers [more than 250]. Another surprise: OS/2 now comes with IBM's slick Multimedia Presentation Manager/2 (MMPM/2), making the operating system a powerful multimedia engine. Version 2.1 adds 32-bit versions of the Graphics Engine and High Performance File System (HPFS), making this a complete 32-bit, multitasking, multithreading operating system. The good news is that Version 2.1 is available on CD-ROM." **(Tracey Capen, PC/Computing, Aug93)**

"There are ... significant advantages to moving beyond Windows or PC-DOS to OS/2. The first of OS/2's strengths is the oldest--the ability to keep the system up and running when one window crashes. The fact that OS/2 protects the system from such events is a major benefit. [S]econd, in the 32-bit video subsystem, OS/2 can provide greater varieties of color and performance, which makes some of the new multimedia applications much slicker. Finally, OS/2 2.1 will allow pre-emptive multitasking, enabling the user, not the applications, to schedule what session is going to take priority. OS/2 2.1 [is] raising the ante in the card game." **(Aaron Goldberg, PC Week, 26Jul93)**

"OS/2 2.1 provided the broadest native connectivity of all the operating systems tested. Network access integrates easily into the Workplace shell."

"[U]nproven NT is getting a healthy dose of skepticism from IS managers. 'OS/2 is a mature operating system--it took years for IBM to get it right,' said an NT beta tester currently using OS/2 to develop applications for a large bank. OS/2's relative stability [compared to NT] has drawn customers who require an operating system for mission-critical applications. 'I don't see what NT offers that OS/2 doesn't offer today,' said Neil Ferraiuolo, senior analyst at AIG trading Corp., a commodities trading firm in Greenwich, Conn." **(Marc Ferranti, PC Week, 26Jul93)**

"Think of a system that offers significant advantages to the huge installed base of Intel microprocessors, provides true downward compatibility, costs less [than NT], requires less hardware and is outselling everything else in its class by a wide margin. Once, that system was Windows 3.0. Today OS/2 2.1 fits the description." **(Richard E. Hodges, PC Week, 5Jul93)**

"IBM has built a mature, powerful, ready-for-prime-time operating system. It runs applications that require Windows 3.1. Its multimedia capabilities are impressive. It supports DDE among Windows and OS/2 applications. VARs specializing in multimedia should sell OS/2. Integrators developing custom applications for internal use by corporate clients would be well-served ... by OS/2 2.1." **(Joel Shore, Computer Reseller News, 7Jun93)**

"Someone at IBM came up with a great idea: Why charge all those Windows 3.1 users for the same code twice? With this edition, IBM supplies the OS/2 code, and users supply their copies of Windows 3.1. If you're not an OS/2 user yet, and you already have windows 3.1, this is the edition to buy. Installing OS/2 on an extended partition with Boot Manager offers the best of both worlds in terms of performance and overall ease of use. Boot Manager lets you choose the partition from which you want to start, with the aid of a user-friendly menu, which is key. The end result ... leaves the user with the choice of running DOS and Windows under a FAT file system, or multitasking DOS, Windows, and OS/2 applications under HPFS." **(Frank Comley, InfoWorld, 07Mar94)**

OS/2 2.1 "can even enhance applications written for another operating system. For example, Windows applications can be made to pre-emptively multitask between one another, which is not possible on plain Windows 3.1." **(Eamonn Sullivan, PC Week Supplement, 24May93)**

"MMPM/2 (Multimedia Presentation Manager/2) extensions to OS/2 2.1 ... allow users to view several video clips simultaneously. [U]nlike Microsoft Corp.'s Windows, which requires a video board to view 15 frames per second, MMPM/2 will speed that to 30/24 frames per second, without hardware assistance." **(Aileen Crowley, PC Week Supplement, 24May93)**

OS/2 2.1 "runs some Windows 3.1 applications 20 to 30 percent faster than native Windows." **(David Moskowitz, president of Productivity Solutions, Inc., a consulting firm, quoted in PC Week, 17May93)**

"[OS/2 2.1] is indeed the most superior OS available. It is technologically far ahead of any rival. It is backwardly and downwardly more compatible than its nearest competitor. OS/2 [2.1] therefore represents the best springboard mankind possesses today for a great leap forward into personal computer empowerment for tomorrow's masses." **(Edwin Black, OS/2 Professional, May93)**

