

Debra Vogt

From: Brad Silverberg
To: joeb; davidcol
Subject: FW: Explorer and scope pane and REN
Date: Thursday, March 31, 1994 5:25PM

From: Darryl Rubin
To: billg; bradsi
Cc: brianmac; chrisgr; paulma; peteh; stevesi
Subject: RE: Explorer and scope pane and REN
Date: Thursday, March 31, 1994 4:43PM

To be honest, I've never fully understood this claim that users don't understand or like hierarchies. People deal with hierarchies in the real world all the time and naturally organize things that way, so I don't think there's a good argument here against the concept. In fact, I believe that the ability to work with hierarchy very nicely is what most users love about Notes--to the extent that they love to use categorization to create artificial hierarchies. I think what we've seen in usability tests could just be a symptom of the ui design of the file manager; ie, the scope pane is a very primitive hierarchy control and maybe some aspects of the relationship between scope and content panes need to be rethought. There's a real opportunity to innovate here, versus saying our shell strategy is to do file navigation the same way the Mac did in 1984.

From: Bill Gates
To: Brad Silverberg
Cc: Brian MacDonald; Christopher Graham; Darryl Rubin; Paul Maritz; Pete Higgins; Steven Sinofsky
Subject: Explorer and scope pane and REN
Date: Thu, Mar 31, 1994 4:03PM

Coming out from my REN meeting I am disappointed at the lack of integration in our strategy.

I have said in many meeting that the hierarchical view (scope pane) view is critical. The ability to see the real name space of the system where we are putting everything only exists there - the ability to move things around easily only come from there. The tree view is central to our whole strategy - email, doclib, applications, file system,...

This notion that Chicago may have decided to deemphasize the scope view is off strategy. The whole focus in Chicago on novices is a major concern for me. Our customers who count have lots of files and these are organized in a hierarchy - there is no getting around this. This is a unifying element for mail/shell/applications.

Ren has to either be:
a) Integrated into the shell like capone OR
b) A shell replacement.

I was pushing for a large degree of B in my recent REN meeting.

The biggest push back was that the pane view was more and more deemphasized as if someone had some magic approach of dealing with hierarchy.

People need to get the scope view front and center. They can improve it but they cannot relegate it. Lets not let usability data tell us the

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world is all simple and flat.

I cant believe this confusion this late in the game but it needs to be addressed.

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