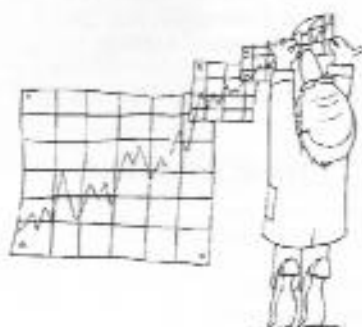




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Features:



ISP Wars



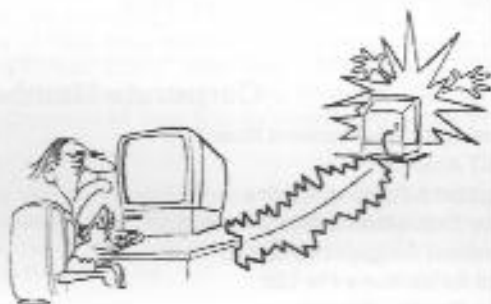
Education Corner



Game Reviews



The Millenium Bug



Iware Connect



Net Talk

...plus more



From the President's Desk

1997 - The beginning of a new year and in three years time, a beginning of a new millennium.

As we enter the 21st century, we all expect foreseeable advancements in IT as technology influence in everyone's daily life continues to grow. The Year 2000 will also highlight on a global scale one major problem with old computer technology still in use - Presently many software and some hardware chip supports what they call, the MM/DD/YY convention or the DD/MM/YY option. Come Year 2000 (or even before that), programs written for the '2' digit /YY will cease to function and will miscalculate by a thousand years. All computer systems will be affected, unless they are ready for the change, way before the clock strikes. The year 1997 will be a good year to start looking into this issue, although it is pretty late by this time. Banks and corporations that use calculation that require a year or more computation (e.g. interests composition, life of equipment, etc), will need to be ready way in advance.

Next March, SMS will be participating in the Year 2000 Compliance conference, in which we seek to inform upon this issue, and the needed to plan and prevent against this impending 'disaster'.

Over the last few months, SMS within, has resolved in making changes, so as to serve its members better. We can see the new look of MicroLines and our new presentation venue. We can expect more to come in 1997. In addition, there will also be the change of guards for our committee members. We are now looking for new Committee to come into the forefront to make SMS a more interactive Society for its members. Those of you who are keen to commit himself or herself in playing a major role in the Society and in the IT industry, please approach our SMS Manager for more information or write to smsmgt@pobox.org.sg.

On behalf of the Singapore Microcomputer Society and its SMS Management Committee, I wish all of you, a successful year ahead and a Happy New Year!

Edmond Ng
President

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The annual subscription for individual membership is **S\$60/-** per year plus **S\$20/-** entrance fee. Membership benefits include free admission to all presentations, delivery of **MICROLINES** and member privileges at various retail stores (refer to current SMS member privileges section within MicroLines). Bulletin Board Service for members: tel: 4495956.

Non-members are welcome to attend any advertised presentations where a fee of **S\$10/-**

• will be charged. Companies who joined as Corporate members will receive 6 presentation passes and be listed in the **MICROLINES**. Corporate membership is available at **S\$400/-** per annum.

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Any contributions to **MICROLINES** are most welcome. Submission deadlines are generally the last Friday of the months of February, April, June, August, October, December.

Submission of articles should be accompanied by soft copy, whether in disk or by Internet Email to smsmgt@pobox.org.sg.

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EDMOND
NG

PRODUCT

OVERVIEW

COREL

Many of you would have heard of Corel Corporation in association with Corel's most popular software product, CorelDRAW! But few actually realize the full range of Corel's products and would probably be surprised to hear that Corel also carry the following products :

- CorelVentura (formerly known as Ventura Publisher)
- CorelSCSI
- CorelSCSI Network Manager
- CorelSCSI! for Macintosh
- Corel Professional Photos CD-ROM (Kodak CDs)
- Corel ArtShow CD
- Corel CD PowerPak

CorelVentura 4.2 is the acquired product, formerly known as Ventura Publisher for Windows 4.1. Currently, the functionality and user interface of CorelVentura 4.2 is very much like version 4.1 of the former Ventura, except for the change in logos and other minor enhancements. CorelVentura 4.2 also incorporates all the sub-modules of the former Ventura, such as, *Ventura DataBase Publisher*, *Ventura Scan* and *Ventura Separator*. The next version of Ventura will become part of CorelDRAW! and until then, will the icons, interface, etc be CorelDRAW! look-alike, which is by the way, more user friendly.

