

From: John Gailey
Date: Thu, Mar 5, 1998 2:43 PM
Subject: Re: Outlook Icon on Desktop

- * Outlook 97 (part of Office97) included a new version of MAPI (de facto messaging API) which caused GroupWise to not run correctly.
- * Outlook 98 (beta - it will ship later this month) included a new version of MAPI which caused GroupWise to not run at all.
- * All office productivity applications, such as Microsoft Office and Corel WordPerfect Suite, use MAPI to integrate with messaging products such as GroupWise. With the Outlook 98 beta II installed, Microsoft Office would only communicate with Outlook and would not recognize GroupWise.
- * Outlook 97, a MAPI-compliant application, would not run with GroupWise at all until we made specific changes to support it - a conflict with the MAPI "standard" specification.
- * Outlook 97 uses MAPI to store and retrieve calendaring data, which many customers desire. GroupWise also supports calendaring data and we desired interoperability. We asked Microsoft for details on the calendaring data formats so we could interchange data and functionality and were told that this information would not be available. The inability to interoperate with Outlook clients causes many customers to standardize on a single vendor.
- * Microsoft is placing the Outlook icon on the desktop, and in fact, does so by replacing the original "Inbox" icon that shipped as part of Windows95.
- * Microsoft continues to deliver new capabilities in components such as COMCTL32.DLL that all products can use to obtain a common look and feel with other products (especially to be consistent with Microsoft desktop applications.) They have allowed companies such as Novell to re-distribute these kinds of DLLs. With the IE4 release, significant changes were made to these controls and re-distribution was revoked unless we agreed to distribute the entire IE4 product. We fought this for many months. For the specific COMCTL32.DLL case, Microsoft has finally relented and will allow re-distribution (after we had already implemented our own version.) This has put us at a dis-advantage.
- * A new control that is "packaged" as part of the IE4 release is an HTML rendering control. We are using this as a key product feature. Outlook98 also uses this capability. However, Outlook uses extended features - specifically authoring of HTML - that is not available to us. We asked Microsoft if we could use the extended features and were told that these new APIs were not yet available because they were "not ready for prime-time." Again, this puts us at a disadvantage.

- John Gailey

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