"Enter OS/2 2.1--and it's a whole new game. [T]here's now a certain snap to the way OS/2 2.1 works. It's kind of like the high-quality

sound you get when you slam the door on a Mercedes. Something in the feel tells you that it is solid, rugged and dependable. [I]t's impossible to get away from comparisons to Windows 3.1. Most impressive in OS/2 2.1's new feel is the solid and zippy performance of Win-OS2 3.1. Like many DOS programs when running under OS/2, the modified version of Windows 3.1 [built into 2.1] runs faster under OS/2 than under DOS 5.0. [T]he extra zip is noticeable throughout Win-OS2. All in all, OS/2 brings many welcome changes and new capabilities. Most important to many users is the now-fulfilled promise of better Windows than Windows. With Microsoft downplaying NT (Bill Gates was quoted recently as saying 'If you don't know why you need NT, then you probably don't need NT'), OS/2 2.1 looms as the frustrated Windows user's best bet for a stable environment, a clear computing future, and preemptive multitasking." **(Herb Tyson, OS/2 Professional, May93)**

"The Workplace Shell is extremely flexible. There's a way to do just about anything. In fact, there are probably three ways to do anything." **(Larry J. Seltzer, PC Week Supplement, 24May93)**

OS/2 2.1 "gives us the ability to run 64 telephone lines into a single PC, and by the end of this year we will be able to run 5 T-1 lines [with 24 lines each] on a single machine. I know this can't be done in Windows 3.1. We tried it but couldn't go beyond two or three applications [running at once] before it would start to slow down. Windows just wasn't designed to support this kind of multitasking." **(Gary Green, president of Evergreen Systems, Inc., a supplier of voice and fax services and equipment, quoted in PC Week Supplement, 24May93)**

LAN Server

"And what about OS/2 LAN Server? In PC Week Labs performance tests, OS/2 LAN Server did remarkably well." **(David Berlind, PC Week, 11Apr94)**

"Running our 10-user business application test, LAN Server was 2 percent faster than Microsoft's [NT] Advanced Server.... [In the] 50-user test ... it was 34 percent faster than Advanced Server. Like Microsoft's NOS, IBM's LAN Server organizes ... network resources into domains. Changing domain names is considerably easier with LAN Server: Microsoft's Advanced Server ... forces you to reinstall the operating system. [U]nlike Advanced Server, IBM's NOS lets you define a backup domain controller during installation. If you want to change its status, you either rerun the installation utility or use the Net Accounts command. Compared with other NOS vendors, IBM provides generous support policies. It provides free technical support through an 800 number. Free support is also available through IBM's CompuServe forum or Prodigy. IBM also maintains an in-house bulletin board, and you can get technical tips and updates on the ASK PSP CD-ROM. To cap off IBM's support policies, it offers customers a 30-day money-back guarantee." [Comparison of 5 network operating systems, including NetWare 3.12, NetWare 4.01, Windows NT Advanced Server V3.1, and Banyan Vines V5.5] **(Tracey Capen, InfoWorld, 10Jan94)**

"LANQuest labs last week released a test report that IBM LAN Server Advanced Version 3.0 outperformed Microsoft's Windows NT Advanced Server (NTAS) and LAN Manager Version 2.2 using nine DOS and Windows applications. LANQuest found LAN Server Advanced was 45% faster than NT and 8% faster than LAN Manager in a 100-node net." **(Network World Magazine, 11Oct93)**

"Overall, IBM LAN Server Advanced V3.0 supported up to 4 times the number of users and 2.4 times the peak throughput of Microsoft's Windows NT Advanced Server V3.1, in these tests." [Copies of this report may be requested by dialing 800-IBM-4FAX and selecting document 2347.] **(LANQuest report, Oct93)**

VisualAge

"IBM's VisualAge, released last month, is quite a break from IBM tradition. Mainframe rigidity and text-based panels are gone, replaced by the interactive sizzle of Smalltalk-based visual tools. VisualAge is an industrial-strength product, improving on the error handling and large-program performance of Digitalk Inc.'s Smalltalk/V and PARTS ... Workbench...." **(PC Week, 25Apr94)**

"VisualAge is the most exciting development tool I've seen ... in a long time. It's IBM's new visual development environment, and it's a knockout. VisualAge is a fully visual, object-oriented environment that works well for individual developers and has impressive features for teams. It lets you build applications and GUIs by pointing and clicking and drawing connections from one place to another. Equally or more important is a comprehensive set of DLL services that allow you to encapsulate, use, and reuse legacy code, including smart input and output interfaces that let you do pre- or post-processing on the data being passed between the legacy code and the applications you're generating. VisualAge applications can be surprisingly complex without writing a line of code. If you do need to write code, you drop into Smalltalk. IBM ... acquired the technology underlying VA from Object technologies International. OTI's products are robust and well respected by the object-oriented crowd and by Smalltalk insiders in particular. VA has three great strengths: visual development, database access, and use of legacy code." **(Bill Machrone, PC Week, 11Apr94)**

