OS/2 eComStation history:

1981 - Microsoft bought 86-DOS from the company Seattle Computer Products.

It was shined up a bit, to accommodating the demands IBM had to the Operating System of their first PC.

1984 - The i286 processor had become the main processor of the PC.

Now IBM decided that DOS was antiquated and needed to be replaced. In cooperation with Microsoft OS/2 was developed.

1987 - OS/2 Version 1.0 (CP/DOS) was released.

It was the first Operating System for the Personal Computer to provide intrinsic multitasking based on hardware support. It was text mode only and allowed only one program to be on the screen at a time, even though other programs could be running in the background.

1988 - OS/2 Version 1.1 (Trimaran) Standard Edition (SE) was released.

A Graphical User Interface was added, named Presentation Manager (PM). The 1.10 Extended Version (EE) was a SE including Database Manager and Communications Manager.

1989 - OS/2 Version 1.2 (Sloop) SE and EE was released.

It offered an improved PM. Included in the EE-version HPFS and very powerful interpretive programming language REXX was included.

Here the alliance began to creak in the joints. IBM began the developmen of OS/2 2.0, which would be the first true 32-bit Operating System for Personal Computers and made for the i386 processor.

Microsoft began to develop OS/2 3.0 which was intended to be a network server. Also it was intended to be platform indenpendent, due to the use of a microkernel. This would make it run on Intel, Motorola, SUN, and DEC processors, with only a change of the microkernel hardware abstraction layer.

1991 - Windows was beginning to sell (version 3.0).

By late 1990 IBM took over all of the development of OS/2. Microsoft took with them OS/2 3.0, which they soon renamed to Windows NT.

1991 - OS/2 Version 1.3 (Cutter) SE and EE was released.

It was the first version which was written entirely by IBM. For a couple of years OS/2 would still contain Microsoft code, but all of the new code and a good portion of the existing code for OS/2 1.30 was written by IBM. This resulted in a version 1.30 that was smaller, faster and more stable than its predecessors. Also far more drivers where available and the driver installaion procedure was made a whole lot simpler. REXX was added to the SE version. Readable fonts where added. Lazy write added to the HPFS. Enhanced video drivers, supporting resolutions up to 1024x768, and an improved swapping algorithm.

1992 - OS/2 Version 2.0 (Cruiser) was released.

It was the first true 32-bit Operating System for Personal Computers. It was a better DOS than DOS, and a better Windows than Windows, which was done through the use of Virtual DOS Machines (VDMs), allowing OS/2 to run many DOS/Windows programs at the same time. As far as the DOS programs were concerned, they actually were in separate computers. Windows programs run on IBM's licensed version of Windows 3.1 called Win-OS/2. Because of the seperation of the programs, one crash did not effect the other programs. Also the WorkPlase Shell (WPS) was introduced, it is an Object Oriented User Interface (OOUI) and adds the Object Orientation to the GUI (Presentation Manager). But it was big and slow and required quite a computer.

1993 - OS/2 Version 2.1 (Borg) was released.

The system had been optimized. A new 32-bit graphics subsystem was introduced. TrueType fonts was supported in WinOS2 and Multimedia Presentation Manager/2 (MMPM/2) was added. The Latter provided multimedia capabilities. PCMCIA (PC-Card) support and Advanced Power Managedment (APM), which enabled power management on Notebooks, was added. In order to reduce the price of the system (price of OS/2 plus the price of the Windows 3.1) a version, called OS/2 for Windows (CN: Ferengi) where introduced. The idea was to install it on a computer already containing a Windows 3.1. Thereby you did not have to pay twice to the ability to run Windows applications.

1994 - OS/2 Version 2.11 end 2.11 SMP was released.

OS/2 V2.11 is a bugfix of OS/2 V2.10. Symmetric Multi-Processing (SMP) was introduced with the server version and can support for up to 16 CPUs.

1994 - OS/2 Warp 3.0 (Warp) was introduced.

The system was again optimized. It was designed to run un a computer with only 4Mb of memory. Additional device drivers was made for the vast majority of peripherals for Personal Computers. Features was added to the WPS, also it was optimized. TCP/IP and Internet communications were also added to Warp 3. The Internet Access Kit (IAK) provided a complete package to enable Warp users to log on and surf the net. The Web Explorer allowed users access to the World Wide Web, although it was neither as feature rich nor as flexible as the industry leader, NetScape. Text mode and graphical FTP applications allowed file transfer. Unlike previous versions of OS/2, Warp shipped with a BonusPak CD-ROM which contained several OS/2 applications.

1995 - Warp Connect was released.

It was a Warp 3.0 combined with network connectivity and tools for Peer-to-peer networking, a LAN server and Netware requester, which allowed access to the most popular network server environments.

1996 - Warp Server was introduced.

It combined the power and functionality of Warp 3.0 with the network server capabilities of an enhanced version of IBM's LAN Server 4.0 product. Warp Server includes many features which would cost extra with other server operating systems. OS/2 Warp Server delivers an integrated platform for the emerging application server environment as well as a complete set of traditional file and print services. Warp Server provides an integrated packaging of OS/2 Warp, LAN Server 4.0 (with some enhancements and fixes), SystemView for OS/2, remote access, advanced backup disaster and recovery, and a new printing capability that allows, among other things, printing postscript files on non-postscript printers.

1996 - Warp 4.0 (Merlin) was released.

