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How the Browsers Compare

August 21, 1996

Notes on the "Netscape Navigator 3.0 Reviewers Guide"

Introduction

Netscape recently published a Netscape Navigator Reviewers Guide to coincide with the launch of their 3.0 product. This document joins the Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 Comparison Guide as a source of information to help you compare browser products. The purpose of the document you're reading now is to help you better understand the issues raised in the Netscape document, clarify some inaccuracies, and provide more complete data. In this document we've dealt specifically with the 5 main areas where Netscape claims an advantage.

Microsoft feels that the most important part of any review is evaluating how well a particular product meets customer requirements. Customers and research consistently highlight three areas of browser functionality:

- ☐ The ability to view the most content by supporting the widest array of Internet standards and formats.
- ☐ The ability to easily communicate and collaborate using rich content, through email, newsgroups, Internet telephony, conferencing, and application sharing.
- ☐ The ability to personalize, customize and in some cases, control the Internet experience to meet your own particular goals.

Customers also look for technical innovation, support for open standards and leadership from their browser vendor. Internet Explorer is built on ActiveX, an unparalleled and proven component architecture that enables rapid innovation and easy extensibility. Moreover, ActiveX offers unprecedented choice and flexibility, allowing developers and customers to choose from any programming language (not just Java), any scripting language (not just JavaScript) and to use components with any application, not just the browser. Internet Explorer supports every significant Internet standard, including HTML, HTTP, CSS1 stylesheets, PICS, POP3, SMTP, and Java.

Overall, Microsoft strongly believes that the best way to judge these two products is to try them side by side in your own environment. Both Netscape Navigator 3.0 and Internet Explorer 3.0 have good features. We, as well as many other reviewers, believe Internet Explorer 3.0 to be the superior product. Ultimately, customers will decide for themselves which product is better and we encourage users to download both products and see for themselves exactly how they measure up. If you're working from the Netscape document, here's some additional information to help you compare Navigator and Internet Explorer side-by-side:

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What Netscape Missed

There were a number of great features in Internet Explorer that weren't covered in the Netscape reviewer's guide that Netscape just can't match. Here's a summary; check out http://www.microsoft.com/ie/challenge for full details and lots of examples.

- ☐ Open Industry Standards - Microsoft has taken a leadership role with the latest W3C Internet standards by adding suppport for cascading stylesheets, HTML layout, ratings support, and conferencing.

- ☐ Component Architecture - The ActiveX technology underlying Internet Explorer provides a powerful and robust component model and is the most successful component technology in the history of the industry. ActiveX is the foundation for an over $200 million a year software component industry.
- ☐ Personalization - The ability to configure the look and feel of the toolbar and all of the links to work the way you work.
- ☐ Ratings - The ability to control the content your children access through the PICS standard ratings process.
- ☐ Enhanced frames and tables support - The ability to present content in the most attractive manner.
- ☐ HTML Stylesheets - Support for the W3C stylesheets standard lets developers create graphically enhanced content in 1/10-1/20 the size of today's pages, as well as create a template for their website to make keeping a consistent look and feel a easy.
- ☐ HTML Layout Control - Lets developers control advanced HTML features like exact image positioning, Z order control, and transparencies to create great looking content in a simplified manner.
- ☐ International Support - Not only is IE localized in the most languages but it also gives users the ability to view content created in a variety of languages and character sets.
- ☐ NetMeeting and Application Sharing - Allows multi-user voice and data conversations, including the ability to share applications over the Internet or Intranet.
- ☐ Accessibility - Provides the ability to browse the web without a mouse for users who may not be able to operate one, or change font sizes for easier viewing.

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Netscape "Advantages"

#1 - Size

Netscape claims that in an "apples to apples" comparison, Navigator is 56% the size of Internet Explorer in terms of download size.

