Q. Why is Microsoft licensing the Mosaic software and not creating their own from scratch?

A. Microsoft feels that NCSA Mosaic is the de facto standard for the Internet. As we have set an example with our Windows products, we believe in standards for the industry. That is why we have decided to adopt Mosaic as our standard for our customers. We plan to extend and enhance the Mosaic software and use it in a variety of capacities for our product lines.

Q. Does this mean that customers can only use the browser in Windows 95?

A. The Mosaic software will be the basis for WWW browser capability in a variety of ways in our product lines.

Q. So this means that Windows 95 will ship with Mosaic built-in?

A. At the present time there are no plans to ship the Mosaic software in the Windows 95 box when it ships in August of this year.. Our plan is to deliver this capability shortly after Windows 95 ships.

Q. How will Mosaic be used in Windows 95?

A. At this time we have no plans to ship Mosaic in Windows 95 when it ships in August. We plan to enhance Mosaic using many of the capabilities of Windows 95, and to deliver this software to customers after Windows 95 ships.

Q. Will Windows 95 offer one-button sign up to the internet the way OS/2 warp does?

A. Customers will be offered sign-up to the Microsoft Network which will include full internet access using the Microsoft Network sign-up wizard.

Q. So, Microsoft is behind because OS/2 warp has already embraced internet connectivity and they also licensed technology from Spyglass&NCSA, how is this different?

A. The Windows family, today, is already the most popular platform for accessing the internet. TCP/IP stacks, and implementations of Windows sockets are already available from Microsoft and from third parties for both Windows NT 3.5 and for Windows and Windows for Workgroups. There is a broad array of 3rd-party Internet tools available for the Windows platform, from vendors such as Netscape, Booklink, FTP, NetManage, NOTIS, Quarterdeck. There is no equivalent OS/2 market.

Current beta's of Windows 95 already contain a robust 32 bit TCP/IP stack, internet Dial-up capability using either PPP or SLIP, and internet utilities like telnet, ftp, and ping. Windows 95, today, is a solid foundation for accessing the internet, whether by dial-up from home, over the corporate LAN, via ISDN, or other future high speed links. With the Mosaic software, Microsoft will also offer the ease-of-use of the WWW to customers.

Q. Spyglass&NCSA technology supports MAC ... will Microsoft be taking advantage of this capability?

A. Microsoft has a strong business in applications for the MAC environment and we are committed to the MAC platform. At this time, we are not ready to announce our plans for supporting this environment. (If pressed on this, we can say that we in fact have also licensed Macintosh source code)

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Q. Why not Netscape?

A. Netscape is committed to the Windows 95 environment, we think it's great that they are offering solutions for Windows 95 customers and ISVs on the internet. However, Spyglass&NCSA's solution better fit our technology model because it is the de facto standard, with the most mileage and most openness going forward. (do NOT discuss security architectures).

GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT 154

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Q. What about Booklink being used as the browser in Word Assistant? Will Microsoft drop Booklink ?

A. The technology Microsoft has licensed from Booklink is only a transport engine, the viewing code itself is microsoft code. Internet assistant will use the best transport technology available as it moves to 32-bits.

Q. Why did Microsoft choose Spyglass&NCSA over BookLink?

A. By endorsing open standards and licensing their code base widely, NCSA has become a major force driving the development of Web technology. At this important stage in the Web's development, Microsoft feels that it is important that Web technology remain open, and as a result we have chosen to use the NCSA code as the base for our future Web efforts, including the 32-bit version of Word Internet Assistant.

Q. But didn't Microsoft endorse BookLink's proprietary technology?

A. For the purposes of creating the 16-bit version of Word Internet Assistant, Microsoft licensed protocol implementations from BookLink. Protocols such as HTTP, FTP and Gopher represent open standards, and as such are the property of the Internet community. As part of Word Internet Assistant, Microsoft did not implement proprietary extensions to these protocols.

Q. But isn't Spyglass&NCSA technology inferior to BookLink?

A. Over the last year, Spyglass has made many improvements to the NCSA Mosaic (TM) code base, resulting in impressive gains in usability, speed and stability. Recently, Spyglass&NCSA havealso made a commitment to implementing Windows technology, including producing a 32-bit version, and implementing OLE. Given the Spyglass&NCSA commitment to licensing, open standards and Windows technology, we feel that their code base is the most appropriate for us.

Q. Will Microsoft endorse Spyglass security architecture (S-HTTP) over Netscape (SSL)?

A. We are not committing to any security architecture at this time.

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