Meanwhile CorelDRAW! 3.0, as well as its latest version 4.0 still remains one of the top drawing products for the PC market. Contrary to many people's thinking, CorelDRAW! 4.0 is not here to replace CorelDRAW! 3.0. It is Corel's objective to cater version 3.0 of its product to normal users, while version 4.0 for the higher-end users. In lowering the price of

3.0 to a significantly reduced amount from 4.0, Corel's intention to cater for home-users and the small desktop businesses has seen great success in penetrating the market.

Personally however, I think it is wiser for one to first buy version 3.0 and get an upgrade later, reason being that you may not necessary need all the features that is in version 4.0 and secondly, if I understand correctly, it is less expensive to buy version 3.0 and then upgrade, than buying the version 4.0 product itself. Furthermore, you get the advantage to keep the video teaching aid that is only available in version 3.0 of CorelDRAW!



The major differences in version 4.0 from the 3.0 is basically just the addition of CorelMOVE! module, which enables you to create animation to your presentation. CorelDRAW! 3.0 already supports playing of animation files created by Autodesk animation, but does not include the tool to create animation. This is catered for in 4.0. The module CorelDRAW! in version 4.0, now includes the Layout menu, which allows multiple pages and offers some desktop publishing capabilities which is not available in version 3.0. Other than that, the other major enhancement that sees a vast improvement is the technology used by Corel in the module CorelTRACE! The conversion from a raster graphic to vector is now made possible by the significantly enhanced autotrace feature that CorelTRACE! has built in to

continued from previous page...

cater for the exact colour duplication of the original raster file to the vector output.

Corel also carries other products, such as CorelSCSI and CorelSCSI Network Manager which are basically software drivers that support on most kinds of SCSI standards. The difference between CorelSCSI and CorelSCSI Network Manager is of course, the networkability of one and the standalone for the other. The main benefit of using CorelSCSI is the facility to chain up to seven SCSI devices to your computer, maximizing the performance of the peripherals used. Corel also have ready scanned images in CD Titles which contained

high-resolution Kodak-images catered for any software importation to run on. CorelSCSI for Macintosh supports WORM, erasable and multifunction optical disk drives and CD-ROM drives from virtually all manufacturers, and makes any optical cartridge appear as a standard HFS volume, with a single INIT supporting all devices.

Corel ArtShow, the other product that Corel carries, is actually the CD ROM of the winning entries of CorelDRAW competition. The CD contains winning entries of graphic drawings that are drawn in CorelDRAW by users all over the world. Files in these CDs are in

CorelDRAW! original formats with .CDR extension and can only be retrieved by users of CorelDRAW!.

Corel CD PowerPak supports both SCSI and non-SCSI CD-ROM drives. Running on Windows, it allows CorelMOSAIC to create a visual database of graphics or photos. It comes with caching software for CD-ROM drive, a System Browser and a Windows Wallpaper Flipper utility that automatically changes Wallpaper every time you restart Windows. CD Audio also allows editing of WAV files, recording of sound clips and others.

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Macintosh



**the wait is over,
the time is NOW for...**

OS/2 Warp

ABOUT TIME

An Event Coverage of the OS/2 V3 Warp Launch

by Edmond Ng

"Time waits for no Man, but Man waits all the time. People were told to wait another six months for a solution ... The wait is over, the time is NOW ... for OS/2 Warp."

- Leonard Nimoy

You do not need to wait anymore, if you are looking for a 32-bit preemptive multitasking, object-oriented operating system that comes with built in mission-critical crash proof operating environment. In fact, it was there all along, but now the good gets better. Introducing, IBM's third generation Operating System 2, the **OS/2 V3 Warp**.

