The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"

A solution to get the WPS on a modern system?

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The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
Introduction

Why thinking about a revive of a Voyager-Desktop?

- the situation of OS/2 and eCS has not changed

- only partly working on current hardware

- unsolved problems with the base OS

- using as main system in a VM often makes no sense

- there is still no other OS on the market, that has a object oriented GUI-functionalty that can compete with the WPS from OS/2 and eCS.

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Possible solutions

Classical approach

- further development by Mensys/Serenity Systems
    - no influence on the further development of the system by the community
    - mostly no changes of the base system, so the major components are still closed source IBM code
    - enhancing/updating of drivers and applications for eCS
    - Mensys focuses on selling licenses to environements that use embedded or industry pc's
    - main maintainer (Mensys) focus is and will not be necessary the prosumer market

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
Possible solutions

Classical approach

- alternative fork by the community

    - IBM OS/2 or eCS License still required until all IBM code replaced

    - replacing core functionality of IBM code with own written code

    - almost impossible to reverse-engineer Kernel, Loader and PMShell etc. in order to keep up the compatibility e.g. drivers, API etc.

    - supporting a new architecture is almost impossible too, because source code and ressources (financial/developers/time) are missing

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Why still using OS/2 or eCS?

Why are there still some users who use OS/2 or eCS, why mourn a lot of former users still after OS/2?

- lean, fast system with a very good backward compatibility

- use of existing software, upgrade aversion,

  protection of investment

- real, object oriented operating concept

  (Workplace Shell)

Most people like the Workplace Shell and it's characteristics.

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First Conclusion

Considering this, one comes to the conclusion that a way should be found, to save these features for future use.

Is it possibly at all to save the functionality of the WPS with the shown "classical apporach"?

No, it's not!

The idea is a new approach.

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
A new approach

This new approach takes over the origin idea of Netlabs.org "Voyager Project".

Why didn't we stick what "Voyager" was in the first place?

- The "Voyager Project" was planed as an outstanding and independent operating system with the capability to run several personalities.

- The project has been introduced to a big audience during Warpstock Europe 2005 in Dresden.

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
We call it ...

- In spite of the fact that this idea was welcomed by the majority of the audience, because of the lack of ressources it finaly could not be realized.

- Therefore, the concentration on the outstanding characteristics of os/2 respectivly on what is missed most: The object oriented desktop.

We call it the "Voyager Desktop 2.0"!

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
The new approach

What is needed for the future:

- in general:

    - common open source base system that:

        - runs on current hardware

        - has support for common drivers, development-
          environments and applications

        - great hardware support

        - attractive for developers

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
The new approach

- in particular:

    - equivalent for the system object and distributed system object model (SOM/DSOM): was almost completely defined in the Netlabs Object Model (NOM)

    - GUI development on base of existing libraries (GTK, QT, OpenGL, Cairo)

    - include a scripting language like REXX to create simple applications and to interact with the desktop

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
The new approach

- medium-term adaptation of applications to the "Voyager Desktop", maybe defining a "Voyager interface" to interact with applications

- supports VirtualBox for binary compatibility to OS/2 or eCS

- defining a framework for the "Voyager Desktop"

- a way to attract new developers

- building a communitiy around the voyager project

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
The Idea

This is the idea, that is what we can offer, what is your contribution?

- How can i become a part of it?

- We have to introduce a platform with forum, wiki, source repository, bugtracker, roadmap ...

- What else is needed?

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0" Discussion

Open Discussion

(questions, ideas, comments)

The "Voyager-Desktop 2.0"
Links

- OS/2 Historical Programming and Toolkit Documents
  http://cyberkinetica.homeunix.net/os2tk45/

- Just a Little SOM Thing for Linux Developers, Esther Schindler, Feb 2008
  http://advice.cio.com/esther_schindler/a_little_som_thing

- VOICE Newsletter 02/2006: The future of our platform - codename
  Voyager, Niels Jensen, Feb 2006
  http://www.os2voice.org/VNL/past_issues/VNL0206H/feature_2.html

- Practical Technology: Reviving OS/2's best in the Linux desktop, Feb 2008
  http://practical-tech.com/operating-system/reviving-os2s-best-in-the-linux-desktop/

- Data Center News: Is IBM considering an OS/2 redo?, Barbara Darrow,
  Apr 2010
  http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid80_gci1508584,00.html