A new **arrival**

Terence Green takes a look at the new Netscape 2.02i for OS/2, deals with common queries about Windows compatibility and touches on HPFS support for NT 4.0.

While reading a lifestyle magazine, as one does when on holiday or at the dentist, I learnt that trainer shoes should be replaced "every three to six months" as this enables the wearer to "keep up with the technology".

I know we've been waiting for the computer and consumer markets to converge but this is ridiculous. Still, I know how they feel. As I was collating this month's column, IBM and Netscape announced the imminent arrival of Netscape 2.02i for OS/2.

The "i" in the version number stands for "international" language edition. Having just collected a bunch of browser, internet mail and news tools which I was going to describe I think they will have been superseded by the time they appear on our cover-mounted CD-ROM. Anyway, I've simply dumped them onto the CD and left it for you to decide. The files appear in the Resources section.

There's no way that the internet mail and news pieces in Netscape 2.02i are so wonderful that you'll forswear all others when Netscape 2.02 for OS/2 appears. But it does mean that you have the three main internet tools in one place. The major benefit is that this reduces the amount of effort required to configure TCP/IP, bearing in mind there are a couple of versions (depending on your version of Warp) and separate fixes for each.

Netscape for OS/2 should have appeared in beta form by late September which will have been too late for me to plonk it on this month's cover-mounted CD. Netscape 2.02i for OS/2 is a native OS/2 application, not a port of the Windows version (it would not be possible as the Netscape Windows code was written using Microsoft Foundation Classes which cannot easily be ported).

The first Netscape OS/2 version will be based on Netscape 2.02i because the combined Netscape and IBM programming team started working on it back in May (after having previously decided to do it in April). At that time, version 2.xx was a stable product while 3.0 had yet to enter beta. In fact, Netscape OS/2 will skip the 3.0 version entirely and will fall into line with Netscape's simultaneous multi-platform releases with the next version.

According to IBM and Netscape, the OS/2 version will run Netscape plug-ins but it's too early to say which ones. Apparently, RealAudio was working and Quicktime Video was almost working at the time of the announcement.

Netscape 2.02i for OS/2 will additionally run Java applets if it is running on Warp 4 (Merlin). OS/2 Warp 3.0 users will be able to run Netscape 2.02i for OS/2 but they will not have Java support unless they purchase a Java upgrade kit which IBM had planned to announce on 25th September. Netscape for OS/2 will not be ready to ship with Warp 4. But it will be freely downloadable soon afterwards.

Of course, Netscape for OS/2, when running on Warp 4, will be speech-enabled. As I wrote in a previous column, this is going to be a boon as browsing the internet inevitably means using the mouse a lot more. A considerate reader sent me an email on this point, kindly pointing out that there was a CIX conference called "RSI" where advice and assistance on computer-related health issues can be found.

If you do not have access to CIX, there is also a wealth of information on critical health issues like RSI on the internet which you can track down via one of the web search engines such as altavista.digital.com/ .

Co-existence

Recent emails I have received questioned whether Warp will co-exist with Windows 95. The answer is generally: "yes, but what are your particular requirements?" It's hard to produce an "idiot's" guide because of the number of possibilities.

A year ago, IBM produced a utility called Just Add (OS/2) Warp, or JAOW, which wasn't that wonderful but did include some useful scenarios for co-existence. It has since been discontinued but I've found a copy and bunged it on our free, cover-mounted CD-ROM.

A lot depends on your existing setup and and on whether you will consider re-partitioning your hard disk. The most simple thing is to use Dual Boot which enables you to add OS/2 Warp to a PC with a single disk partition, which already has Windows 95 installed. However, this means running OS/2 on a FAT partition which is less than optimal and the imminent arrival of FAT32 for Windows 95, which won't be supported by Windows NT or OS/2, will complicate matters.

I prefer the hard way: back up the Windows 95 installation, re-partition the drive with separate Windows 95 and OS/2 partitions and perhaps a third FAT partition for shared data. Don't make both the Windows 95 and OS/2 partitions primary partitions because you won't be able to see the other. Just put Windows 95 on the C: primary and OS/2 on a logical drive.

I wouldn't bother with the Just Add (OS/2) Warp utility that purports to make Windows 95 and OS/2 long-filename compatible either — just make sure you avoid using Windows 95 long filenames for files that you want to access from OS/2.

32-bit Windows

Another common query regarding Windows compatibility is whether Win32 applications will run on OS/2. The answer is that some which have been written to the Win32s API will run. The *caveat* is that this does not apply if they need Win32s version 1.30. Win32s v.1.30 is the final version but OS/2 Warp 3.0, as delivered, only supports versions up to 1.15.

