Guided Tour for Administrators

This part of the *Resource Kit* provides an overview of the Windows 95 features that are uniquely important to network administrators and systems-support professionals. In this chapter, descriptions of these features — along with highlights of how to implement them — are grouped according to the special benefits they offer for managing and supporting corporate networks:

- Reduced support costs
- Increased control over the desktop
- Improved user productivity
- Smooth and easy migration

Taken together, these benefits represent a potential reduction in total cost of ownership for personal computers in an organization. In fact, independent industry analysts estimate that organizations currently using Windows version 3.1 can realize total cost-of-ownership savings so substantial that migration costs can be recouped within the first three to six months of implementation.

By reading this guided tour, network administrators and MIS professionals learn which features of Windows 95 can reduce the total cost of ownership for personal computers in their organizations, and how to make these features work.

Windows 95 Reduces Support Costs

Support costs constitute a large portion of an organization's costs for computer ownership. Factors such as system reliability and usability have a significant

impact on these costs. The following Windows 95 features help administrators manage these factors and control support costs:

- A user interface that makes the operating system easier to use
- Support for Plug and Play technology, which simplifies device installation
- 32-bit operating system architecture, which enhances system reliability and performance
- Built-in networking, for easier and more stable connectivity to your existing networks

System control features of Windows 95 also have a role in reducing support costs. See "Windows 95 Increases System Control" later in this chapter for details.