Teresa Jennings

From: Jonathan Lazarus
To: Jim Allchin; Bob Muglia; Collins Hemingway; Lowell Tuttman
Cc: Bob Kruger; Lisa Matchette; Mike Maples
Subject: RE: *** ole interop concerns, please read***
Date: Sunday, February 13, 1994 8:09AM

Jim is of course 100% correct. We absolutely should not rush into any of this.

From: Jim Allchin
To: Bob Muglia; Collins Hemingway; Lowell Tuttman
Cc: Bob Kruger; Jonathan Lazarus; Lisa Matchette; Mike Maples
Subject: RE: *** ole interop concerns, please read***
Date: Friday, February 11, 1994 5:24PM

The problem is much more complicated that you suggest. Interoperability is a very complicated and confusing topic. The last thing we want to do is deal with testing or certifying anything for someone else. The thing I want to certify is that an APP is compatible with OLE. I hope OpenDoc does not achieve interop or does a terrible job. We *want* them to fail.

We do have a design review coming up on interoperability across the network (or cross-process) for new interfaces (and links and automation for OLE 2). This is important and we should promote this. This will highlight the fact that it's Apple's problem.

jim

From: Collins Hemingway
To: Bob Muglia; Jim Allchin; Lowell Tuttman
Cc: Bob Kruger; Jonathan Lazarus; Lisa Matchette; Mike Maples
Subject: RE: *** ole interop concerns, please read***
Date: Friday, February 11, 1994 2:45PM

I like this idea but why not just go ahead and announce a council? I realize I may be opening a can of worms to suggest we act so quickly, but why not? (We could later then announce a comprehensive way we work w/the 4-5 councils we have.) Msg today would be:

--Under our WOSA umbrella, we know object interop is critical; we recognize there's a lot of confusion among customers about object systems and what interop means
--MS is object leader, has only real object solution shipping today in commercial volumes
--Critical that other solutions that people may develop should interoperate w/this broad and existing object solution and there should be no excuse for other vendors creating incompatibilities "by accident"
--We're committed to providing info that lets customers build object systems and other vendors create compatible solutions;
--We are willing to "certify" those that interoperate and will offer test guidelines or something (pt being that OpenDoc would flunk tests by being arbitrarily different)
--We seek customer input and vendor input on how to move efforts forward
--Here's timetable for us to create the council, we invite customers and other vendors
--Meanwhile, customers and vendors can get all the info they need by calling 1-800
--Summarize all public info available today, sdks, PDC docs, etc.

What would we have to lose?

From: Lowell Tuttman
To: Bob Muglia; Jim Allchin
Cc: Bob Kruger; Collins Hemingway; Jonathan Lazarus; Lisa Matchette; Mike Maples
Subject: *** ole interop concerns, please read***
Date: Friday, February 11, 1994 1:58PM
Priority: High

Now that I've had some time to catch my breath from the apple thing, I realize that their most important issue for opendoc moving forward is interop with ole. They would REALLY like to position this issue against

us (i.e. it is our responsibility to interop with opendoc), rather than just state they will figure out how to make opendoc work with ole.

Since they werent able to corner us on the issue in the spec negotiation, im concerned that they'll try some other tactic in the near future. Im also feeling that some of the other competitive efforts are feeling pressure on this issue too.

I'd like to preempt everyone else FOR ONCE. My idea is to announce, next week if possible, that we realize this is an industry problem and since we are the leaders we are going to have a mechanism whereby all other efforts that are not as far along as us (read everyone else) and want to include OLE interoperability in their efforts and products can have at least a 1-800 number to call so that they can get their questions answered. THis doesnt have to be anything more than a pss person who answers technical questions.

I want us to put a stake in the ground on this issue and make it very clear publicly that ole interop issues belong to EVERYONE else and NOT MS. I think having a council longer term is better than the 1-800 number, but Im afraid to wait long enough to organize something like this.

What think ?