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## Evaluating OS/2 1.2 DCRs

by Maurice Fuller  
1.2 Product Manager

*"The way I measure the quality of an engineering project is by counting the number of Engineering Change Orders that are submitted after a product has been released."*

*John Young  
President/CEO, Hewlett Packard*

If there were ever a software developer's heaven, it would certainly be void of DCRs (Design Change Requests). Because in this software utopia, the perfectly written specifications would be eternally frozen after signoff. However, in our software development reality, the specification is a living document requiring constant maintenance and updating. Since the 1.2 DCR review process is changing, it is useful to examine where we are today and where we would like to be in the future. The purpose of this article is not to provide step by step instructions for creating R1.2 DCRs. Rather, the intent is to explain how OS/2 R1.2 DCRs are evaluated, and how this process will change in the future.

The OS/2 1.2 project currently employs two separate DCR processes: the ART (Architecture Review Team) process for the base and the DRT (Design Review Team) process for PM. Not surprisingly, the ART is primarily an interchange between Redmond and Boca, while the DRT is an interchange between Redmond and Hursley. Each forum involves different sets of people, procedures and MIS tools.

### R1.2 Architecture Review Team (ART) for Base DCRs

The ART is comprised of 4 people including technical and business managers from IBM and Microsoft. There have been seven fast and furious one hour meetings since early July during which we have evaluated about 75 DCRs. Bryan Willman and I are the Microsoft representatives. We are responsible for soliciting input from development and support groups and assessing the schedule impact. We evaluate DCRs from business and technical perspectives relative to the 1.2 release. The power of the ART is that DCRs can be raised

with little effort - thus allowing potentially important ideas to receive immediate attention and encouragement. Similarly, the ART coordinates all debates and final decisions on complex DCRs.

DCRs are initiated by completing an electronic form (available through Madeline Weise). The initiator of the DCR may optionally submit just an idea abstract, or a complete package detailing the change and the proposed solution. One should consider submitting only the abstract when an idea or the solution may be rejected or require substantial changes before receiving approval by the ART.

We are now tracking the history of all base related DCRs in mail box folders on \\jaguar\c\sloop\dcrs\\*.fld. Each folder tracks DCR transactions from cradle to grave beginning with the initial OPATS database entry and ending with the final approval or rejection reasoning.

#### R1.2 Design Review Team (DRT) for PM DCRs

The 1.2 PM DRT is comprised of separate groups at Microsoft and Hursley that make approve and ommit decisions. The Microsoft approve and

commit group members besides myself include Neil Konzen, Scott Ludwig, Karl Stock, and Pat Tharp. The 1.2 DRT recommenced as recently as the last week of July. There are currently about 15 pending DCRs. To solicit a 1.2 PM DCR, one must complete a DCR form (available through Sara Owen). Unlike the ART, the DRT requires a complete description of the proposed changes and the solution.

#### Future Review Process

Through our dialogs between Hursley and Boca, Microsoft now serves as the focal point for reviewing both PM and base related 1.2 DCRs. With the two major components of OS/2 merging together we would like to begin viewing the operating system as a combined architectural entity. The 1.2 project managers at MS and IBM have recognized this and are now investigating a unified DCR review process for the base and PM.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information. We have electronic documents available upon request that describe the ART process in further detail.

## ESTHER SEZ:

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I now have absentee ballot request forms available in my office. Please stop by and pick one up any time.

If anyone wishes to make extra Hawaii travel arrangements, such as extended stay(!), or whatever, please call Marty Voruez at Azumano Travel. Use their 800 number: 800-777-2018.

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## Not Another Build Article

by Gerry Weiler

I'm sure that y'all know more than you ever thought you would need to know about the build group since both Dwight and Steve have already written articles. So, I will instead present a slightly edited (read plagiarized) view of the fitness craze written by Ron Fimrite and published in *Sports Illustrated*, August 8, 1988, under the title "No Fun Without Sun".

We are told now that if we drink, smoke, eat red meat, use salt, sugar or butter, or, for all I know, play the banjo late at night, we are inviting the Grim Reaper to our doorstep. The new health nuts' idea of a good time is to pop out of bed at an hour most sensible people are getting into theirs and run a marathon before breakfast. That's all right with me, as long as they don't set the dogs to barking.

And I can live with their finger wagging as I push myself away from the old groaning board, but I think they've finally gone too far with their interminable "don't" list, for now they're saying we shouldn't go out in the sun anymore because that, too, is bad for us. My live-and-let-live philosophy has allowed me to coexist almost peacefully with these visionaries who would make us all the same—skinny, sober, smokeless, pale-faced bores. They want a fault-free society, and lotsa luck, guys. But when they tell me I can't go out in the sun on a summer day, they've overstepped. But it was encouraging to read a recent article in *TIME* that quoted medical authorities and psychiatrists as saying that worrying too much about being healthy is unhealthy, that Americans in their undying quest for skinny bodies, clear lungs and fat-free arteries are killing themselves with anxiety. In fact, says one shrink, Dr. Arthur J. Barsky of the Harvard Medical School, the compulsive dieters, long-distance runners and nay-sayers of this country are "living the life of invalids," because no matter how healthy they are, they're worried about their health. Here's real irony for you: In striving, presumably, to live forever, the fitness folks are driving themselves to an early grave. And these are the same people who don't mourn at funerals anymore, but criticize the deceased for not having taken better care of themselves. Far be it from me to launch a crusade against health. I'm all for it, in moderation. I exercise fairly regularly, and if I don't watch what I eat, my wife certainly does. It's just that those nags who every day seem to find something to condemn as life threatening are getting on my nerves. They are the new Puritans, the latter-day bluenoses who proclaim that anything fun must be harmful. They may well be right, but life, even with jogging and salads, is too short to waste time brooding about it. Besides, I've got to get down to the beach. got to get down to the beach.

# What Is the DosGetNews()?

by Madeline Weise, Editor

For those of you who are new to the department, and for those of you who do not know who I am, the DosGetNews() is our inner departmental newsletter. "Departmental" refers to the OS/2 Joint Development Agreement with IBM. If you work for someone who works for someone who works for Peter Neupert, then you are in the right place! The DosGetNews() is an attempt to make our ever-growing department a little more personal. Currently, there are about 130 people in SYSTEMS (and this does not include the summer hires!). All of these people are working on many different projects. Some of these projects are Verwions 1.0, 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of both OS/2 base and OS/2 Presentation Manager. Within each of these projects are many various projects going on. There are design groups, development groups, testers, builders, managers, and administration. There are people working on shells, graphics, memory, loading, performance. With the DosGetNews(), I have started to let you know what your fellow workers are doing. Please feel free to make your own contributions. There is a wide range of things that you could write about - the technical aspects of your projects, the esoteric aspects, the development environment here compared to other places you have worked, rival product reviews, etc. I will also accept cartoons and hacker fiction.

I would like to thank all previous contributors. I receive comments all the time about the articles you have written. To encourage future contributions, I have been authorized to bribe you. Future contributors will qualify for dinner for two at a local, prestigious restaurant. So please take a few minutes out of your already busy day to think about (and write down) what you are contributing and why it is important to OS/2. This is one of the products whose success the whole company (and the stock market) is counting on. Please come see me if you have any questions or comments about the DosGetNews().

