

BULLETIN NUMBER GT570, 13 NOVEMBER 1992

DOS Integration

At both the Manchester and London reseller days recently the item which generated the most interest was Andy Smith's talk on 'DOS Integration'. There was a large amount of information in his presentation including both firm intentions and 'star-gazing'.

So that all our resellers have a chance to learn our proposals in detail and at leisure, we are attaching:

- A copy of the slides from Andy Smith's presentation (starting on page 2)
- A copy of an internal note specifying the details of our initial intentions (starting on page 6)

This subject is of considerable importance as the computer industry of the late 1990s will see the power of large Unix computers come together with the huge world-wide investment in i486 'PC' software and hardware to provide, for the first time in the short history of our industry, **true** open systems.

TIS Software Ltd and its partners will have a significant market advantage because of Global's solid design and unwavering devotion to providing portable applications. Our continued investment in these products will allow us to provide versions of System Manager which can conform to the standards of X-Windows, Windows-NT etc without altering the application at all.

INTRODUCTION

- CURRENT STATUS OF DOS & WINDOWS SUPPORT
- PLANNED NOVELL DEVELOPMENTS
- INTEGRATION OF GLOBAL PRODUCTS AND DOS
PRODUCTS

DOS & WINDOWS – STATUS

- CURRENT DEFAULT IS V6.2 RELEASED FEBRUARY
1990
 - DOMAIN AND SUBVOLUMES CONTAINED IN ONE
FILE OF
UP TO 250 MB
 - ACCESS SYSTEM MANAGER FROM WINDOWS VIA
FILE MANAGER
- NEW V8.0 – RELEASED SEPTEMBER 1992
 - SUPPORT FOR 2.8 MB DISKETTES
 - OPTION TO BOOT FROM A: OR B:

DOS AND WINDOWS – STATUS

- SUPPORT FOR DISCRETE DATA VOLUMES – UP TO 1 GB
- AUTOMATIC OPERATOR-ID
- ICON TO USE WITH WINDOWS
- RUNS AS NON-WINDOWS APPLICATION
- SYSTEM MANAGER HAS APPEARANCE OF RUNNING AS A STANDARD DOS PRODUCT

NOVELL

- CURRENT RELEASE AVAILABLE JANUARY 1990
 - USES NETWARE 2.2
 - 286 AS STANDARD PROCESSOR
 - IPX CONTROLLER

NOVELL

- NOVELL SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE HAVE MOVED
ON:
 - 3.11 NETWARE
 - 386, 486 PROCESSOR
 - NLM

NOVELL

- SYSTEM MANAGER DEVELOPMENTS
- SPX CONTROLLER - ON LIMITED
- RELEASE
- SPX WORKSTATION
- NLM CONTROLLER - DESIGN
- COMPLETE
- CODING STARTED
- BETA RELEASE IN DECEMBER
- SPX IS MORE RELIABLE THAN IPX
- NLM WILL INCREASE PERFORMANCE

DOS INTEGRATION

· SYSTEM MANAGER 8.0 UNIX AND C-ISAM COMPATIBILITY

· THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT FOR SYSTEM MANAGER DURING 1993 IS EQUIVALENT FOR DOS BASED PRODUCTS AND GUIS FOR GLOBAL 3000

OBJECTIVES

· SEAMLESS INTEGRATION BETWEEN GLOBAL 2000, GLOBAL 3000 PRODUCTS AND STANDARD DOS BASED SOFTWARE

· RESELLERS TO INTEGRATE OWN PRODUCTS INTO DOS BASED PRODUCTS USING GLOBAL SOFTWARE

DOS INTEGRATION

GLOBAL PRODUCTS ARE TO PRODUCE STANDARD 'IMPORT FORMAT' FILES FOR THREE TYPES OF DOS PRODUCTS:

· SPREADSHEET

· DATABASE

· WORD PROCESSING

IDENTIFY FILE FORMATS RECOGNISED BY THE MAJORITY OF PRODUCTS

INITIAL DEVELOPMENT: DATA EXPORT: GLOBAL TO DOS

DOS INTEGRATION DATA EXTRACTION

THREE PHASE DEVELOPMENT BASED AROUND REPORTER

1. 'FRONT END' PROMPT FOR EXTRACTION CRITERIA E.G. DATE RANGE, TURNOVER ETC.
2. REPORTER TO PRODUCE DOS FILES DURING REPORT GENERATION
3. USERS TO SELECT AND CUSTOMISE DOS DIRECTORY AND FILE NAME

