From: bens
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 1995 2:26 PM
To: bradsi
Cc: John Ludwig
Subject: RE: ohare question

|From: bradsi
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|you said in mail last week that ohare includes msn over ip transport. but i
|thought msn 1.05 only supported dialup access. can i use ohare over a
|lan-based tcp/ip to access the internet? i presume so but you're saying not
|via msn (on a lan)?
Short Answer 1:
Yes, you can use O'Hare over LAN TCP/IP internet connection -- either
a direct one, or a proxy (CERN & NCSA), but no Catapult proxy support in
V1 (Catapult isn't done).

|what do you think your general schedule to be? for instance what if we
|wanted to include in w95 itself (in addition to frosting)? when would it be
|ready? it might be a service pack or maybe we have it d/l (kinda like warp
| -- they heavily promoted a feature that wasn't in the shpping product, you
|had to d/l it later to get it).
Short Answer 2: I like the current Plus! schedule: beta 1 5/1, beta 2 5/26, and
RTM 7/1..7/15 (we'll likely take 7/15). Trying to rush this to make the Win95
core dates doesn't seem prudent, plus it takes away revenue from Plus? --
having 3 months until RTM gives me time to make sure the MSN signup
is smooth and reliable and gets our web browser nice and stable, and
makes sure our auto-update feature is solid -- this later thing is protocol
independent, and makes it easy to update any file on the system securely.
So, no, I think we should stay in Plus!

See long answers below for more details...
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Long Answers:
1) The MSN over IP transport just calls WinSock, to which we've added an
AutoDial hook (jeremys), so if you're already connected to the Internet
(via some other dial-up ISP, or a direct LAN connection), that will work
just fine. A separate issue is one of security -- the MSN traffic is not
encrypted -- so the MSN folks have been thinking that they'll specifically
disallow any MSN IP traffic that comes into their data center from any
place other than the UUNET POPs. On the other hand, AOL already
has an IP transport, and they just supply it with the caveat that it's not
a secure channel -- I use this occasionally, AOL password sent in the
clear.

2) Including O'Hare in the Win95 box could take several forms. Here are the
key pieces of O'Hare, and then I'll talk about what you could pick and choose:

iexplore.exe -- web browser, plus auto-update feature (if we hit
a web page with a special tag
<fetch guid=x timestamp=y src=url...>
we check to see if we've got this version, if we don't
we download, verify the digitial signature (must have
been signed by MS), and then launch the program,
which presumably updates files. The guid uniquely
identifies the "feature(s)" in the file.

inetwiz.exe - Internet Install Wizard; configures modem, RNA,
TCP/IP, and Exchange Internet mail/news (if you're
not using MSN).

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msn1.05 setup - Almost identical to 1.0 setup, except it fetches the dial up PPP numbers (in addition to x.25), and calls inetwiz to configure for IP access.

url.dll - Internet Shortcuts, autodial winsock hook, and InternetSafety(tm?) -- this feature is: 1) detect and offer to disable SMB and vnbt on the Internet, so customers don't accidentaly "share" their machine to the world; and 2) per-App "open safely" flags that tell IExplore if opening a particular "data" file (like a winword doc) can be done such that no code in the doc is executed. Word, Excel, and other files can have VBA code in them associated with an AutoRun macro, so without InternetSafety, an unsuspecting customer might find a link to "sex.doc" on the net, click on it, and have all the files on their hard disk erased, or (more subtle) this file might scan for visa card numbers and mail them to an annonymous remailer.

Putting some of O'hare in the Win95 box? URL.DLL is a natural, so that other Internet ISVs (Netscape, etc.) won't have to ship that around. Putting in the Web browser is possible, but it's 475K (compressed ~170K), and it's not useful unless you're already online, and you're already struggling to fit on 12 disks.

Inetwiz in Win95 could help reduce some of your support costs for customers who already have ISP accounts, but then it will cut down our testing time, and I would be uncomfortable with that.

MSN is already planning (and we're helping them) to put a 1.0-to-1.5 upgrade package on MSN, and there is no reason we couldn't just post that package on the Internet as well (since it's only useful *if* you have MSN as your ISP). I'm not so sure about putting full O'Hare on the Internet for free - you lose revenue opportunity from Plus!, and you don't help folks who aren't online get online. On the otherhand, maybe posting it there is a way to increase the penetration of our browser?

--bens