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<President> posted May 30, 2002 06:09

I saw a query on rec.audio.pro regarding RADAR 24 and BeOS. I answered him directly via email but I thought everyone would be interested in my answer here:

Hi Tony,

Regarding your post on BeOS:

tony espinoza (tonyespinoza@aol.com)

"...i'm considering a Radar 24 system for my studio... only one question is nagging at me. living in the bay area, i know folks that have worked long and hard on the BeOS. but since Palm recently acquired the company, everyone I know associated with BeOS has either been let go or has split. i can see palm keeping a couple DTS guys around doing support on the OS, but knowing their financial situation (and management situation), i can't see them committing resources to it for very long without significant returns. i certainly can't see key features that iZ might be interested in continue to be the focus of the OS..."

None of our development so far depends on any support from Be Inc or Palm. Those companies probably don't even know we exist. If we got updates on the OS we'd be nervous about sending it out since we now have over 2 years of stable track record with it. As far as I'm concerned - don't fix what works. Our top concern with RADAR 24 is that it remains the most reliable recorder in the world. To address that we searched the world over for the most stable OS. We even tried Linux but it took to long to boot up. We settled on BeOS and QNX.

The sony DMXR100 uses QNX as do many many very reliable embedded systems. We chose BeOS because it was much less expensive to incorporate. We are very happy with BeOS but if we ever want to develop any features that are operating system dependant that BeOS will not support we are ready to go to QNX. When we did the BeOS port, we did it in a way that was very modular so that going to another operating system such as QNX would be easy. We estimate it will only take a few months to go to QNX once we make the decision. So far we have not made that decision.

Regarding the "key features" that you mentioned above, it would be very helpful if you gave me a list of what you would see these key features being. I can then respond with what features are BeOS dependant and which ones are not. If there is a feature, or group of features, that we (you and I) think would be really valuable in RADAR that would require the QNX port I'll feed that to our product manager and VP software and we can make a decision. We can continue this evaluation process and eventually do the port when we see the need. It's not big development dollars it's mainly the opportunity cost of defocussing resources from user feature development to work on something that initially won't have much value to the users. If you want to get some ideas as to the kinds of features we are considering, go to our forum (link # 6 at www.recordingtheworld.com), go to the RADAR 24 forum and read the thread titled "Update on the Next New Features: 3.10-->3.15 -->3.18".

Best Regards,

Barry Henderson, President & CEO,
iZ Technology Corporation

Setter
Member

posted May 30, 2002 12:30

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quote:

Originally posted by President:

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Barry,

if I understand this correctly (in layman's terms), up until 3.18 the BeOS will be capable of handling the feature list. If in the future you would like to implement something on the Radar24 that the BeOS is incapable of handling you would be able then, because of the way the Radar24 is made to basically "change" operating system in order to implement those features.

Will current owners of Radar24 be able to have their OS "exchanged" or are you talking about a brand new machine. The reason I am asking is that I have asked this same question a while back one of your tech-support guys and he gave me the impression that new OS (in case BeOS became incapable of handling it) would mean a brand new machine.

Also, doesn't it take a long time to fix all the bugs in a new OS? It seems like other companies are struggling to implement all of their features in their OS and they've been at it for a couple of years now. Would you please elaborate on what makes you confident about being able to do that in a few months without revealing your company's secrets? Since a stable OS, besides its sound of course is what makes Radar24 stand above the competitors.

Thanks

Setter

Posts: 76 | Location: LA, CA | Registered: May 21, 2001

<President>



posted May 30, 2002 21:47

quote:

Originally posted by Setter:

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Thanks

Setter

Hi Setter,

First let me re-iterate as I tried to point out in my post that there are currently no features that we are planning to develop in the foreseeable future that would not be able to be implemented under BeOS. But yes, we are ready to switch and we will switch if it is ever required.

In answer to your questions:

1) Yes, current owners of Radar24 WILL be able to have their OS "exchanged". We have always had the philosophy of making RADAR products upgradable. In fact we are one of the few companies who have kept the upgrade path alive for over 5 years now (i.e RADAR II can be upgraded easily and inexpensively to any RADAR 24 product

and any RADAR 24 product can be upgraded to any higher level)
Even the original RADAR I (1993) disks and archives are compatible with RADAR II and RADAR 24.

2) It does not take any time to fix bugs in the OS since we can't fix bugs in the OS. We don't have access to the OS's source. If you mean fixing bugs in the RADAR application software which runs on the OS, then yes there may be some bugs. However, we have written the code in a very modular and platform independent fashion which enables us to switch platforms easily without re-writing and re-inventing and re-debugging all of the application software. Many of the other hard disk recording systems out there have application software that is tightly tied to the operating system software. In this case it is easy to paint one's self into a corner with the OS and become very "Married" to it. When it comes time to add features not supported by the OS the developer is caught in the trap of having to spend a lot of time writing software "work-arounds" to somehow make the feature work. This usually results in a compromise of reliability since the OS was never intended to do those things. As mentioned in my post, our research has revealed that BeOS and QNX are the fastest and the most reliable real-time OSes currently available.

Barry, iZ President

[This message has been edited by President (edited 05-30-2002).]

Setter
Member

posted May 31, 2002 15:43

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Thanks Barry,
I didn't realize you could upgrade from RadarII to Radar24. How much is it, BTW?

Also it's a great feeling to know that I could be using my Radar24 well into my seventies and still be up-to-date and rocking with rest of the world by then.

Actually kidding aside, it was a great foresight on your part as well as a proof of your dedication to your product to have written the code for the Radar in a "modular and platform independent fashion" so as to be able to switch if needed.

Setter

Posts: **76** | Location: **LA, CA** | Registered: **May 21, 2001**

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