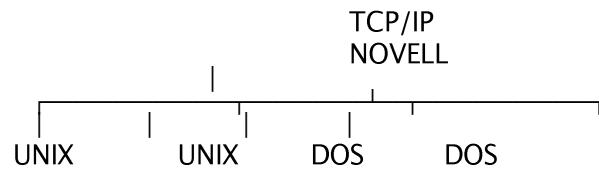
DOS INTEGRATION SEAMLESS INTEGRATION TO DOS

- ALLOW GLOBAL PROGRAMS TO SWITCH TO DOS,
RUN DOS SCRIPT AND RETURN TO GLOBAL
- MODIFY SYSTEM MANAGER TO USE XMS
- SUPPORT FOR WINDOWS SPOOLER
- ENHANCEMENT TO PC WORKSTATION

SUMMARY

- DOS V8.0 WITH DISCRETE DATA VOLUMES, ICON,
APPEARANCE OF DOS PRODUCT
- NOVELL DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY. SPX
CONTROLLER AVAILABLE, NLM BETA-TEST AT CHRISTMAS
- SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF GLOBAL 2000 AND
GLOBAL 3000 PRODUCTS WITH STANDARD DOS BASED PRODUCTS

NEAR FUTURE?



C-ISAM FILES UNDER UNIX TO DOS BASED PRODUCTS USING
STANDARD GLOBAL SOFTWARE

STOP PRESS

We think
Novell will
launch this
16 November

CURRENT TIS SOFTWARE INTENTIONS ON DOS INTEGRATION

OBJECTIVES

Flexibility

The need is to produce general purpose tools for integrating Global with PC products that can be used as widely as possible, rather than solutions for specific cases. In particular, the integration should:

- be capable of accessing data in 2000 and 3000, both Global software and resellers' verticals. If possible it should also access Finder databases
- be able to integrate to most/all DOS market leading products
- be usable with a range of DOS variants, eg DOS, Novell, Windows. If possible it should also be useable on straight BOS (eg with a PC running PC Workstation) or Unix.
- be capable of extracting account and transaction type data as well as records from a single file.
- ability to write reports to DOS files or a DOS spooler.

Limitations

The initial version of the product will not attempt to provide a general purpose data import facility, but will concentrate on data extraction.

Importing data into Global will be done by existing specialised routines, eg the batch postings from ASCII files. However, the importing of budgets into GL from a PC spreadsheet will be addressed as a separate part of the project.

Appearance/Demonstrability

Once set up, the integration should be very slick. What is to be achieved is to be able to set up a new menu entry in Global that, when selected, will:

- prompt for selection information for the type of extract required using a screen with the same look and feel as the package being used
- run the extraction
- invoke the PC package to process the extracted data
- on exit from the PC package, return to the Global menu.

The automatic switching to the PC software is not simple, and possibly not even practical. To achieve this level of integration we will have to assume Windows is present. This should be acceptable provided the integration could be run without Windows, when the automatic running of the PC package would not occur.

PC INTERFACE FORMATS AND APPLICATIONS

Three types of product are to be considered; WP, spreadsheet and database. Of these database is the least important.

There is no standard file format and dictionary under DOS equivalent to C-ISAM and Informix which covers all applications. Instead the interface file formats defined by various market leading products have become industry standard interface formats.

DATA EXTRACTION

The requirements of supporting both 2000 and 3000 file formats and being adaptable to reseller software points to using the data extraction facilities of Reporter as the basis of the product. If this can be done it will give wider coverage of Global file formats than would otherwise be possible, and will greatly shorten the project.

Dialogue. The standard Reporter selection screens do not look good enough for the main extractions we want and are limited to five selection parameters, although they should suffice for the less important extractions. We will provide specialised selection screens for the more important data extractions, eg profit, customer and supplier for both 2000 and 3000.

Standard Extractions. A number of standard extractions for the common areas for integration will be provided. These will produce interface files containing the commonly required fields. Included will be Payroll and Sales Analysis.

SWITCHING TO DOS

It should be possible for a Global program to switch to a DOS program, causing it to run a specified script, and later return to Global. The main objective here is that it should be very simple to operate for demonstration once set up.

Memory Allocation. So that Global and PC applications can better share the available memory, we should change System Manager to use the newer XMS memory interface (jointly developed by Lotus and others) rather than the LIM interface it currently uses.

Spooling. System Manager should support printing via the Windows spooler so that Global and PC programs can share the spooler. This should be rather similar to the work that has been done for the Novell spooler.

PC Workstation. It should be possible to copy the interface file to a PC running a terminal emulator, and then cause it to go into DOS to run the PC package to give smooth integration.

GL/SPREADSHEET INTEGRATION

This is one area where import into Global is definitely required. Any work done on allowing easier switching to DOS should be applicable to this interface.