"The wait is over, the time is now for OS/2 Warp", says Leonard Nimoy, the actor 'Spock' in Star Trek, in a video played during the worldwide launch of OS/2 V3 recently. Yes, it's about time for people to be aware, that long ago, the 32-bit operating system was already there, way before Windows NT, and even a longer span of time before the coming solution at **Windows 95**, codenamed **Chicago**, in the coming six months.

IBM has, in an effort to reclaim their lost land in the operating system environment, made an aggressive impact in arousing a height of interest in the **OS/2 Warp**, while Microsoft fails to deliver its promised **Chicago**, now scheduled to release only in the second quarter of next year.

On the 12th of October, 1994, IBM internationally announced the release of **OS/2 V3 Warp for Windows**, the package that excludes the Windows' code. Bundled with Warp, is the **BonusPak**, that includes softwares costing up to **US\$2,000**, but now selling only at **S\$139** during the launch for both the products combined. Those who were present at the launch were given the **Certificate of Entitlement** to buy at the price the moment the shipment comes in, about a week later. The **BonusPak** includes a choice of utilities for access to the Internet and other online services by the use of **IBM Information Highway**.

Internet Connection for OS/2 includes **TCP/IP** communications software, Internet access utilities such as **Gopher**, **File Transfer Protocol**, **Telnet**, **NewsReader**, and a graphical web browser called **WebExplorer**.

Other softwares included in the **BonusPak** are **CompuServe Information Manager for OS/2**, **IBM Works**, **FaxWorks** and **Person to Person for OS/2**, a virtual whiteboard which allows up to eight users in different locations to view and revise the same document simultaneously.

The launch in Singapore took place at the Meridien Hotel on the 21st of October, 1994. On arriving at the designated place for the launch at 0900 hours, I was surprised that there was already a big crowd gathered there and many at the exhibitors' room, that consists of various vendors displaying different solutions on IBM PSP.

Technet, the service provider for Internet connection in Singapore was also present to promote the launch of the **Golden SLIPper**, the **Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP)** for surf into the Internet.

At the entrance to the seminar room, I was impressed by what I saw of the setup - *It must have cost a great deal!* First, there was the two projected screen of a video showing a galaxy of stars in an infinite sky. Accompanying these was the dried ice, misty atmosphere effect, with circulating spotlights shining around to give you the feeling of being in outer space. *Dramatic, eh?*

After the audience was seated, the video showed Leonard Nimoy making his usual commentary at the beginning of each Star Trek movie, but this time with an added difference.

*"Time", he said,
"...waits for no Man"
"But Man waits all the time"*

The screen then flashed to different scenes of waiting, such as a lady waiting for her husband, people queuing in a long line, and reading junk mail. But there are also things worth waiting for, such as an expectant parent waiting for nine months, and everyone waiting for 3 years 9 months and 12 days **for the World Cup!**

The audience smiled at this juncture, as they identify with the scene of the World Cup Soccer.

Leonard Nimoy continued with the introduction of man's invention to cut time - the computer. Scenes of mobile computing was shown, then he said,

"People were told to wait for another six months for a solution..."

This time, the audience laughed. Scenes of frustrated people with total disappointment were shown when they were told to wait. The audience

...continue on Page 18

continued to laugh, as they understood what Leonard was trying to get at ... the obvious coming of the new operating system scheduled for the second quarter of next year.

Leonard Nimoy then painted a final note,

**"The wait is over.
The time is NOW ...
for OS/2 Warp"**



At this note, the special effects man hastily switched off all the lights and darken the stage. Then they shone an arch shaped beam at the right corner of the stage, making it blinking throughout. Suddenly, out of nowhere (actually, from the back of the curtains), a man was beamed in to the 'Enterprise' space ship (the stage). As the arch beam diminished, the man took to the lectern on the left side of the stage, and introduced himself as **Don Mahoney**, the Regional Operations Manager, ASEAN/SA IBM AP PSP.

