Subj: **Notes from Technical Meeting between AOL and NS, Mountain View, 8/4**
Date: 8/6/97 12:59:03 PM
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Notes from Technical Meeting between AOL and NS, Mountain View, 8/4

Summary: NS is ready to work with AOL to componentize their HTML-based browsing, email, and authoring engines for use in the AOL client software environments (Win95, Win3, and Macintosh). The NS code is high-performance, standards-based, and very compact. Current estimate is that, properly staffed by AOL and NS engineers, it should take approximately 6 months to produce integrated Win95, Win3, and Macintosh HTML browser/email components. It should also be possible for AOL to utilize NS Netcaster technology for cross-platform webcasting.

Notes from Technical Meeting between AOL and NS, Mountain View, 8/4:

- **Cross-Platform NS Communicator 4.0 Components.** NS is prepared to work with AOL to produce the following cross-platform (Win95, Win3, and Macintosh) components based on the NS Communicator 4.0 (NN4 plus Collabra messaging engine) codebase:

* Browser
* Email
* HTML Authoring

Note that Netscape has already partially componentized parts of the Netscape Navigator (NN3/NN4) codebase, as evidenced by their support of editable HTML, which is handled in a NN sub-window.

- **NS Needs to Componentize Anyway:** NS needs these components for many of their larger corporate customers, who wish to produce branded applications.

- **Joint Development Agreement:** NS is willing to enter into a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) whereby NS and AOL would work together on cross-platform browser, email, and HTML authoring components. Resulting NN4 core codebase from this JDA would be rolled back into the main NS source code hierarchies, thereby linking the core NS product to AOL design goals.

- **Time Estimate To Build Custom DLLs From NS Code Base:** Approximately 4-5 engineers for each of the Wintel and Macintosh platforms (8-10 total), working 4 months to get to Beta, working 2 more months to ship (4-6 months total).

- **Small Disk Footprint:** Full NS Communicator 4.0 is ~6MB, trimmed down version is ~2MB. Currently, smallest version of IE4 is ~14MB. Moreover, NN4 is an application, not an OS upgrade (~85% of IE full installation goes in the Windows directory).

- **Low Memory Requirements (Working Set Size):** Full NS Communicator 4.0 memory requirement is ~8MB. Currently, IE4 memory requirement is ~12MB.

- **Synchronized, Cross-platform Product Releases:** NS Communicator 4.0 shipped with functional parity on all platforms (Win32, Win3, and Macintosh) within 3 weeks in June 1997. By contrast, IE4 and Outlook Express (the HTML authoring engine for IE4) for Win3 "is slated to ship within 90 days of Win32 versions" and IE4/Outlook Express for Macintosh "is slated to ship by the end of the year (December) Not surprisingly, IE4 for Win3 and Macintosh are dramatically different from IE4 for Win95 in their current Betas, with very limited features, no Dynamic HTML, and no Outlook Express email engine yet for the Macintosh... NS strategy of attacking MS with cross-platform, rich-HTML-based, browsing/editing/email environment is quite

powerful.

- **Cross-platform Webcasting:** NS Netcaster can webcast to all desktops (Win3, Win95, Macintosh, and Unix). It should also be possible for AOL to utilize NS Netcaster technology for cross-platform webcasting, though further investigation is necessary to determine how the NS Netcaster technology can be integrated into the AOL client environments. MS Active Desktop will only be supported on Win32.

- **Rich HTML Authoring Environment, Including Tables:** Outlook Express does not support table editing, though tables are central to flow-control in WWW documents, and are used to effect multi-columns, sideheads, and many other key publishing features. Tables are also central to the dissemination of statistical data (e.g., sports statistics). NS users (including the 5+ million participants in the NS In-Box Direct program) will be able to edit/forward almost any HTML document. Moreover, the NS HTML authoring environment is expandable/customizable via Composer Plugins (e.g., stationery, thesaurus, and image map editor). Both NS and ISVs will ship Composer Plugins. The ability to clone content from rich HTML email/news documents will probably be central to turning ordinary users into IPs.

- **NS has Many Ease-of-Use Features:**
* Same editing environment for email and web pages (FrontPage Express and Outlook Express use different HTML editors).
* Integrated spellchecker (IE4 requires MS Office spellchecker).
* One-button publishing, which publishes associated files with document (MS requires multiple steps for "wizard").
* MIME HTML (keeps images and other associated content with document when sent in mail).
* Drag-and-drop of images, URLs, bookmarks, etc.
* Email filters.
* Send/receive of AppleSingle and AppleDouble.
* Display of and reply to HTML email attachments.
* Dynamic fonts.
* Preview HTML authoring contents in browser.
* Multiple simultaneous connections for superior performance.
* Scalable fonts.

- **NS has Strong Standards Story:**
* NS supports 100% Pure Java. MS has pledged not to fully support JDK v1.2. NS supports the RMI, JNI, and BeanConnect Java standards.
* NS and Sun/JavaSoft are together working on rich Java UI environment.
* MS has divide and conquer strategy for Java: MS will support Java language, but, will attempt to hijack Java execution environment by linking Java to their Win32 operating systems via J/Direct.
* NS JavaScript standard is widely supported. NS supports JavaScript1.2, while MS trails with an incomplete version called JScript.
* NS supports standards-based Dynamic HTML, and makes it available to the largest possible audience (Win32, Win16, Mac, and Unix).
* NS supports email/connectivity standards, including IMAP4, LDAP, S/MIME, and MIME HTML. NS does not require gateway (e.g., MS Exchange server) to support MIME send/receive, UUENCODE send/receive, and BinHex receive.

- **NS has Strong Security Story:** NS security story is founded on a granular trust model: the user or the administrator can designate a very precise trust level for a particular signed object (e.g., applet).

-- Bill