

Unknown

From: Brad Struss
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 1994 11:32AM
To: Steve Madigan; Paul Maritz; Joe Belfiore; Darryl Rubin; Brian MacDonald
Subject: ISV status on Namespace Browsers/explorer extensibility

Below is a summary Scotthe pulled together from a couple of weeks ago of what ISVs current thoughts are. Only 3 ISVs have begun actual work (2 of them utility ISVs who expect to break), the rest are in the "plan to do so" stage. When Scott was speaking to most of these people on the phone, he had to educate them some on what these different terms meant. Also, a large part of the interest from ISVs doing this is because MS is doing it w/ Capone & Marvel.

Here's summary of more specific feedback we've gotten from Lotus & WordPerfect since Scott compiled his data:

Lotus - Alex Morrow (architect) is not aware of any work currently going on to implement IShellFolder, IShellView. Others we've talked to also indicate that it's in the "plan to do stage". They've asked no questions of any technical depth on these interfaces which is another indication that no work or active investigation is ongoing. For common dialogs, current plan has been to use the standard dialog extensibility and not roll their own. This may change.

Wordperfect - They have not begun any work on IShellFolder, IShellView, etc. If Capone integrates into the Explorer then they will also ("we'll figure it out if it's not documented"). If capone does not, they will just create a standalone email application. For common dialogs, current plan is to use the MS dialogs, but I don't believe they've investigated this enough to know for sure.

From: Scott Henson

Here's how the shell integration API's affect our software development plans:

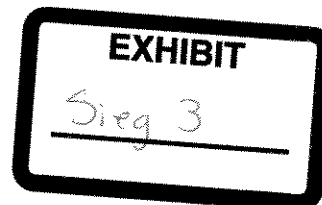
[MICROSOFT]

- =====
=> The Chicago shell team will make use of everything (no surprise)
=> The Chicago Networking Team - including Remote Access - (namespace browser and explorer extensions, briefcase reconcilers, property sheet handlers, context menu handlers)
=> Elseware Company - provides the Font Folder in Chicago - (namespace browser and explorer extensions, property sheet handler)
=> Office Team (gave the Chicago team the code for docfiles and continues to work on it. The document management group is using IShell Folder, IShellLink, and maybe more to do file open and save dialogs. They do something to do drag/drop of binder pages and are also using the appbar stuff - I assume to have multiple system toolbars.)
=> Capone - the InfoCenter - (They will do everything. They were able to do their work on other platforms - the Mac, NT, and Win 3.1, by taking the shell source code and modifying it to their needs)
=> Marvel - Online Service - (they extend the namespace and the explorer)
=> Access (doing a file system view = namespace browsers, shell extensibility, the works)
=> Ren - our PIM group - (Originally Implemented totally as a shell extension. Now they are looking at briefcase reconcilers and the hot debate right now is namespace and explorer extensibility)

The following companies have voiced an interest in the namespace extensions and shell extensibility in general:

| COMPANY | HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Oracle | YES (Their forms division) |
| Symantec | YES (They are in deeper than anyone) |
| Stac Electronics | YES (Very Heavy Usage) |
| DCA | YES (Details coming via e-mail) |

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Word Perfect | VERY LIKELY (but detailed info will be difficult to get)
 Lotus | VERY LIKELY (but detailed info will be difficult to get)
 Corel | NO - INVESTIGATING
 CompuServe | NO - INVESTIGATING
 Prodigy | NO - INVESTIGATING
 America On-Line | NO - INVESTIGATING
 Legent | NO - INVESTIGATING
 NCSA (Mosaic) | NO - INVESTIGATING
 NetSoft | NO - INVESTIGATING
 Attachmate | NO - INVESTIGATING
 FutureSoft | NO - INVESTIGATING
 Saber Software Corp. | NO - INVESTIGATING

... and these ISVs were asking lots of questions on CompuServe ...

Parson's Technology

Visionware

XSoft (Xerox)

Northern Telecom

AEG Software Technik (GmbH and Co.)

