OS migration

16-bit antivirus tools won't work with Win95

By Jason Pontin

IS MANAGERS MIGRATING to Windows 95 may expose their client PCs to infection by viruses if they don't upgrade their antivirus utilities as soon as they upgrade their operating system.

Antivirus programs created for Windows 3.1 will not work with Windows 95, a Microsoft Corp. spokeswoman confirmed last week. But many IS managers don't realize that antivirus utilities are one category of 16-bit software that is not backward compatible with Windows 95.

This is because all existing antivirus Windows programs scan a common location in the DOS files system, called Interrupt 21, through which all new files pass.

But because Windows 95 replaces the DOS file system, existing antivirus utilities designed for Windows 3.1 will end up scanning Windows 95 in vain for Interrupt 21 and won't be able to find viruses as a result.

"It's as if your programs had been told to watch the door, and the viruses were coming in through the window," said Alan Solomon, the chairman of S&S Software International Inc., a security software vendor in Aylesbury, England.

Microsoft doesn't plan to bundle

an antivirus utility of its own with Windows 95, so users must depend on third-party vendors such as Symantec Corp. and McAfee Associates Inc. to offer antivirus software compatible with Windows 95.

Symantec is already at work — in close cooperation with Microsoft — to prepare a Windows 95-specific antivirus utility, which will ship as soon as Windows 95 does.

Many IS managers, however, don't know they must upgrade their antivirus software.

"You need some kind of protection for the client, and I was hoping to use the old stuff," said Randy Dugger, IS director at Lipsome Technology, a vertical software vendor and Windows 95 beta site, in Menlo Park, Calif. Dugger said he believed the Windows 3.x antivirus utilities he has been using would still work with Windows 95.

"I was expecting my virus protection to go with me," said Steve Butler, senior information analyst at Pacific Gas and Electric Co., in San Francisco, also a Windows 95 beta site.

Those users who do know of the problem are unhappy about the additional expense entailed by upgrading their utilities.

"We think of it as just one of the hidden costs of the migration to

Windows 95," said Brian Maura, assistant city manager at the city of San Carlos, Calif., another Windows 95 beta site.

Products such as Cheyenne Software Inc.'s InocuLAN and Intel Corp.'s LANDesk Virus Protect, both certified by Novell Inc. as NetWare utilities, scan server files for viruses, and often client hard disks as well, when a user logs in. But unless PC clients are protected by antivirus software loaded on their hard drives, they can be corrupted by viruses encountered during a workday and suffer whatever symptoms that virus inflicts. In pursuit of true viral resistance, most IS departments scan both clients and servers.

Some Windows programmers have speculated that antivirus software for Windows 95, with its complex file system, may be less effective than the DOS equivalents.

But Symantec and McAfee officials denied these suggestions last week.

"We can offer the same degree of protection, but it will require somewhat more complicated technology to do it," said Bob Chappeloor, vice president of engineering at McAfee, whose antivirus utility is also scheduled for a simultaneous release with Windows 95.

NOVELL TO SHIP UPGRADED IP ACCESS SOFTWARE

Novell Inc. will ship by the end of this month a new version of its Internet Protocol (IP) access software for IPX networks, Novell officials confirmed. NetWare/IP 2.1 will offer integration with the NetWare Directory Services global directory in NetWare 4.1, said a Novell spokeswoman, enabling the program to be installed and administered centrally from a single server. NetWare/IP integrates NetWare with TCP/IP environments, enabling NetWare users to run NetWare services over IP or over a combination of IP and Novell's IPX protocol. IP transmissions are tunneled through IPX. NetWare/IP 2.1 will be available as a free upgrade to NetWare 4.x users.

COMPAQ TO USE AMD 90-, 100-MHZ CHIPS

Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AMD) has staked out a bigger claim in systems from Compaq Computer Corp. In addition to the 66-MHz 486 processors, which AMD has been shipping to Compaq for some time, the chip vendor is now supplying 90-MHz and 100-MHz DX4-class 486 chips for use in Compaq's Presario consumer PCs. AMD's 30/90-MHz DX4 is the first 486 product to ship that runs at 90 MHz. In addition to Pentium processors from Intel Corp., which are currently used in some Presarios, Compaq also plans to use Pentium-class processors from NexGen Inc. in the Presario line, said sources close to Compaq.

