Review: "Inside Windows 95" *by Adrian King*

Adrian King has worked very closely with Microsoft in writing this book. In fact, he's a former MS employee and managed in 1987/8 the project that produced Windows/386, so he knows what he's writing about.

This book provides a lot of insight into the thinking behind the design and implementation of Windows 95 – or at least BETA-1 (1994). The author himself warns us that the information is based on a pre-release version. When it was announced (as Chicago), Microsoft wanted to release it by the end of the year – 1993. By the time the book was written, Windows 95 was expected by the end of the year – 1994. And by the time you read this review Windows 95 is still expected to ship at the end of the year – 1995!

The intention is to provide a technical introduction to Windows 95, including enough detail to satisfy power users and developers. The emphasis is on what Windows 95 can do, how it does it, and why features were designed and implemented in particular ways (though there'll be changes in the final release).

Among the topics covered are: the 32-bit protected mode environment, the revised user interface and new system shell, the new device-independent color and display drivers, the new enhanced file system with long filenames, plug and play, network support, built-in internet access utilities and so on.

The only things not included in the book are pen support and the multimedia support of Windows 95, like WinG. The book contains several charts and some example code (in C), but still the most interesting parts are those where design choices are made and motivated against possible alternatives. This makes you feel almost part of the Windows 95 team itself.

The book does certainly not claim to cover it all, but only to provide pre-release knowledge of Windows 95, for people that want to prepare before it's there (people who don't (or do) have access to a Beta version themselves). I think everyone should read *Inside Windows 95* – especially power users and developers. I can recommend this book to anyone who wants to prepare **now** for Windows 95 (and we all know 32-bit Delphi will ship just shortly after Windows 95 itself)...

For more (free) information on Windows 95, you can subscribe to Microsoft's electronic newsletter WinNews, by sending an e-mail message with the contents SUBSCRIBE WINNEWS to the address enews@microsoft.nwnet.com.

Reviewed by Bob Swart

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