Boeing Browser Decision History

- **1994 - 1996 NCSA Mosaic v1 and v2**
  - Web emerging, lack of commercial product availability
  - Mosiac versions, public domain software, available for all significant platforms
  - Boeing decides to adopt Mosaic until technology matures
- **early 1996 Netscape v2**
  - Mosiac problems with Windows Sockets and WIN32s API; Mosaic lacked support for tables
  - Netscape versions available for all significant platforms, considered the industry leader
  - Internet Explorer was not functionally adequate
  - Boeing adopts Netscape v2 as a Standard and produces kits for deployment
- **late 1996 - 1998 Netscape v3**
  - Netscape delivers needed enhanced functionality (frames...)
  - Netscape versions available for all significant platforms
  - Also Boeing business case reasons not to change (cost of changing)
  - Internet Explorer v3 now almost functionally competitive, however not available for Unix platforms
  - Internet Explorer v3 had significant security risks due to ActiveX, Boeing develops a policy to prohibit use of Web-based client-side ActiveX controls
  - Boeing produces Windows 95a (OSR1) image. Removes internet icon links
  - Boeing adopts Netscape v3 as an Enterprise-wide Standard
- **1998 Netscape v4**
  - Netscape versions available for all significant platforms
  - Browsers diverging in critical technical areas; Boeing needs to plant a "stake" (code signing, object technology, document object model, Java)
  - Boeing business case (3 year) indicated $5M savings by upgrading Netscape & not allowing dual standard; $8M savings by not switching (cost of changing)
  - Internet Explorer v4 is now essentially functionally equivalent, ActiveX issue mitigated by Zones
  - Boeing adopts Netscape v4 as an Enterprise-wide Standard 1Q98
- **1999 Planning**
  - Boeing develops Desktop Integration Roadmap as 18 month plan for technology roll
  - Internet Explorer v5 will be so deeply embedded in NTW 5, Office 2000, & Outlook 2000 that we will not be able to extricate it
  - Therefore both Netscape and Internet Explorer browsers will be installed on Windows desktops
  - Netscape will continue to be the standard web browser, next step will be to determine how to constrain use of Internet Explorer as the browser
  - Continue to evaluate 1999 browser direction

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