This was not a true "apples to apples" comparison. The standard Navigator client has fewer features than the standard Internet Explorer client, which accounts for the smaller download size. Adding the plug-ins required to give Navigator the same basic features of Internet Explorer (ActiveX, RealAudio, and ActiveMovie) removes this advantage. But more importantly, once the products have been loaded, there is little difference in the "working set" of each browser (e.g. the size of the browser in memory once it's running and its footprint on the hard disk). This means Internet Explorer delivers more functionality in roughly the same amount of memory.

Working Set - the size of a running application in memory - is the true measure of size, since it impacts the performance of your PC every day. Working set defines whether an application is "lean" or "bloated." Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator are basically even on working set, yet users get much more functionality with Internet Explorer.. Adding plug-ins to Navigator to gain additional functionality to catch up with Internet Explorer means additional code which increases their working set. Here are some working-set measurements using the last betas of both products:

	Netscape Navigator 3.0 Beta 7	Internet Explorer 3.0
Memory Required	1166K	1263K

NOTE: this does not include memory requirements for Netscape plug-ins.

When you start to include the various plug-ins and add-ons Navigator needs to provide the same functionality as Internet Explorer 3.0, the two browsers are very close in size in their disk footprint (note these sizes are the actual disk space used on your hard disk, not the sizes for the compressed download file):

Disk Space Used		
Navigator 3.0 (full install)	11.5 megabytes	
+ Ncompass plug-in	15.0 megabytes	To support ActiveX Controls
+ RealAudio plug-in	16.3 megabytes	Standard with Internet Explorer
+ InterVue plug-in	16.8 megabytes	To support MPEG video (ActiveMovie)
Internet Explorer 3.0 (full install)	17.2 megabytes	

Functionality is important to users. In fact, 86% of the people downloading Internet Explorer are taking the maximum, most fully-featured install, even though it is the largest download. This data point clearly refutes the notion that users value a minimum footprint over features. After all, you download once, but use your browser every day.

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#2 - Speed

Netscape claims Navigator is faster than Internet Explorer.

Performance on the Internet is highly variable depending on user criteria and test factors such as network traffic, service provider load, and client configuration. Netscape's performance figures where created on a highly atypical configuration - very few users have their own T3 (45 megabit per second) connection. In typical end-user configurations (28.8 modem, real Internet connection) performance is a wash between the two browsers. Internet Explorer is significantly ahead in start-up time: we get you up and surfing nearly 50% faster than Navigator does. When you run Java or do scripting, however, the answer is clear: Internet Explorer is appreciably faster, across the board.

Web Pages - Microsoft tested Internet Explorer 3.0 in the most common user scenario: a 28.8 modem dialed up to the real Internet, hitting real pages. What we found is that there are few differences between Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator performance. Some sites load a little faster in Netscape Navigator, some sites load a little faster in Internet Explorer.

Start-up Time - An important aspect of the user experience with a browser is start-up time: how long does it take to be ready to work once you start the browser application? On an 8MB system with a connection to the Internet already in place, Internet Explorer 3.0 starts up about 57% faster than Netscape Navigator 3.0 (~10 seconds vs. ~25 seconds). On a 16MB system, Internet Explorer loads about 45% faster.

Java and Scripting - If you're viewing the most advanced web pages with Java applets and scripts, Internet Explorer is by far the faster browser. Navigator is at least 30% slower across the board, and is 100% slower, or more, on some tasks. But, don't take our word on it, check out some independent reviews:

"...the Java engine in Internet Explorer 3.0 blows Navigator out of the water." - c|net

"In general, the tests indicate that Microsoft's Just In Time (JIT) compiler for Java is far superior to Netscape's..." - PC Magazine

"IE also beat Navigator in Java performance tests conducted by PC Magazine. Internet Explorer was faster on every one of the 11 tests." - PC Week

c|net Tests	http://www.cnet.com/Content/Reviews/Compare/Betabrowse/javass.html
PC Magazine Tests	http://www.pcmag.com/IU/bcentral/reviews/rv-ie3_6.htm
Pendragon Tests	http://www.webfayre.com/battle.html
PC Week Tests	http://www.pcweek.com/reviews/0819/20mnav.html

Or, run your own tests using some benchmarks on the Web:

JavaScript	http://www.rahul.net/rhn/bench.js.html
CaffeineMark 2.01a	http://www.webfayre.com/pendragon/cm2/caffeinemark2.html

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#3 - Security

Netscape claims they provide better security.

