Introduction to OS/2

Purpose: This lecture is intended to introduce the student to the hardware and operating system components associated with OS/2 Warp.

Objectives: After completing this lecture, the student will be able to:

- Identify the personal computer hardware used by the OS/2 system

- Describe the components of the OS/2 operating system

Time to Complete: 1 hr. including lab

Instructor Information:

This information is for the instructor setup pertaining to all labs:

- The student machines should be setup as stand-alone, if connected to a LAN then make sure nothing starts up automatically.
- The student machines should have OS/2 3.0 Warp installed.
- The student machines should have a basic DOS editor installed.
- The student machines should have a Write Windows editor installed.
- The student machines should have IBM Works installed.

- The students should have an available diskette for use in lab.
- The student machines do not need a printer, but could be used.
- The instructor machine needs all the above plus the presentation material and any demo's.
- The instructor should review each lab exercise after the students are finished and make sure they know the answers to all questions.

Page 2: PC Hardware

Most new end user of the OS/2 system have very little experience with the personal computer; therefore, they need a general understanding of how a PC operates. The more important issue is terminology. The PC world uses many terms to describe the same thing. When describing the hardware, it is important they understand that the disk drive is where everything is stored and their display simply provides them access to that information.

Users concerned with response times when using some system functions, such as loading programs, starting sessions and switching between sessions, can improve performance by increasing system memory. If you are running on a constrained system (small hard disk, 16MHz or less processor, 4MB of memory), an additional 2MB of memory will improve performance. In the entry memory system (4MB), the recommended file system is the FAT file system.

A short discussion should be held about the various hardware that the students are using in their everyday work. If they are using 'dumb' terminals, which a lot will be, then relate how the PC will provide the very same operation using emulation.

Page 3: OS/2 Operating System

An operating system provides an interface for the users and their applications to the hardware. Try to keep it as simple as possible at this stage of the course. The operating system itself, and how it actually operates is not a key issue with end users. They need to understand that they can run multiple programs all at the same time; therefore, providing a very complex environment. Multitasking may be a new term to end users, a brief demonstration will help to clarify. Start four applications, such as games and tile them on the screen and show how all four run at the same time. This demonstration will also show them the Graphical User Interface know as GUI. Explain that Warp which is OS/2 V3.0 is the latest release, and was preceded by V2.11 of OS/2.

OS/2 Version 3 is an advanced 32-bit operating system that runs on 4 megabyte systems and provides excellent response time to both 16-bit and 32-bit applications. OS/2 Version 3 is easier to install and to use, and has better performance than previous versions of OS/2.

OS/2 Version 3 has new features that make the system easier to use. The new functions include:

• The Launch Pad provides a quick and easy way to get to commands and objects that you use often.

• The OS/2 Tutorial provides information about OS/2, from basics to expert tips, including special hints for Windows users.

• Comet Cursor is a trail that follows your mouse pointer to help you to see it on portable computer screens.

• The Pickup and Drop choices on the pop-up menu for an object lets you use other Desktop functions while dragging and dropping objects.

• The Desktop page of the Desktop Settings notebook lets you arrange your Desktop the way you like it and have the system restore that Desktop each time you restart your system.

• The Archive page of Desktop Settings, together with the Recovery Choices screen, lets you save different versions of your system files, and choose which version you want to use to restart your system.

OS/2 Version 3 has three-dimensional icons, animated icons and two color palettes. You can change the color of icons or their background, and choose whether you want text displayed with icons. You can select the font that you want use to print an ASCII file.

Page 4: Review Questions

1. Will OS/2 Warp run on a machine with only 4 megabytes of memory?

2. Are OS/2, DOS and Windows all called operating systems?

3. Will OS/2 Multitasking allow you to run more than one DOS application at a time?

Page 4: Answers

1. Yes, OS/2 Warp will run on a machine with only 4 megabytes of memory.

2. Windows is not an operating system, it runs on top of DOS. Both DOS and OS/2 are operating systems.

3. Yes, OS/2 allows you to run several DOS, Windows and OS/2 applications at the same time.

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