



# Back in business

The unfashionable **OS/2 Warp** title is thriving in the guise of Aurora. Terence Green reports.

**A**s Aurora aka Warp Server 5 went into beta in October, IBM announced that it would be called OS/2 Warp Server for e-business. What a mouthful! IBM says it will be an entry-level e-business server. Good to see the OS/2 Warp name retained. IBM might have retired the OS/2 moniker for image reasons, but the company must have perused the figures for market share in IDC's June 1998 server report. NetWare was at 38 percent, Unix at 21 percent, Windows NT at 16 percent, and OS/2 at 11 percent. Others added up to 14 percent. Nice to see our favourite "dead" operating system right up there with some of the more marketed products.

## Turn on, Plug-in

The new OS/2 Warp version of the Netscape Communicator 4.04 browser is now on the cover CD, along with the OS/2 Plug-in Pack v2.1, thanks to the assistance of Dave Mounce of IBM Hursley. The Netscape file is only a little over 7Mb since it no longer contains a Java runtime. If you want Java support you need to install Java 1.1.4 or a later package such as Java 1.1.6 for OS/2 Warp, which can be found on the cover disc of the October '98 issue of PCW.

Netscape Communicator 4.04 is a multi-module suite comprising the Navigator web browser, Messenger email, Collabra news and discussion groups, and Composer HTML editor. Video set to 256 colours or more is essential; you can't use it with 16-colour video.

**The Plug-in Pack** adds some OS/2 audio and video plug-ins and also enables Windows 3.1 plug-ins such as RealPlayer to be used with Communicator 4.04, provided of course that you have Win-OS/2 support installed. If you have problems getting the plug-ins working, try running them as helper applications instead. Helper applications run in a separate session and are easier to set up. The site at <http://budgetweb.com/os2/plugins2.html> is a mine of information

► **NEWSGROUPS AND EMAIL ARE PART OF NETSCAPE COMMUNICATOR 4.04 FOR OS/2 WARP**

▼ **WITH THE OS/2 PLUG-IN PACK YOU CAN RUN STUFF LIKE REALPLAYER 5.0 WITH NETSCAPE FOR OS/2**

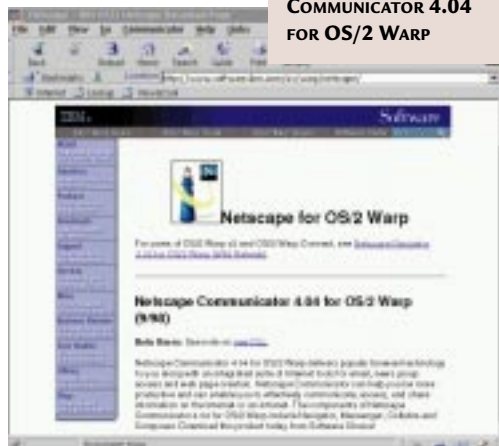


on setting up plug-ins in Netscape for OS/2. Netscape Communicator 4.04 is officially supported on Warp 4, WorkSpace on Demand and Warp Server 4. Since Warp Server 4 actually has a Warp 3 base operating system, Fix Pack #32 or later is required. Fix Pack #35 is on the August issue cover CD. Although Communicator is not officially supported on Warp 3 and Warp Connect, it will work if you install Fix Pack #32 or later. Anyone who has to stick to the officially supported packages will need to download the newly refreshed Netscape Navigator 2.02 for OS/2.

**Shortly after** Netscape Communicator 4.04 became available, Mike Kaply, IBM's

Technical Lead on the project, posted some additional information. Here it is. Use Times Roman MT 30 as your font for all encoding in order to view pages from any language. This only works for Chinese and Korean if Fix Pack #5 or later has been installed. You can have the Workplace Shell

▼ **ON THE PCW COVER DISC: NETSCAPE COMMUNICATOR 4.04 FOR OS/2 WARP**



If images in the browser window are marred by horizontal white lines, read the instructions in the ReadMe file.

If the problem persists:

**1 Create a REXX command file** (it must have a .CMD extension but can have any name you like, for example REXX.CMD) containing the instructions shown below in **Fig 1**.

**2 Save the file** and run it.

**3 If the problem** remains, try changing the "2" to "1".

Mike Kaply goes on to mention some undocumented features of the browser, but there's one documented feature that didn't actually make the cut. Drag and Drop doesn't work — it's a priority of the next update. The undocumented features are entries you can easily add to the PREFS.JS file which you can find in the \NETSCAPE\USERS\USERNAME subdirectory, where "USERNAME" is the login name of your profile.