Here are the detailed reports company-by-company:

[ORACLE]

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- * PRODUCT: Oracle Forms Package
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? YES
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: What they want to do use the explorer as a generalized front-end for Chicago. Their main development is not focused on doing Chicago Explorer Extensions - they would actually market this as an augmentation to their stand-alone product at the time Chicago ships.
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

| SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | Not Important |
| File Viewers | Have not yet looked at it |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | No plans to write a reconciler |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done) |
| Context Menu Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done) |
| Property Page Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done) |
| Icon Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done) |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Very Important (A lot of work done) |

[SYMANTEC]

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- * PRODUCT: Norton Desktop and Utilities for Chicago (the Central Point Group will do quite a bit as well)
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? YES
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: The will essentially replace the Chicago Desktop
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

| SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | Yes - the desktop people are |
| File Viewers | Not Started but ideally would like to use the work done in the existing product |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | No plans to write a reconciler |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done) |

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Context Menu Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done)
 Property Page Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done)
 Icon Handlers | Very Important (A lot of work done)
 Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Very Important (A lot of work done)

COMMENT: They made the comment that this was not a big surprise - that they simply expected to break from release to release - that's the nature of utility vendors.

[STAC ELECTRONICS]
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- * PRODUCT: Stacker for Chicago (and other Chicago projects)
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? YES
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: Their entire UI is based on Explorer Extensions and NameSpace Browsers
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | NO |
| File Viewers | NO - They would like to use what is there |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | YES - (Another Project not Stacker) |
| Copy Hook Handlers | NO (Might in the Future) |
| Context Menu Handlers | YES |
| Property Page Handlers | YES |
| Icon Handlers | YES |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | YES (Their entire UI) |

COMMENTS: They realize that the core of their product is not the UI but they would really like to see the API's stay compatible as long as possible.

[DCA]
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- * PRODUCT: SNA Connectivity
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? YES (Based on Feedback from one of their development managers Delaine Campbell)
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: They will create a folder that shows 3270 terminal sessions
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN: Waiting on details

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | n/a at this time |
| File Viewers | n/a at this time |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | n/a at this time |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely based on initial feedback |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely based on initial feedback |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely based on initial feedback |
| Icon Handlers | Likely based on initial feedback |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely based on initial feedback |

[WORDPERFECT]
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- * PRODUCT: No Feedback on which one
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? Very Likely Based on Tom Creighton's feedback below.
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: Not Known
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | n/a |
| File Viewers | n/a |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | n/a |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Icon Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely based on speculation |

COMMENTS: A detailed survey was sent to WordPerfect but the results are unlikely to be very informative. Tom made the comment that there would "be hell to pay in the press" if we changed the interfaces from the initial release of Chicago to the next release. They will try to get feedback to us but they don't want to tip their hand.

[LOTUS]

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- * PRODUCT: No Feedback on which one
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? Unknown at this point
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: Not Known
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | n/a |
| File Viewers | n/a |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | n/a |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Icon Handlers | Likely based on speculation |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely based on speculation |

[COREL]

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- * PRODUCT: CorelDraw!
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: for Document Management with Ventura
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | Not Interested |
| File Viewers | Might provide some filters |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | Not Now |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely |
| Icon Handlers | Likely |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely |

COMMENTS: Corel is anxiously awaiting our strategy on this so they can decide how deep to dive into the shell extensions.

[COMPUERVE]

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- * PRODUCT: WinCIM for CompuServe On-Line Service
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: Not as their main app but more likely as an add-on
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | Maybe |
| File Viewers | Will use what is there |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | No Plans |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely |
| Icon Handlers | Likely |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely |

COMMENTS: CompuServe as well as the rest of the On-Line community don't feel that shell extensions should be their core product. The user-interface that they have designed is where they hold value.