C Set+++

"Development software for a complex and sophisticated operating environment such as OS/2 requires a significant suite of tools, as well as comprehensive, technical information resources. IBM C Set++ for OS/2, Version 2.1, represents a successful attempt at meeting most of these needs in a single package. [F]or any serious OS/2 developer, the solid professional tools of C Set++ are a must." **(Thomas E. Siering, PC Magazine, 29Mar94)**

"Overall, IBM LAN Server Advanced V3.0 supported up to 4 times the number of users and 2.4 times the peak throughput of Microsoft's Windows NT Advanced Server V3.1."

"There are ... some terrific development tools and utilities for OS/2, among them IBM's own C/Set++...." **(Will Zachmann, OS/2 Professional, Mar94)**

Person to Person/2

"IBM's Person to Person/2 is an OS/2 program that lets you create a realtime, extended computer conference. It works over ISDN or asynchronous connections, and with ... NetBIOS, TCP/IP, and NetWare 3.1x LANs. With the appropriate hardware you can even add video conferencing to the process. [P2P] is actually a collection of tools. The Chalkboard, arguably the most used module, is an electronic whiteboard. You can paste text and graphics from virtually any OS/2, DOS, or Windows application into the Chalkboard for all to see. A Mirror function keeps the Chalkboard image up to date should the actual data of the source application change. The Talk tool is similar to a 'chat' session on a BBS. It has the added advantage that a log is kept of everything being 'said'. The File Transfer tool moves files from one system to another.... [P2P's] Video tool adds a tremendous sense of immediacy and vitality to the conferencing process. Using an IBM ActionMedia Display Adapter and a video camera, you can send and receive live video, or share captured images via the Chalkboard or Clip utility. Even without an ActionMedia card, you can receive video using software emulation. [T]he ability to collaborate through a network and even cross-country, with or without video, has the potential of being a real productivity booster." **(Dennis Fowler and Esther Schindler, Computer Shopper Magazine, Mar94)**

Multimedia Products

"Offered as part of IBM's OS/2 2.1, Multimedia Presentation Manager/2 beats anything you'll find in Windows. It's full of intuitive extras, from simple things like a volume-control knob icon to a well-laid-out master screen. Build on this with IBM's Ultimedia software, and you've got a killer combination." **(Matthew Lake and Ron White, PC/Computing, Dec93)**

"With Ultimedia Workplace/2 IBM brings the light-table metaphor to OS/2 and extends it to include text, graphics, video, presentation, and sound files, so you can organize and catalog your multimedia files. Creating a light table is as easy as creating any OS/2 object--simply drag the Light Table template to the desktop or folder, and you're ready to start cataloging. Double-clicking on any file type opens the appropriate browser or another associated program of your choice. [It lets] you link light-table folders to dBASE IV, DB2/2, and OS/2 Database Manager, and Oracle databases to store and then later search for additional file information. Workplace/2 will appeal to users who are constantly creating media files, but who want a better way to track them than simple folders." **(Rich Santalesa, Computer Shopper Magazine, Apr94)**

"With the release of a new multimedia authoring trio ... IBM is stepping to the forefront of business graphics. Ultimedia Builder/2 combines a multimedia authoring studio, similar to a Multimedia ToolBook, and a business graphics applications, in the realm of Harvard Graphics.... A companion product, Ultimedia Workplace/2 is the best multimedia browser-and-management system I've seen, and Ultimedia Perfect Image/2 is a well-executed scanner and image-editing application. [Workplace/2's] run-time feature lest you play back your presentation on any OS/2 machine. Perfect Image/2 provides the final ingredient, allowing you to capture images from a video camera, VCR, still video camera, or television; edit them; and save them in a variety of formats. If you haven't yet experienced OS/2 multimedia, you'll discover it's completely different from the sometimes cheesy experience offered by Windows multimedia. IBM's implementation uses less disk space, plays back at twice the frame size, and doesn't suffer as much signal loss and jerkiness. Because its OS/2, your spreadsheet can recalculate in the background while your animation plays." **(Joe Abernathy, PC World Magazine, Jan94)**

"It is, in short, everything you'd want an operating system to be."

