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The Browser of Choice

Users crown their browser of choice. And guess what? It ain't "Internet Exploder".

Bill Gates may be the richest man in the US, but even all his money couldn't change the stark reality that 2/3 of survey respondents prefer Communicator 4.0 to Internet Explorer (IE) 4.0. (Click the button below to see a detail of the survey results.)

Results: Browser of Choice

While it's still too early to tell what this means for the 4.0 browser wars, one analyst recently said that the real winner of the browser wars will most likely be the software that is most seamless rooted into a user's system. Microsoft has already played this much disputed trump card, of course, with its integration of IE with Windows 98's ActiveDesktop.

Despite the analyst's prediction, feedback from survey participants indicates that users just aren't ready for that kind of integration. If time proves the analyst to be correct and user's become accustomed to such a strategy, Communicator's popularity might wan in the long run. That is unless it can either convince the Justice Department to let it be able to integrate within the Windows OS.

Users Still Prefer Communicator. Our survey indicates that users felt strongly about their browser's interface. Specifically, users who prefer Communicator favored its rendering and stability -- or just seem to like Netscape better as a company. On the other hand, users who preferred IE 4.0 like its OS enhancement, rendering, bundled components and handling of ActiveX and push.

Results: Why Its Their Favorite

Netscape users also seem to believe that Communicator handles browser features better and crashes less often (notice that our table above shows that an astounding 0% of over 3,000 users felt that IE 4.0 rarely crashed).

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