**[FIG 1]**

```
/* */
call RxFuncAdd "SysLoadFuncs",
"RexxUtil", "SysLoadFuncs"
call SysLoadFuncs
call SysIni "USER", "FixPak", "Shift", "2"
```

**1 Communicator** will load Arial web pages with a Helvetica font if you set the following preference to true:  
user\_pref("os2.arial\_pref", false|true)

**2 To specify** a wave file for new mail sound (you must use double backslashes):  
user\_pref("os2.mail.sound", "C:\\MMOS2\\SOUNDS\\GOTMAIL.WAV")

**3 Prevent** filename mangling when downloading by setting to false:  
user\_pref("os2.replace\_dots", true|false)

**4 Turn off** URL bar completion if set to false:  
user\_pref("os2.url\_completion", true|false)

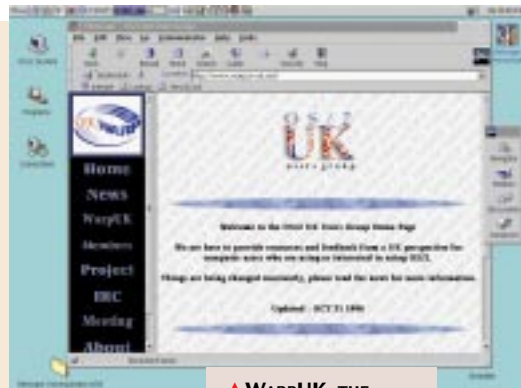
**5 User Defined Encoding** uses the default codepage of OS/2 if set to true. On Russian systems this allows you to see codepage 866 web pages. On default OS/2 systems you can see codepage 850 pages:

```
user_pref("os2.use_oem_charset", true|false)
```

## WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER

Chris Lindley writes to say that following a successful planning meeting in September, a group of OS/2 users is planning a formal launch of WarpUK, a user group for UK OS/2 SoHo users and hobbyists, at a meeting in January 1999.

You can obtain more information from Sid Gale on [sidg@btinternet.com](mailto:sidg@btinternet.com) or Chris Lindley on [chris@scotgate2.demon.co.uk](mailto:chris@scotgate2.demon.co.uk), or have a look at the web site at [www.warp.in-uk.net](http://www.warp.in-uk.net).



**▲ WARPUK, THE OS/2 USER GROUP FOR SoHo USERS AND HOBBYISTS, WILL BE LAUNCHED IN JANUARY**

### ■ Electric blue

Nils Andreas Erstad wants to know whether OS/2 is "good for networking" and whether he can use the "blue edition" to connect a portable to his main computer. Nils doesn't say what's

running on his main computer, but it sounds like some version of Windows.

He also wants to know if a Toshiba 4400SX portable, a 25MHz 486 with 10Mb RAM, would be a way to run some 16-bit Windows programs.

First off, the "blue edition" sounds like Warp 3.0 with Win-OS/2 and that will indeed run 16-bit Windows programs in 10Mb if the Win-OS/2 support has been installed. It won't be happy with multiple Win-OS/2 sessions and lots of OS/2 applications, but it will be fine for average use.

If it's the "blue" Warp Connect or even Warp 4.0, then it will include networking and in this case 10Mb might be stretching it as networking takes up around 6Mb RAM. Together with the 4Mb RAM the base kernel needs, it adds up to 10Mb memory, and the number of applications you can load simultaneously will depend on how much swap space you can afford.

How easy it is to network the "blue edition" with another computer depends on the version of Warp. Warp 3.0 shipped in two different packages, one with a red spine, one blue. The "blue" version of Warp 3.0 is the one with

Windows built in, but it doesn't include any networking software other than the TCP/IP stuff in the Internet Access Kit in the Bonus Pack. The IAK TCP/IP stuff is for use over a modem and not easy to "fix" to use over a LAN.

**Warp 3.0 Connect** followed (in a blue package) and this does include LAN networking, in particular the OS/2 Peer software with which you can connect to other PCs running Warp Connect, and to Windows for Workgroups, Windows 95, Windows NT and so forth. Finally, Warp 4.0 (also blue) includes an improved version of the OS/2 Peer software. So, if you have Warp 3.0 Connect or Warp 4.0 then it's easy to network Warp and Windows. For a small home network the best bet is to use NETBIOS as the main protocol: it's fast, easy to set up, and browsing works from both sides — Warp and Windows.

If you want to have a go with TCP/IP networking, make sure to use the TCP/IP 3.0 software which you select as part of the network section of the install program, and not the TCP/IP 2.0 stuff that's in the IAK on the BonusPak. I've been lazy getting to grips with this because it makes my head hurt, but it's time I did. If you can't wait for me, John Summerfield's site at [www.ami.com.au/os2/](http://www.ami.com.au/os2/) and Jacco's OS/2 page at <http://carol.wins.uva.nl/~leeuw/os2.html> are good starting points.

## PCW CONTACTS

Terence Green can be contacted by post at the PCW editorial office (address, p10) or email [os2@pcw.co.uk](mailto:os2@pcw.co.uk)