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Sun Java2 1.4.1 ported to OS/2 shock

Aliens not involved, apparently

By Fernando Cassia: Thursday 07 August 2003, 07:58

IN A FUNNY BOOK (I'm trying to be soft on the author) called *The Day After Roswell*, Phillip Corso alleges that a number of technological advances of the twentieth century, including the integrated circuit, are due to the secret reverse-engineering of alien technology.

They must be aliens, our editor yelled when I told him that this year a company from Roswell was behind a new OS/2 software development. But the mistake was cleared up immediately. It turns out it doesn't come from Roswell, New Mexico of "allegedly UFO crash site fame", but from Roswell, *Georgia*, and from a company named Golden Code Development Corp. So aliens are probably out of the equation, I guess.

The firm has announced the release of its Sun Java2, version 1.4.1 VM port (J2SE v1.4.1 in Sun's Marketingspeak) to the IBM OS/2 operating system. I tested the builds during the beta process on my lone bored OS/2 system and can say the Java VM port works very well, as well as the Sun JVM runs on Windows and Linux, that is. It includes the java runtime environment and the jdk (compiler) as well.

Eric Faulhaber from Golden Code tells me it has rights to implement further releases, so maybe OS/2 users will see a 1.4.2 build in the near future as well (it would be nice due to the number of bugs squashed by Sun in their 1.4.2 version, as we reported here).

The Golden Code Java 1.4.1 vm for OS/2 is based on the Sun source code and has been certified Java Compatible(TM) by Sun Microsystems, in numerous configurations, including on SMP systems and on the German language editions of OS/2.

With this release it even beat a german company to market, which has been beta-testing a kit to run the Sun java VM for windows under OS/2, but under a win32 api emulation, which in turn is loosely based on the WINE project for Linux. The Golden Code approach, that is, a native OS/2 implementation based on Sun's source code, has proved much more stable in my tests.

OS/2 users like myself(*), will certainly welcome this, as Big Blue froze its Java VM development for the platform with their release of the IBM OS/2 Java 1.3.1 VM, which is still supported with periodic bugfixes -and one which follows IBM's tradition of implementing its own JIT (just in time compiler), instead of Sun's

"HotSpot" runtime performance optimization technology, which is now present on the GoldenCode Java VM.

The Golden Code Java2 1.4.1 for OS/2 product "is being licensed for personal and commercial use free of charge. Fee based support is available through IBM Global Services, and directly from Golden Code Development", the company says.

I've downloaded and tested the final version and I got the same good results I saw while beta-testing it, running several Client-side desktop java applications like the Phex gnutella client, a FTP server and others, as you can see in the screenshots below.

L'INQS
Golden Code J2SE 1.4.1 for OS/2
Sun Squashes over 2400 java bugs
My Java 1.4.1 OS/2 screenshots

(*) Disclaimer: I'm way past the "OS/2 advocate" stage, and I now take the "National Geographic approach" to operating systems, installing as many as possible in several PCs spread across my home lan, and dissecting them on a regular basis. I run Windows, Linux, Freebsd, Solaris x86, and yes, even OS/2 in one box. :)

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