This simply isn't true. Internet Explorer supports 128 bit security today. As a whole, Internet Explorer 3.0 provides a superset of Netscape security features, matching support for SSL and client authentication while additionally offering PCT (a more robust, more secure variant of SSL) and Microsoft Authenticode™ support. Netscape does nothing to secure files and code you download from the Internet.

Authenticode™ - Authenticode™ is a key security advantage for Internet Explorer. Authenticode brings "shrink wrap" to the Internet and provides the ability to verify a program's source before you download it.

> *How do you know that the Plug-in or Java applet you're downloading hasn't been tampered with, or that it really comes from the person it says it's from? It could have been tampered with, and had a virus inserted. Only Authenticode™ can prevent all of these problems. Authenticode even handles version control - automatically downloading the latest version of a control if one is needed.*

Only Internet Explorer enables you to positively identify the source of any file on the Internet before you download it to your machine; know for certain that it wasn't tampered with in transit; and make your own decisions about which publishers you want to trust. While both browsers support Internet standards for secure communications and strong "sandbox" models for Java applets, only Internet Explorer gives you the ability to control the quality and security of the software and files you download from the Internet. Note that Netscape has announced that they plan to offer a "code signing" feature in the future; Internet Explorer has this capability today.

Leadership - Microsoft is a leader in Internet security. The PCT protocol fixed significant bugs in both SSL2 and early drafts of SSL3. Microsoft implements SSL3 today. As part of our commitment to ship software based on Internet standards, we are leading the IETF push to standardize Internet security protocols.

Client Authentication and Key Generation - We support the X.509 standard for certificates, as does Netscape Navigator. Internet Explorer's key generation is actually much more flexible and powerful than the Navigator approach. Microsoft has implemented a system-level API available from any application, "CryptoAPI," which enables the user to choose how their keys are managed by installing a Cryptographic Service Provider. For example, particularly sensitive private keys could be stored on a smartcard or other secure hardware. The Netscape implementation does not provide users this choice. The Microsoft approach allows users to decide where they store their keys and what application to use them with.

Unknown Certifying Authorities (CA) - This "feature" of Navigator could create security problems. By allowing connection to a site with an unknown CA, Netscape is effectively circumventing the entire security protocol. The user has no basis for making a decision to accept or not accept a certificate that they cannot validate. Any rogue site could pretend to be any other site, as long as Navigator accepted the invalid certificates. It's a bit like having a driver's license you made yourself - it might look OK, but does it mean anything?

Wildcards - Netscape Navigator's support of wildcard names is less robust than Microsoft's approach to scalability. Internet Explorer supports scalability by allowing multiple explicit names to be put into a site's certificate. This more sophisticated approach provides scalability more securely than through the use of wildcard names.

Standards and Robustness - Internet Explorer's security features have been reviewed by Microsoft and non-Microsoft cryptographers and security researchers, and are based on proven public-key cryptography concepts. These same concepts underlie Netscape Navigator security as well. Microsoft products are among the most widely deployed in the world. We have been shipping SSL support since September 1995. In fact, Microsoft collaborated with Netscape on SSL 2.0.

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#4 - Cross-Platform (and International)

Netscape claims Navigator support on 16 platforms.