INTEL SHIPS PCI CHIP SET FOR NOTEBOOKS

Intel Corp. is shipping samples of its PCI chip set for Pentium-based notebook PCs. The chip set will be similar to the new Triton chip set — used in desktop Pentium systems — in design and performance but will include some power management features. Notebooks using the chip set are expected to ship in the second half of this year. Intel is also expected to bring out in the second half of this year a 120-MHz Pentium chip for notebooks, in addition to the 90- and 100-MHz Pentium chips for notebooks expected in the second or third quarter.

BRIEFLY NOTED: ▶ **IBM** this week will announce support for Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) 1.2 in OS/2, Windows, AIX, MVS, and OS/400. DCE 1.2, from the Open Software Foundation, features object orientation and reduced RAM requirements. ▶ **SYBASE INC.** will this week ship Enterprise SQL Server Manager, a cross-platform database administration tool for managing multiple copies of Sybase's SQL Server database. ▶ **BORLAND INTERNATIONAL INC.** last week shipped to alpha testers a 32-bit version of its Paradox database to run on Windows NT and Windows 95. It is expected to ship within 90 days of Windows 95. Pricing has not been set. ▶ **IBM** will announce a high-performance tape drive this week, the Magstar, designed for Unix, AS/400, and mainframe platforms. ▶ **INFORMIX SOFTWARE INC.** last week shipped a Unix version of its New Era development tool and said the tool now supports Intersolv Inc.'s PVCS Version Manager configuration management software. New Era costs $4,495 per developer. ▶ **ORACLE CORP.** last week shipped Unix versions of its Oracle7 Workgroup Server database on Solaris, SCO Unix, and UnixWare, priced at $199 per concurrent user and $99 per client. ▶ **DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP.** and **ORACLE** will announce this week an agreement to market high-performance database servers. Oracle will port a parallel processing version of Oracle7 to Digital's Alpha-based multiprocessor servers. ▶ **CRAIG MCCAW**, **MOTOROLA**, and **NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS INC.** have agreed to jointly create two-way radio dispatch services for business users who need integrated wireless communications. ▶ **PLATINUM TECHNOLOGY INC.** said last week it will acquire help-desk software maker **ANSWER SYSTEMS INC.** in exchange for $38 million in Platinum stock. ▶ **INTEL** will announce this week enhancements to the ProShare Personal Conferencing family.

FROM THE NEWS DESK · JAI SINGH

MCA, PS/2 bite the dust; OS/2 to follow?

R.I.P. MCA. IBM unveiled three new products and technologies in 1987 — Micro Channel Architecture, PS/2, and OS/2. Of the three, IBM has decided to pull the plug on MCA and PS/2.

By the end of this quarter, the last of

the PS/2 boxes will roll out. MCA-based desktops will stop shipping this quarter; on other systems it will be a more gradual transition (see story on page 12).

MCA, you may recall, was an advanced architecture offering plug-and-play capabilities, bus mastering, and higher bandwidth, among other things. It did all this back in 1987. Many of these features are just starting to take hold.

So why didn't MCA make a bigger dent in the industry? It was IBM being IBM. Consumed by power, IBM basically asked third-party board makers for their firstborn before it would share the technology. The result of this hardball tactic was the formation of the Gang of Nine, with Compaq spearheading the campaign to come up with a com-

peting bus technology: EISA.

That PS/2 will be no more is because MCA kept going nowhere fast.

So we come to OS/2. It's chugging along like MCA and PS/2. And like those two, it also hasn't received too much third-party support — so far. But it sure as heck is trying. Lou Gerstner decreed that 100 IBM executives call on 1,000 top ISVs and sing OS/2's praises. It remains to be seen how much convincing these execs will be able to do.

But some are predicting that OS/2 will suffer the same fate as its mates from the class of '87. One Dataquest report last week predicted that IBM will kill OS/2 next year (it also predicts that System 7's share will drop 50 percent).

I'm no prognosticator, but I find this hard to believe, given that IBM claims it has already sold more than 1.5 million copies of Warp. Then again, you users ultimately are going to decide the fate of this and other technologies.

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