Communications Manager/2

"'OS/2 is probably the best environment for communications. The OS/2 Communications Manager supports so many protocols, you can connect [OS/2 and LAN Server] with almost anything,' [Steve] Rabin [director of development technologies at American Software Inc.] says." **(Alan Radding, InfoWorld, 29Nov93)**

TCP/IP for OS/2

"Do you want to create a super networked client that can connect to TCP, NetWare, and NetBEUI networks concurrently? You can. Indeed, IBM's own TCP/IP [for OS/2] software ... is one of the best such products on any operating system." **(David Strom, InfoWorld, 06Dec93)**

"We installed and configured IBM's TCP/IP, Version 2.0 for OS/2 to work with NetWare and LAN Server requesters. And try as we might to get results to the contrary, practically everything went smoothly. Sigh. What fun is that? Do you have any idea how difficult it is for three cynics to write about success? We reboot the system. To our surprise and delight, the machine loads all the NetWare requester drivers without a single hitch. No fussing with the NET.CFG file. No tricks with the PROTOCOL.INI file. Not even a single line of CONFIG.SYS file tweaking. It just works. And although we haven't had time to benchmark, it sure looks like TCP/IP, Version 2.0 for OS/2 runs significantly faster using IBM's NDIS driver than when we were using Novell's ODINSUP driver." **(Nicholas Petreley, Nancy Durlester, Laura Wonnacott, InfoWorld Magazine, 11Oct93)**

CICS for OS/2

"In many corporations, the core tool for meeting [transaction processing] needs comes from IBM. I refer to IBM's CICS (Customer Information Control System). Not too long ago it was impossible to endorse CICS without recommending, in effect, a mainframe-based architecture--and a Blue-labeled one at that. But, IBM has been moving aggressively toward multiplatform offerings for CICS. IBM's CICS for OS/2 is priced [affordably] and already represents the majority of CICS' installed base of roughly 60,000 licenses." **(Peter Coffee, PC Week Magazine, 13Dec93)**

"A staggering technical achievement."

Speech recognition products

"The IBM Personal Dictation System, or IPDS, brings computer-based dictation services to a mainstream corporate audience. The system combines a voice-controlled application interface with a sophisticated dictation system. Combining a command interface with dictation technology enables you to create and save documents in a completely 'hands-free' environment: You can dictate and enter system commands with your voice. Once I got the hang of speaking with a pause between words, I dictated fairly quickly, up to 70 words per minute. [T]he system improved as I read additional documents into it. The adaptive language model does its job well. [I]n general, the system is very accurate--considerably better than other computer-based dictation systems I've used. Voice macros were simple to create and extremely convenient. For instance, I could say 'open letter,' and the system would print my name and address, the current date, and a general salutation. You can generate often-used phrases or paragraphs by simply saying a single word. Voice-controlled computers are no longer relegated to the realm of science fiction or even to specialized nich markets; viable speech recognition has arrived on the desktop." **(Stanford Diehl, BYTE Magazine, May94)**

"An emerging area where IBM has committed huge resources and has attained a marked lead is speech recognition. Over the past year the company has demonstrated and released a number of speech-recognition products, including the very impressive Personal Dictation system for OS/2. IBM recently showed OS/2 Professional an amazing new speech-recognition technology [ICSS] that is speaker-independent and can recognize words spoken in a natural rhythm.... This technology could have a huge impact on the speech-recognition market." **(Rich Malloy, Edwin Black, and Bradley Kliewer, OS/2 Professional, Jan94)**

"IBM programmers have created a new client/server speech recognition system that understands any speaker in the language it's been told to listen to. There's no need to train the computer for a particular person's speech, as has been the case with earlier systems. The [IBM Continuous Speech Series (ICSS)] system was designed ... to take advantage of OS/2's multithreading capability to give it faster response. In addition, because ICSS is a client/server product, the user interface, which is the client on ICSS, can be doing one thing (such as listening to a phoneme) while the recognition engine on the server is doing something else (such as analyzing the previous phoneme). IBM is selling ICSS as a software developer's kit, so that anyone can speech-enable an application. The only hardware support that's required is an analog-to-digital converter supported by OS/2. This includes such readily available devices as the SoundBlaster from Creative Labs. In short, there's no particularly specialized hardware required. ICSS is different because it will understand any user of a particular language, including those who speak it badly or with accents. Some experts have called ICSS one of the most important products of the decade. [I]t's clear that IBM has an important product. ...ICSS offers users and developers a reasonably priced and capable client/server solution to true speech recognition." **(Wayne Rash, Jr., OS/2 Professional, Jan94)**

"IBM has quietly been working on getting you and your computer on speaking terms. The ICSS is the result of those efforts. It is an OS/2- and AIX-based speaker-independent speech-recognition technology that allows you to give your system commands by talking to it. ICSS will someday reduce many common tasks, such as retrieving E-mail or loading applications, to a one- or two-word spoken command." **(BYTE Magazine, Jan94)**