Netscape implies they have delivered the same 3.0 product on 16 platforms. While they have a product called "Navigator 3.0" on sixteen different platforms, different platforms have different feature sets. Core features like Java and CoolTalk, which Netscape implies are on all sixteen platforms, in fact are missing on some platforms (no Java on Windows 3.1, no CoolTalk, LiveVideo, or Live3D on Macintosh). Furthermore, 11 of their 16 platforms are different varieties of Unix, which, combined, account for less than 1% of all computers in use (based on recent data from IDC).

Internet Explorer is available today on Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 3.1, Macintosh and shortly will be available for UNIX. Version 3.0 is available on Windows 95 and Windows NT with version 2.1 available for the Macintosh and Windows 3.1. Version 3.0 will be available for Macintosh, UNIX and Windows 3.1 this year. Version 2.1 of Internet Explorer on Macintosh and Windows 3.1 is more than competitive with Netscape's 3.0 offering on those platforms.

International support is an important area where Internet Explorer leads Navigator. We realize that customers around the world want to get on the World Wide Web, so we have designed Internet Explorer to be easy and fast to localize. Internet Explorer version 3.0 will be available in 27 different languages just as version 2.0 is today, including English, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian and Iberian, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish). Many of the languages are already available today. Netscape Navigator will eventually be available in only 11 languages. In addition, Internet Explorer lets users view pages created in other character sets for browsing international web sites without having to change platforms.

69% of Navigator Platforms account for 1% of the Market - Netscape claims 16 platforms, but 11 of these are Unix-based which account for under 1% of the total number of desktops in use per a recent IDC report. So for the overwhelming population of end-users, this is not an issue. However, we do realize that a Unix version of Internet Explorer is important to Web administrators and developers and we are working to deliver (and have announced) a version of Internet Explorer for Unix before the end of the year.

Native Size and Performance - Internet Explorer is optimized for each platform. For example, Internet Explorer 2.1 for the Macintosh is winning reviews because it runs significantly faster and in less memory than the Netscape product. Internet Explorer for the Macintosh also supports more key Macintosh technologies, including QuickTime and QuickTime VR, QuickDraw 3D, and Open Transport. We are committed to best-of-breed browsers wherever we deliver them...let's use Macintosh as an example:

- In most situations, Navigator uses 2x-3x the memory required by Internet Explorer on the Macintosh - especially in situations where dynamic media is involved: sound, video, VRML, etc. Less than 25% of the installed Macintoshes have the resources to see QuickTime VR using Navigator 3.0 - the feature requires a 24M Macintosh. On the other hand, 80% of the installed Macs can benefit from QuickTime, VRML and AVI today with Internet Explorer for the Macintosh.

- Microsoft demonstrated Internet Explorer 3.0 at the recent MacWorld trade show with Java support, ActiveX support and scripting running in a 4 megabyte partition.

- Although Netscape supports OpenDoc, no major Macintosh ISV has shipped OpenDoc in a commercial product. Netscape currently offers no components for Macintosh developers.

- Our Java VM will be available as an ActiveX Control on the Macintosh. This lets Internet Explorer scale its heap usage (e.g., only load the VM into memory when necessary). Internet Explorer 3.0 for Macintosh will have a 5M recommended memory footprint, as opposed to 9M for Navigator. The componentized VM also provides access for third-party developers to run Java applets anywhere, not just in the browser.

- Our plan to release an Internet Services Library and HTML renderer is being well received by developers, the Macintosh press, and Apple.

As a result, Internet Explorer is winning the head-to-head reviews on the Macintosh:

"But in the end, we recommend Internet Explorer; it's the best Web browser available today...In the first skirmish of the Web war, Microsoft has pulled off a stunning victory." -- MacUser

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#5 - Suite (Mail and News support)

Netscape offers integrated e-mail and newsgroups as part of the Navigator package. They also discuss additional Netscape products and offers like Inbox Direct and Navigator Gold.
Microsoft's Internet Explorer offers several important features that users have asked for, and which Navigator does not have. Integrated mail and news support in Internet Explorer delivers key advantages such as off-line newsgroup reading, HTML-based mail authoring (so you can send mail with fonts, bullets, and formatting), and Inbox rules, for managing incoming mail. Although Internet Explorer does not currently provide viewing of full HTML in the mail application, it does support active linking to web pages.