That was for the morning session. In the afternoon, **Mike Colleary**, Program Director, AP IBM AP PSP took the place of the beamed up character. After a short speech, the beamed up character left the stage with the introduction of the Captain coming on the bridge.

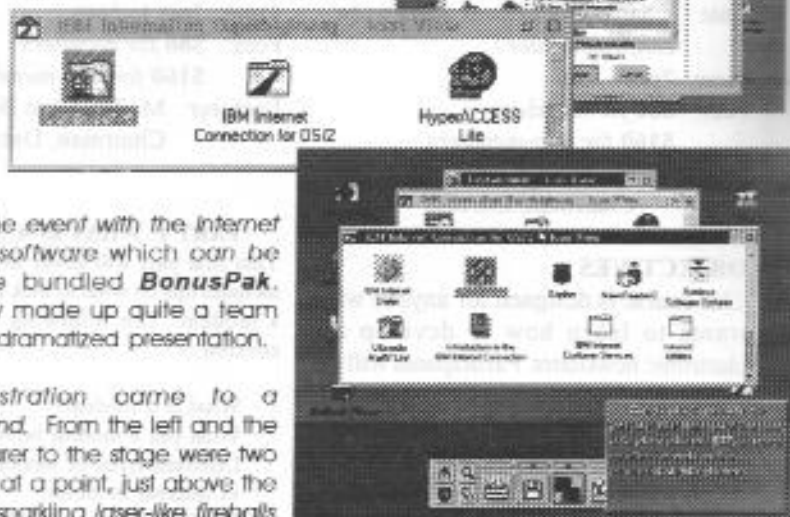
This time, two space-like uniformed characters with solar sunglasses were 'beamed up'. They were **Admiral Ron Sebastian** and **Captain Douglas**. Captain Douglas (foolidentally dressed up and look like Michael J. Fox in 'Back to the Future'), demonstrated OS/2 Warp to the audience at first with a 4MB RAM machine and at a later stage on a faster machine.

Admiral Ron Sebastian highlighted the event with the Internet Connection software which can be found in the bundled **BonusPak**. Together, they made up quite a team and a much dramatized presentation.

The demonstration came to a spectacular end. From the left and the right sides nearer to the stage were two wires meeting at a point, just above the ground. Two sparkling laser-like fireballs were lighted-up on both sides of the two wires, shooting down to meet the intersection point which caused a smoky explosion of fireworks, stunning the audience for some moments because of the explosion, but certainly dramatically conveyed the warp speed of the 'Enterprise'.

The curtains behind were drawn apart, showing a metallic logo of OS/2 Warp.

Applause.



Sample screen snapshots taken from OS/2 WARP DEMO. If you have access to a modem, you can download the demo file OS2_WARP.ZIP from SMS TechnoGRAFX BBS at 7836870.



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APRIL 1994

- 1st Friday **Public Holiday**
- 8th Friday **Paradox**
Presenter: Borland Technologies
Members Interest Group
- 15th Friday **How to Logon to INTERNET**
Speakers: Mr. Sheikh Shohrab
Mr. Teo Soon Bock
Data Comms Interest Group
- 22nd Friday **Virtual Reality -**
Economic Impact in Singapore
Presenter: Mr. Kim Fairchild
ISS Lecturer
Graphics/Shareware Interactive Group
- 29th Friday **Corel Draw! v4.0**
Presenter: Mr. Edmond Ng
Graphics/Shareware Interactive Group

NOTE: Special Promotion at presentation. Be there!

MAY 1994

- 6th Friday **Norton Administrator for Network**
Presenter: Symantec
Networking Group
- 13th Friday **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 20th Friday **Games Development System**
Presenter: Mr. Ronnie Toon
Graphics/Shareware Interactive Group
- 27th Friday **Lotus Notes**
Presenter: Lotus Singapore
Computerization Group

Unless otherwise stated, all presentations will be held at 150 Orchard Road, Orchard Plaza, Unit #08-01, Singapore 0923 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Please be punctual for all presentations.

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