The system, codenamed Merlin, introduced a significant facelift to the GUI. The networking capabilities of Warp Connect was included. Among the new features was Java, VoiceType Navigation and Dictation.

It is able to connect to anything anywhere with a universal network client, which allows simultaneous connectivity to: LAN Server, Warp Server, Windows NT Server, Novell Netware, Netware Directory Services, PCLAN Program, IPX-SPX, LANtastic for DOS or OS/2, Warp Connect, Windows NT Workstation, Windows 95, Windows for Workgroups, TCP/IP (including DHCP, DDNS, FTP, TFTP, Telnet, SLIP, PPP, SMTP, and SNMP), SNA, NetBIOS. WarpGuides provide intelligent self-configurable guidance for common tasks. Ideal for new users or users new to OS/2. Internet aware desktop allows one-click access to your favorite web sites. TME 10 Netfinity (SystemView) for exceptional systems management, including DMI (Desktop Management Interface) support. Remote Access Services (LAN Distance) for remote access capabilities which allow you to access your network from home or the road. Remote Access Services can also allow adhoc WAN configuration for temporary or emergency use. Mobile Office Services allows the Road Warrior to keep files synchronized with the office.

1999 - Warp Server for e-Business (Aurora) was released.

Features:

- Seamless Administration of NT Servers
- Tivoli's Lightweight Client Framework (LCF) Endpoint Agent for OS/2
- Netfinity Manager
- I2O (Input/Output Architecture)
- Java 1.1.6 JDK
- New 32-bit kernel
- SMP support of upto 64 processors (optimal performance with 8)
- JFS (64 bit Journaling File System), optimized for SMP-machines
- LVM (Logical Volume Manager), replaces the old FDisk
- Support of diskspanning and dynamic drive letters
- Netscape Communicator/2
- Optimized TCP/IP, with greater capacity and SMP support.
- Vinca Standby Server support

1999 - OS/2 Warp 5 will not be released.

IBM annunce that there will not be an OS/2 Warp 5 but it will only update the exiting versions (support until 2007).

1999 - Stardock leaves OS/2.

Stardock an OS/2 software house, failed to obtain a development license from IBM for the new OS/2. Stardock will leave OS/2 develop in the following months.

2000 - IBM introduced a new kernel to Warp 4, based on the WSeB kernel.

This kernel was shipped with FixPak 13 (and newers).

2000 - Convenience Pack.

IBM decided to collect the fixpacks and fixes into something called a Convenience Pack. This should minimize the test costs of the business costumers. The Convenience Package is to found in two sizes. The Server version for WSeB and the client version for OS/2 Warp 4 (Merlin Convenience Package AKA MCP).

2000 - eComStation project.

Serenity Systems has an OEM software agreement with IBM. Serenity will explore a potential licensing agreement with IBM for a client product based on the Warp Server for e-business kernel. This product will be know as eComStation.

2001 - eComStation

Begins the eComStation project history.

2000 - eComStation (eCS) annunced.

We have a new player on the field. Serenity System, which have a licence to use the MCP and the "MCP+WSeB SMP kernel" for a new managed client called eComStation (eCommerce Station).

2001 - eComStaion 1.0 released.

Based on IBM Merlin Convenience Pack 4.51, it has a new look and includes the following programs: eCS StylerLite, DTOC v4, HOBLink-X11 Server, InJoy Pro Dialer v2.3, InJoy PPPoE, Norman AV, SmartSuite 1.6, StarOffice 5.1A, Java2 and much more.

2001/2002 - Convenience Pack 2 was released.

This is the last OS/2 version released at this time. Fixes and updates for this version are constantly released from IBM.

Today OS/2 supports the latest hardware like USB 2, latest NVIDIA and Matrox graphics cards and more recent software tecnologies like Java 1.3, UDF and much more.

2002 - German version of eComStation shipped.

Mensys released the German version of eComStation. No others locale versions are avaibile.

2002 - eComStation 1.1 demo.

Readers of a PC magazine in Germany may find a demo version of ecs 1.1 (german).

2003 - eComStation 1.1 released.

Initially only the US english and german version of eComStation 1.1 are available with the following features:

- Simplified installation process;
- A greatly enhanced desktop with extensive help-system;
- Virtual desktops;
- Remote desktop;
- Support for modern Internet connections like ISDN, xDSL, PPtP and PPPoE.

Separate product:

- eComStation Application Pack contains: Lotus SmartSuite for OS/2 version 1.7, HobLink X11 server, Sti Applause + Scannerdrivers;
- Multi Processor Pack that supports the use of multiprocessor systems up to 64 processors.

2004 - eComStation 1.2 released.

Initially only the US english and german version of eComStation 1.1 are available with the following features:

- Simplified installation process;
- Virtual desktops;
- New multimedia subsystem classes;
- Remote desktop;
- Support for modern Internet connections like ISDN, xDSL, PPtP and PPPoE;
- CD Writing application (RSJ);
- HOBLink X11 server.

Separate product:

- eComStation Application Pack contains: Lotus SmartSuite for OS/2 version 1.7.2, OpenOffice 1.1.1, SVISTA virtual machine;
- Multi Processor Pack that supports the use of multiprocessor systems up to 64 processors.

2005 - eComStation 1.2.1 Media Refresh released.

2005 - eComStation 1.2.2 Media refresh released.

2005/2006 - Serenity System announce the eComStation 2.0 program.

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