When reviewing browser products, it's important to separate *browser features* (which do include mail and news support) *from marketing offers* (such as free content deals or news feeds) and *authoring tools* (HTML editors and the like). In an "apples-to-apples" comparison, Microsoft Internet Explorer is the package that offers the most advantages. Microsoft Corporation offers a line of products for web site authoring (Internet Assistant for Word, Publisher, FrontPage and more) and a range of offers with leading content partners on the web (check out http://www.microsoft.com/ie/offers/).

Easy multiple news server implementation - Internet Explorer not only supports multiple news servers, we make them easy to connect to and easy to manage. Straightforward multiple-server support is increasingly important as private newsgroups (for example, both Microsoft and Netscape support groups) become more and more common.

Much Easier Newsgroup Management - there are over 20,000 newsgroups on Usenet alone. Internet News in Microsoft Internet Explorer makes it easy to find groups of interest (just type in key words to look for) and easy to subscribe and unsubscribe. Users can find what they're looking for faster with Internet News.

Offline news reading - a key way to save on connect time charges is to read news off-line. Internet Explorer makes it easy to download a series of messages from your news server, read and reply to them off-line, compose new posts, and re-synch with your server when you next connect. No competing newsreader offers this level of functionality.

HTML-based email generation- only Internet Explorer enables you to compose mail messages using rich formatting - right in the mail client. Navigator has no ability to compose HTML mail. With Internet Explorer, you can create and view messages using fonts, colors, and other rich formatting.

Inbox rules - subscribe to a few mailing lists or content sites, and you'll get lots of mail. Only Internet Explorer offers the ability to filter incoming mail, automatically sorting messages into the appropriate folders, discarding them, or processing them as you specify.

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What's New

The Netscape Reviewer's Guide discusses four key categories of new features. Here's some additional background information on how that functionality compares to Internet Explorer 3.0.

Communication and Collaboration

CoolTalk - Netscape presents CoolTalk as a "revolutionary new tool" to make voice and data calls over the Internet. In fact, CoolTalk can not match Microsoft NetMeeting, which comes with Internet Explorer 3.0. NetMeeting has 3 key advantages:

- **Standards Based** - NetMeeting is built on international standards (T.120) which means it can interoperate with many products and services from other companies. Over 120 companies have announced support for T.120. CoolTalk is built on a proprietary, unpublished protocol.
- **Multi-Point** - NetMeeting allows multiple users to participate in a single data conference, while CoolTalk only supports two person conferencing.
- **Application Sharing** - NetMeeting supports application sharing. Anyone on a conference can remotely view and control any shared application, even if that application is not installed on their computer. Any application used to view, edit or manipulate information can be used collaboratively. CoolTalk has no equivalent functionality in this area

Here's what CINet had to say about the two products:

- *"A few weeks ago, Netscape's CoolTalk looked great. But in comparison, it's crushed by NetMeeting. CoolTalk isn't standards-based, its not multipoint, and it doesn't offer application sharing."*
- *"NetMeeting blows away CoolTalk."*

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Rich Content

Multimedia (Live3D/VRML, LiveAudio, LiveVideo, QuickTime) - Internet Explorer offers the leading multimedia support of any browser. There are three key advantages:

- **Integrated** - True integrated multimedia support, unlike Netscape which requires multiple plug-ins to offer the same level of functionality.
- **MPEG** - Internet Explorer is the only browser with integrated support for MPEG quality audio and video, which provide much higher in much smaller packages.
- **Hardware acceleration** - Only Internet Explorer can provide the highest quality multimedia by leveraging the hardware on your PC.

