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Microsoft Internet Jumpstart Kit in Windows 95 OEM Products

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Introduction

Microsoft has decided to include the Microsoft Internet Jumpstart Kit, consisting of the Internet Explorer, Internet Email client for Microsoft Exchange, and the Internet Setup Wizard, in the standard OEM release of Windows 95. Microsoft is including these tools in the OEM release for the convenience of our OEMs and our mutual customers.

The Internet Explorer is a World Wide Web Browser, that can be used to connect directly to the Internet, to a third party Internet Provider, or to the Microsoft Network (MSN).

This means that OEMs will be able to include Internet Web browsers on all their computer systems at no additional royalty, and with no additional engineering required to integrate this component by the OEM. This is an opportunity for OEMs to provide for their customers a valuable feature preinstalled without requiring the customer to install and configure the additional software on their own.

Details

Microsoft will make the Internet Jumpstart Kit widely available to our customers at no additional charge. The Internet Jumpstart Kit consists of three major features:

- The Internet Explorer - A 32-bit Windows 95 World Wide Web Browser and graphical FTP utility.
- Internet Mail Client - A 32-bit Service Provider Interface layer for the Microsoft Exchange Inbox, that will allow direct sending and receiving of Internet Email.
- Internet Setup Wizard - What has been called the "easiest Internet configuration ever", this simple utility configures Windows 95 and the Internet Explorer for either dial-up or direct Internet access.

The Internet Explorer can be used with any local third-party Internet Provider, with a direct network connection to the Internet, or using The Microsoft Network. If The Microsoft Network is used, the Internet Jumpstart Kit provides "one button" simultaneous access to both the Internet and the Microsoft Network. This allows users to browse both MSN and Internet Web sites with a single telephone connection.

The Microsoft Network currently offers Internet Newsgroups and an MSN Internet Mail address. The Internet Jumpstart Kit comes with an enhanced Microsoft Network client software which supports the direct Internet access necessary for the WWW browser. Regular retail MSN users will be able to download the Internet Jumpstart Kit, including this enhanced MSN client software.

Many OEMs have asked about the availability of the Internet Browser for preinstallation on new computer systems. As a service to our customers, Microsoft is pleased to provide these tools as an integrated component of the standard OEM products. Although it is possible for the OEM to integrate these tools into their manufacturing process themselves, each one would have to do this individually. By providing these tools as part of the standard OEM product, we save each OEM the time and effort to integrate and test these tools themselves, and eliminate the need for new users to download these files in order to get these features.

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Q & A

Q: What is the Internet Jumpstart Kit?
A: The Internet Jumpstart Kit consists of the Internet Explorer, a World Wide Web browser and graphical FTP tool, Internet Mail Client for Exchange, and the Internet Setup Wizard, an easy, one-button Internet access configuration tool. If you have installed the latest Microsoft PLUS! beta, you can see these tools from the Start > Programs > Accessories > Internet Tools menu.

Q: Will there be any additional royalties for including this on shipping systems? For example, do I have to license the PLUS! pack?
A: No, the Internet Jumpstart Kit will be available free to all customers by downloading from Internet FTP sites and commercial online services. MSN customers will be able to download the Internet Jumpstart Kit. The Internet Jumpstart Kit will also be included as part of the PLUS! companion product. Providing this software integrated into the OEM Preinstall Kit provides just another easy way for customers to get this software.

Q: As an OEM, I have a WWW home page. Is there any way that I can customize the Internet Explorer to help users find these resources?
A: Yes, you can add "Favorites" locations to as many WWW pages as you want. These are simple Windows 95 shortcut files that you can copy to your reference master image. Details will be included in the OEM Preinstallation Kit User Guide.

Q: What testing has the Internet Jumpstart Kit received?
A: The Internet Jumpstart Kit has already been part of the PLUS! betas, and has been intensively tested by the PLUS! beta testers. In addition, it is available for downloading by current MSN Beta testers.

Q: Why didn't Microsoft include the Internet Jumpstart Kit in the OEM product earlier?
A: This decision was made recently for the convenience of our OEMs and their customers, and because the timing for the internal completion dates for both products now coincide. The Internet Jumpstart Kit would have been available to OEMs through the same free download process as end users, the OEMs would have already been able to integrate this with their preinstalled systems. By doing this integration for them, Microsoft simplifies the preinstall integration process for thousands of OEMs worldwide. Integrating these features as an additional component of the OEM product will not cause any delay to the OEM release of Windows 95.

Q: Does the Internet Jumpstart Kit require that a user sign up for the Microsoft Network (MSN)?
A: No. The Internet Explorer can use direct LAN access to the Internet, a third party dial-up Internet Provider or a networked "proxy" server for Internet access. The user may choose to use MSN as the Internet provider.

Q: Doesn't the regular MSN service already offer Internet Access?
A: The regular MSN service offers access to the Internet Newsgroups, and Internet Email. World Wide Web browsers require a different type of service for direct Internet access, and is accessed through a different telephone number. In areas where direct Internet access via MSN is not available, an MSN customer will still be able to access the standard MSN services.

Q: Will the Internet Jumpstart Kit be available in all localized versions of the OEM Preinstall Kit?
A: The OEM Preinstall Kit with integrated Internet Jumpstart Kit will only be available in English. The localized OPKs will be released initially without the Internet Jumpstart Kit. The localized versions of the OPK with integrated Internet Jumpstart Kit are expected to be available within 30-60 days of the standard OPK for the respective languages. In the meantime those users will be able to download the Internet Jumpstart Kit from a variety of online distribution points if they desire.

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