
From: Walter Sullivan
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2001 1:01 PM
To: Dave Probert; Doug Miller; Vinod Anantharaman; Stephen Walli
Cc: UNIX Migration Plan; Bill Veghte; S. Somasegar; Eric Rudder; Rob Short
Subject: RE: Producing a Win32/UNIX hybrid platform to address unix app migration?

My take:

1) Migration libraries will never use internal API. That should be policy. Any additional functionality we need, for a cross-process reader/writer lock for instance, should be added to the existing Win32 API on which the r/w lock will be implemented. If we're not willing to add that functionality to Win32, then we're not serious about migrating these apps to Windows.

Interix needs to be moved into the Core OS distribution. Perhaps for .NET Server. Anything in SFU that requires internal API's needs to be considered for dropping, for shipping with the core OS, or added to Win32 as we would do for the migration library.

The reason internal API's get used (except for the Interix subsystem) is because Win32 isn't rich enough for us. And if that's the case, we can assume that for some customers its not rich enough either.

2) Deciding which unix features/api's we support is based on the need of customers doing this migration. I would almost suggest that the field guys have the responsibility for prioritizing these API's and telling us what to implement. The only reason we're doing this is to win customers, not to build a better Unix. If the field guys prioritize badly (maybe it's the Linux council that Chris has been talking about), then their job is harder. The difference between our Unix compat library and MKS, we can enhance Win32 to make our compat library perform well and virtually identical to the Unix api. In doing this, we will add some Unix flavor to Win32, however, I don't think we'll ever create a complete enough Unix platform that will entice ISV's to target it as a portable subset of Win32.

Anyway, that's my opinion,
Walter

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Probert
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2001 12:11 PM
To: Doug Miller; Vinod Anantharaman; Stephen Walli
Cc: UNIX Migration Plan; Bill Veghte; S. Somasegar; Eric Rudder; Rob Short
Subject: Producing a Win32/UNIX hybrid platform to address unix app migration?

We've had some more discussion within the base team about the issues related to compromise of the Windows API. We'd like to see the API issues resolved before decisions get made to go forward with the unix migration plan.

As I raised again this morning, there are two main concerns.

1) Any code (SFU, Interix, migration libraries) that uses unpublished APIs could lead to a requirement to publish those APIs. We have long had a strict policy of not using internal APIs except for components that ship as part of the platform. This is because the internal APIs are subject to frequent change, and separately shipped components may encounter compatibility issues if they rely on them.

2) It isn't clear what the strategy is for maintaining the distinctive value of the Win32 API as a standard for application development. How much are we willing to make Windows look like UNIX? What is the criteria for deciding which UNIX features/APIs we will support and which we won't?

We already create confusion for developers about what libraries and models they should program to at the higher-level of the system (ATL, MFC, COM, ...). We'd like to avoid this at the low-level (processes, threading, interprocess cooperation). There may be a need to evolve the existing APIs, and there are definitely problems to address. But that is different than saying we should provide UNIX-like alternatives to existing Win32 APIs.

I don't question the value of making it easier to move UNIX applications onto Win32. But I don't know how we intend to do that without creating an alternative Win32/UNIX hybrid platform that could easily become the target for ISVs

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rather than Win32 alone.

We need an explicit decision for (2) about whether we intend to create a new Win32/UNIX hybrid platform for the world -- or instead, how we will restrict the Win32/UNIX hybrid only for use with migration of customers and ISVs without tripping over (1).

Thanks! -- Dave