Internet Explorer is the first browser to offer comprehensive, integrated multimedia support through our exclusive ActiveMovie technology. This is not limited to simply playing back in-line avi and sound files as was pioneered in our 2.0 browser. Rather, ActiveMovie makes it possible to play back every type of media format available on the web (.WAV, .AU, .AIFF, MIDI, .WAV, QuickTime, MPEG) through one component. Users don't need to worry about having the right plug-in or player for multimedia content; ActiveMovie does it all. ActiveMovie also offers integrated support for MPEG audio and MPEG video. MPEG is the latest and best multimedia compression scheme, offering noticeably better media quality with smaller file sizes. Visit a site like www.mpmusic.com for some examples of how MPEG improves the multimedia experience. ActiveMovie also offers progressive download for all media types, meaning that audio (and many video) clips start playing faster – ActiveMovie downloads the last part of the file while the first part is playing.

Internet Explorer is also the first browser to take advantage of hardware acceleration on the Windows platform, through DirectX. DirectX enables your computer's hardware (video card, sound card, 3D accelerator, etc.) to take over much of the work of processing multimedia. This means that sound is clearer, video is smoother, and 3D is more realistic - all of these enhancements are automatic and transparent to you.

HTML
Internet Explorer is ahead on HTML support as well. Netscape has chosen to use new, non-standard HTML tags to add functionality that is already supported by IE. This circumvents the standards process. Internet Explorer implements the complete W3C specification for HTML 3.2, and already implements the new Cascading Style Sheets specifications, Level 1 and Level 2. Internet Explorer offers the most advanced HTML support of any browser, enabling beautiful new page layouts without graphics. Rather than downloading a large bitmap to deliver a nicely-formatted page, Internet Explorer enables web designers to leverage the tools of the page designer's trade, and create web pages with all the typographic and stylistic effects of a CD-ROM title or a printed page. Best of all, this content is delivered in a page that is a tiny fraction of the size of the same content delivered via a graphic. Visit http://www.microsoft.com/truetype/ for a great example of the power of advanced HTML (visit over a slow link to really appreciate the effect).

VRML - Internet Explorer also comes with built-in support for VRML, and Microsoft has already announced plans to ship a Java-based VRML 2.0 viewer for Internet Explorer 3.0.

JavaScript and VBScript
While Microsoft has not implemented all JavaScript 1.1 extensions yet, we intend to do so in the future - although this is difficult for us or any other browser vendor to do. Microsoft, as well as other Java licensees, look forward to receiving open specifications and reference implementations for JavaScript from Netscape. Today, our JavaScript implementation, JScript, is highly compatible and approximately 5 times faster than Netscape's (see the independent test results under "Advantage #2" in Part 1).

Microsoft Internet Explorer also supports VBScript, a derivative of the wildly popular Visual Basic programming language. VBScript enables the scripting of ActiveX Controls, Plug-ins, Java applets, and HTML components. And, VBScript enables the millions of developers with Visual Basic experience to leverage their knowledge on the Internet and Intranet.

Java Support and ActiveX
Microsoft has the fastest Java JIT compiler available today (see the tables under "Advantage #2" above), and supports the downloading of entire Java applications as single CAB (CABinet) files. In addition, Java classes and CAB's can be signed with Authenticode, insuring their origins and security in transit.

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Client Platform

Netscape claims that "the Navigator platform [is] the most flexible, versatile, and secure for users."
However, by any objective measure, Internet Explorer 3.0 supersets the feature set provided by Navigator 3.0 - this includes richer support for HTML, Java, ActiveX, Multimedia, Mail, News, Internet Conferencing, Personalization and Administration features.

In addition, Internet Explorer 3.0 offers, today, the only componentized architecture which lets developers build browsing capabilities into any application. Only Internet Explorer enables the browser as a true platform: a component that other developers can build upon. AOL, CompuServe, AT&T, MCI, and over 3000 other Internet Service Providers have chosen Internet Explorer as the basis for their customized browsers – specifically because the componentized architecture makes it easy to integrate and customize the browser into their own offerings.

