C H A P T E R   1

Windows 95 Product Review

Windows 95 is an extremely feature-rich product. Virtually every aspect of Windows 95 reflects improvements over Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups. This guide is organized by technology area present in Windows 95, and provides an overview of the features, functionality, and components that make up Windows 95.

While reading about Windows 95, it is important to put the functionality offered into perspective of the needs of the marketplace with how Windows 95 its target design goals.

Note	The discussion of Windows 3.1 as it compares or contrasts to Windows 95 is also appropriate for Windows for Workgroups (even though Windows for Workgroups may not be explicitly identified).

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Revision #: 4   Page: 1 of 4   Printed: 01/25/95 06:43 PM!Unexpected End of Expression

Windows 95 Product Areas Covered by Guide

This guide presents an overview of Windows 95 by discussing the areas of technology that make up Windows 95. To facilitate a discussion of the product, the following areas of Windows 95 that are examined in this guide include:

u   The Windows 95 User Interface

u   Base System Architecture

u   Robustness Improvements

u   Improved Support for Running MS-DOS–based Applications

u   Plug and Play

u   Improved Device Support

u   Networking

u   Systems Management

u   Printing

u   Communications

u   Mobile Computing Services

u   Microsoft Exchange: Email, Fax, and more

u   The Microsoft Network - Online Service

u   Multimedia Services

u   Installation and Setup of Windows 95

u   International Language Support

u   Accessibility

u   Applications and Utilities

u   What Makes a Great Application for Windows 95?

u   The Windows 95 Logo Program

u   Windows 95 Questions and Answers

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Summary of Improvements over Windows 3.1

A summary of improvements available in Windows 95 over Windows 3.1 is provided in many of the sections of this guide covering key features and functionality available in Windows 95. This section provides a quick overview of area where Windows 95 address Windows 3.1 issues, or improves upon the based functionality.

Try It!

Where appropriate, each section of this guide includes a Try It! Section that gives you the opportunity to try and examine the areas of improvement in Windows 95. You are encouraged to see for yourself that Windows 95 is a flexible, powerful, and robust operating system.

Try It!

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Revision #: 4   Page: 3 of 4   Printed: 01/25/95 06:43 PM!Unexpected End of Expression

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