

I t's B arefisted M ayhem ! The OS Wars

Stephen Manes in his recent New York Times review of the newest IBM OS/2 offering was not very charitable in his assessment of WARP. One got the sense that the man was really offended by a piece of software sent out for evaluation and review that crippled his config.sys and rejected standard "off the shelf" hardware. All of the earlier OS/2 ills Manes replayed like a flashback from a very bad film. As a matter of record, the planned release date of Warp was pushed back to early November to recall and repair the damage. Almost no comment from Big Blue. A number of weeks later OS/2 users were still standing on one foot...waiting for the final.

I asked around to get a sense of early WARP experiences and was quite astounded by what I learned. The non-OS/2 users *said* they had fits with slow installs, groaning hardware and system failures while the regular OS/2 users *said* they had few problems installing and then using WARP. Is it possible that non-OS/2 users were missing crucial operating system requirements which caused this havoc while experienced OS/2 users understood the nuances and therefore had success? Or perhaps we are discussing operating system partisanship of an extreme where *everyone* is lying.

The contrasts between public success and failure cannot be ignored amid this rotten egg tossing. One assumes that all the diddling with IBM's Windows specific OS/2 add-on, coupled with corporate statements of *easy use*, speaks to the economic reality of attracting Windows users prior to the competing 32 bit WIN95 release sometime next year. Charges of lies, libel and other low life behavior, while very funny and at times outrageous, are really an incredible phenomena.(NEXT) We had to share some of the *debate* resulting from the WARP offering while lurking in the darker corners of the net, We requested permission to reprint expecting silence...which is what we got. It's too good to bury on a Sysop's hard drive which is why we throw caution and prudence to the Gods!

As an aside there are two issues this donnybrook has put to rest. The first is that the silent horde of users will take it all in and ultimately draw their own conclusions using other criteria. The second is that off-line readers do not necessarily help temper the words of users determined to continue the operating system wars. NEXT

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