

This is the official Request for Discussion (RFD) for the creation of two new newsgroups for Microsoft Windows NT. This is a second RFD, replacing the one originally posted in January '93 (and never taken to a vote). The proposed groups are described below:

NAME: comp.os.ms-windows.nt.setup

STATUS: Unmoderated.

PURPOSE: Discussions about setting up and installing Windows NT, and about system and peripheral compatability issues for Windows NT.

NAME: comp.os.ms-windows.nt.misc

STATUS: Unmoderated.

PURPOSE: Miscellaneous non-programming discussions about using Windows NT, including issues such as security, networking features, console mode and Windows 3.1 (Win16) compatability.

RATIONALE:

Microsoft NT is the newest member of the Microsoft Windows family of operating systems (or operating environments for those who wish to argue about the meaning of an "OS"). The family ranges from Modular Windows through Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups to Windows NT at the high end. To date, Microsoft has shipped over 50,000 beta copies and pre-release SDKs of Windows NT -- the actual release is slated for May/June '93.

While Windows NT has an entirely new design internally, it shares

an application programming interface with the other members of the Windows family; its Win32 API includes the Win16 API used in Windows 3.1, and the Win32s API subset (Win32 less threads, networking and security) can be used to create 32-bit applications for Windows 3.1.

The user interface is also practically identical to that of Windows 3.1, with the addition of logins and a few other features. It uses Program Manager, File Manager and other applets, and generally presents an identical appearance to the user. Many of the announced Windows NT applications are ports of existing Windows 3.1 apps, and NT also runs existing 3.1 applications.

Thus, it appears logical that Windows NT should share the following groups with the other members of the Windows family:

- comp.os.ms-windows.apps
- comp.os.ms-windows.programmer.tools
- comp.os.ms-windows.programmer.misc
- comp.os.ms-windows.programmer.win32

The following groups are also clearly applicable to Windows NT as well as Windows 3.1:

- comp.os.ms-windows.announce
- comp.os.ms-windows.advocacy

In conclusion, the only clear argument for the separation of the

Windows 3.1 and Windows NT hierarchies is different internal structures of Windows 3.1 and Windows NT. And yet operating systems such as OS/2, Macintosh OS, Xenix and Coherent all have undergone major rewrites without having been split into separate newsgroup hierarchies.

Further, Windows 3.1 is due for a major rewrite itself in 1994 -- when the fully 32-bit, protected-mode and with-DOS-built-in next-generation Windows, "Chicago", debuts next year, surely it should remain in the same hierarchy. And what, then, would be the justification for separating Windows NT from other Windows versions?

DISCUSSION PERIOD:

The discussion period will run from 27 April, 1992 to 18 May, 1993.

VOTING:

The CFV (Call for Votes) will be issued around 19 May, 1993, based on the feedback received during the discussion period. No votes will be accepted prior to the CFV.