If you have a program that requires Win32s 1.30 you are out of luck, but often the previous version of the program will run on Win32s v.1.25 and a beta driver from IBM, which supports Win32s versions up to 1.25, is available, I've included it on this issue's CD-ROM.

The only significant difference between Win32s 1.25 and Win32s 1.30 is that the latter ships with a VxD (.386 file). Of course, it cannot run under OS/2 (or for that matter Microsoft Windows NT) because it compromises system security. This explains why the reader who wrote to me about his problem with a Windows program that generated an error referencing the "MMD.386 virtual device driver...", won't be able to use that application under OS/2.

In addition to the beta Win32s driver, you will need a matching version of Microsoft's Win32s 1.25 software. Generally, this ships with the program that requires Win32s. If not, you can usually find a copy on the internet (try tsikora.tiac.net) but I can't legally distribute it on our CD-ROM.

If you were already confused by the proliferation of Win32s versions, would you believe that there were two versions of Win32s 1.25? It's true! Be sure to read the instructions supplied in the Win32s file as you have to edit the configuration files manually to account for this!

HPFS support for Windows NT 4.0

You might well be wondering why Microsoft saw fit to produce so many different versions of Win32s ending up with a final version that definitely won't run on OS/2 Warp?

It's odd. But here's something stranger still. The latest version of Windows NT, version 4.0, drops support for the HPFS file system. If you install Windows NT 4.0 Workstation or Server on a PC on which you also run OS/2, you won't be able to see any HPFS drives from Windows NT. When I told the Microsoft US product manager that I
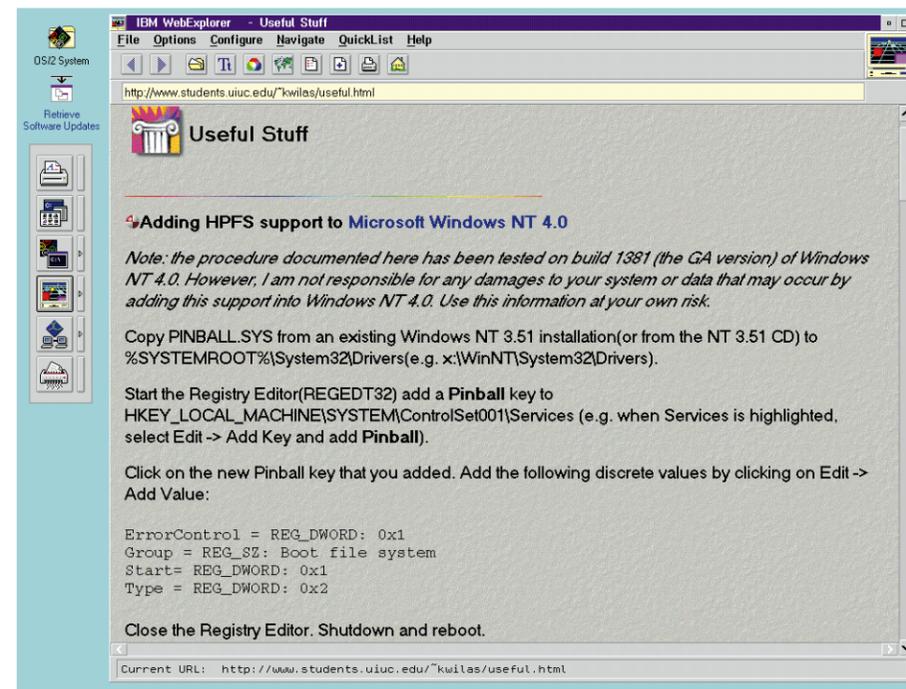