Internet Explorer's true component architecture lets end users choose which components, mail, communication and authoring environments they want to use. Contrast this with Netscape Navigator's "monolithic" architecture (one huge program) - this locks you into a proprietary, one vendor solution for all of these components. ActiveX allows you to choose programming languages (not just Java), allows you to choose scripting languages (not just JavaScript) and allows you to choose applications to run your components in (not just the browser).

At Microsoft we have taken the concept of component based development and applied it to not only to Internet content, but also to the configuration of the Internet client itself. This means that all the interesting client technology that we provide like news, email and the browser itself, is not only great for end-users, but also provides great re-usable components for developers as well. Developers can use our client-side components to build great custom applications, which they can then distribute royalty free.

In contrast, Netscape Navigator provides an architecture called Netscape ONE, which has some readily available and some proprietary parts, including JavaScript, Internet Interoperability Protocol (IIOP), and the Netscape Foundation classes. IIOP is a publicly documented standard and can be implemented by any vendor, however there are relatively few commercially available software products that use IIOP interoperability. JavaScript is also licensable from Netscape, although there are propriety extensions which are not widely available. The Netscape foundation classes are only available as part of Netscape Navigator, which requires that any application using these classes will have to provide Navigator and license it for each end user, at a potential cost of $50.00 for each end user seat.

Internet Explorer's ActiveX architecture is also far ahead today in terms of the end-user experience for software components. Users must download and install Netscape Navigator plug-ins manually by going to the web page of the plug-in vendor. In contrast, ActiveX Controls are automatically downloaded and installed (once the user confirms the download, of course). ActiveX will also do version-checking of controls, and will automatically download a new version of a control if one is available.

Independent software developers are already "voting with their feet:" Check out http://browserwatch.iworld.com/:

- there are about 90 Win32 Plug-ins in the "Plug-in Plaza," which has been up for **months**
- there are 117 ActiveX controls in the "ActiveX Arena," which has been up for **weeks**.

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Administration and Corporate Management

Netscape claims their Administration Kit is more "Corporate Focused" than Microsoft's.

This is simply not the case. The Internet Explorer Administration Kit (IEAK) is the optimum tool for both corporate customers and ISPs. The IEAK's unique features include the ability to:

- **Customize** the look and feel of the browser
- **Bundle** add-ons with the browser into unique configurations
- **Preset** all user configuration and options for a hands free install
- **Manage** user options on an ongoing basis from a central server

	Microsoft	Netscape
Set preferences	Yes	Yes
Set options (security, ratings, etc)	Yes	?
Lock Preferences	Yes	Yes
Lock Options	Yes	?
Secure Configuration Data	Yes	Yes
Scripted Install	Yes	Yes
Custom Help Menu		Yes
Customize directory buttons	Yes	Yes
Customize browser look (toolbar, icons, etc)	Yes	?
Store customer settings centrally on a server	Yes	?
Simple updating of user options from central server	Yes	?
Manage users at individual and group level	Yes	?
Graphical Wizard for easy use	Yes	?

Finally, Netscape is advertising they will sell their administration kit at a price of $1995. The IEAK will be available at no charge to administrators outside of the required shipping and handling charges.

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Did you Know?

Netscape includes a number of "interesting factoids" in their reviewers guide, several of which deserve more examination.

Number of users - *Netscape claims Navigator has over 40 million users.* This does not appear to be a credible number. An examination of the estimates of the total number of users on the Internet highlights this point. Most estimates of the total number of users on the Internet are between 25 and 30 million. The following is from CINet, June 27: "There's no way in hell they could have that [many users]," said Clay Ryder, senior industry analyst at Zona Research. "When we last put numbers together we had somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 million IP-capable desktops." To have 40 million users, Netscape would have to have well over 100% market share.