[PRODIGY SERVICES COMPANY]

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- * PRODUCT: PRODIGY On-Line Service
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO - They were in the porting lab last week for evaluation purposes
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: Very Unclear
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Tray Extensibility | Maybe |
| File Viewers | Not sure |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | No Plans |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely |
| Icon Handlers | Likely |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely |

[AMERICA ONLINE]

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- * PRODUCT: America Online
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: Unclear at this point
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | Maybe |
| File Viewers | Will use what is there |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | No Plans |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Likely |
| Context Menu Handlers | Likely |
| Property Page Handlers | Likely |
| Icon Handlers | Likely |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Likely |

[LEGENT]

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- * PRODUCT: Paradigm
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: To expose ticker objects that represent system events and failures
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Tray Extensibility | NO |
| File Viewers | NO |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | NO |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Interested |
| Context Menu Handlers | Interested |
| Property Page Handlers | Interested |
| Icon Handlers | Interested |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Interested |

COMMENT: I essentially explained most of this to Legent and they said "Wow! Think of the possibilities!" This indicates to me that they are concentrating mostly on their Win32 port from UNIX and have not yet thought about this aspect of their application.

[NCSA]

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- * PRODUCT: Mosaic - Internet Browser
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO - Mostly Read the Docs
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: To allow for quick connect to Internet hosts and to keep a hot list of favorite places on the Internet
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | NO - not yet |
| File Viewers | NO |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | NO |
| Copy Hook Handlers | POSSIBLY |
| Context Menu Handlers | YES This is important |
| Property Page Handlers | YES This is important |
| Icon Handlers | YES This is important |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | POSSIBLY - This depends on what we are doing with the internet shortcuts |

COMMENTS: NCSA is working with Wassef with regard to internet shortcuts. They mentioned that Carrie Schwartz has implemented basic drag and drop with respect to internet resources. From numerous discussions it sounds as if we are in negotiations with these folks to do an internet browser for the Chicago Frosting Pack.

[NetSoft]

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- * PRODUCT: SNA Connectivity Software
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: 3270 sessions "hidden" as files/directories
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Tray Extensibility | NO |
|--------------------|----|

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| File Viewers | YES (4 stars) |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | YES (3 stars) |
| Copy Hook Handlers | NO |
| Context Menu Handlers | Yes (3 stars) |
| Property Page Handlers | Yes (3 stars) |
| Icon Handlers | NO |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Yes (5 Stars) |

COMMENTS: They made the comment that although they had not yet started work, that this was very important to them.

[Attachmate]

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- * PRODUCT: SNA Connectivity Software
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: To show legacy system through an installable file system and this would in turn be shown through namespace and explorer extensions
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | NOTE SURE - INTERESTING |
| File Viewers | Hoping they don't have to |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | NO |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Yes this is very important |
| Context Menu Handlers | Yes this is very important - Have to do this |
| Property Page Handlers | Yes |
| Icon Handlers | Yes |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Yes |

COMMENTS: This product relies on Extra! but is not the core product.

[FutureSoft]

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- * PRODUCT: SNA Connectivity Software
- * HAVE THEY STARTED WORK? NO
- * PLANNED USAGE OF SHELL EXTENSIONS: To show legacy systems in a folder hierarchy view
- * TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN:

SHELL EXTENSION TECHNOLOGY | PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tray Extensibility | NOT NOW |
| File Viewers | They will be providing their own filters |
| Briefcase Reconcilers | NO - Seems like an artificial abstraction - we would like to see it go away. |
| Copy Hook Handlers | Yes |
| Context Menu Handlers | Yes |
| Property Page Handlers | Yes |
| Icon Handlers | Yes |
| Namespace/Explorer Extensibility | Yes - Deep into this - have not started but have designed a UI. |

MSC 00718800

COMMENTS: They realize that Cairo os in Object-Oriented OS and based on OLE. If the components to extend the shell are similar then it will make their lives much, much easier. The biggest concern they have is that they will

be able to use the same product on both Operating Systems. They want to be less of an application from the user's point of view and more of a network.