Fig 1 Kris Kwilas' site is an excellent source of OS/2 information and tips, plus all the latest news. It's well worth a visit for tips on Netscape and enabling HPFS support for Windows NT 4.0. Go to www.students.uiuc.edu/~kwilas/useful.html
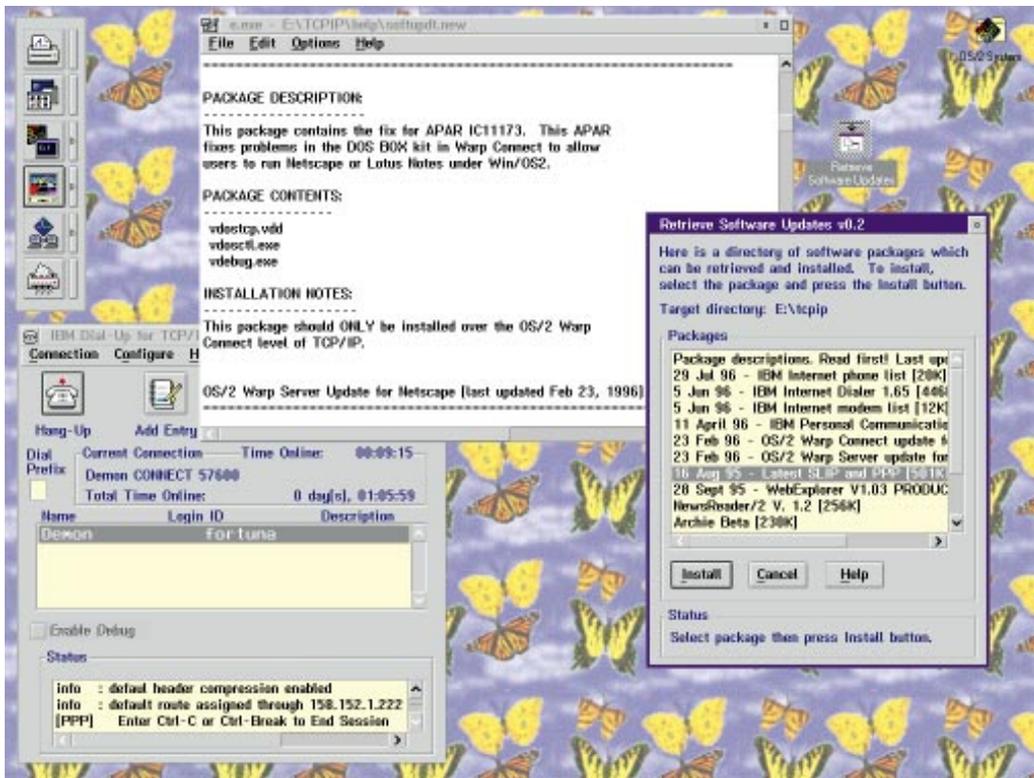
**Use the
"Retrieve Software
Updates" application to
update Warp Internet
support but be careful to
apply the correct fixes.
There are different fixes for
Warp, Warp Connect and
Warp Server and they're
not all here. Also try
www.software.ibm.com/
download/**

**Intelligent life on the World
Wide Web? Perish the
thought! Have a look at
IBM's Intelligent Agents at
www.raleigh.ibm.com/iag/
iaghome.html and do
follow the instructions
carefully, especially if it's
still in alpha test**

information on how to get Netscape running
in Warp and how to get the best out of an
IOMEGA Jaz drive under OS/2. Check it out.

Well, I'm running out of road already. I
had better end with a warning to be very
careful whenever you're updating the
TCP/IP support in Warp, Warp Connect or
Warp Server as you will have to if you want
to run Netscape for Windows or other
DOS/Windows winsock applications. Each
has a different version of TCP/IP with
different fixes (see Fig 2).

The Internet Access Kit (IAK) in Warp
and Warp Connect uses TCP/IP 2.0. If
you're using Warp Connect, it is more likely
that you have TCP/IP 3.0 support installed.
You'll only be running on TCP/IP 2.0 in
Warp if you installed the IAK instead of
selecting TCP/IP 3.0 during the initial Wapr
Connect install.

Finally, I've had several requests for the
Adobe Acrobat reader for OS/2. I looked at
www.adobe.com just before committing
this column. It was still in alpha and had a
time-out which will probably have passed
by the time this issue appears. Adobe was
promising an imminent beta, so…

couldn't understand why the company had
done this, he informed me that it was "a
business decision."

Well, thanks to the free and unfettered
flow of information on the internet, I was
directed to a site which explained how I
could make my very own business decision
to reverse Windows NT 4.0's aversion to
HPFS. It takes five minutes. You need to
copy a 120KB file (Pinball.sys), which you
can find in Windows 3.51, to your Windows
4.0 \SYSTEM32\DRIVERS sub-directory

and you need to create a registry entry with
four values. While you are doing this, you
might ponder why Microsoft could not find
space for a 120Kb file on the Windows NT
4.0 CD?

Does it work? Well, I've tried it and so far
it does but if it all goes pear-shaped… you
didn't read it here! The site with the useful tip
is www.students.uiuc.edu/~kwilas/-
useful.html (Fig 1) and yes, it's the wonderful
Mr. Kwilas' eternally incomplete OS/2 page
again. The same page also includes useful