A night at the Opera

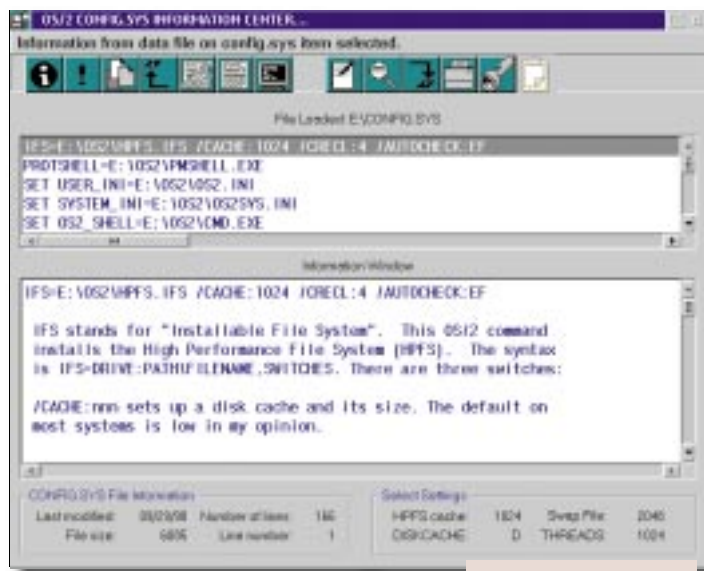**Terence Green catches up with developments in the browser world of Opera and WarpZilla.**

The release of Netscape Communicator 4.04 for OS/2 Warp was imminent at the time I filed this month's column. If you can't wait, look for it at http://service5.boulder.ibm.com/pcpd.nsf/OCOMM40+Home. It should be good — the second beta of Communicator worked well. The finished version should be a must-have, especially for overseas readers as it will be available in 18 languages.

While we're on the subject of browsers, it's worth mentioning that there are two OS/2 Warp browser projects under way and one text-mode browser available. The WarpZilla project is part of the effort to take the Netscape source and port it to other platforms. Back in January of this year, Netscape made the source code for Communicator freely available, whereupon several projects to port it to other platforms started up. Netscape set up a clearing house, called Mozilla after the codename for the original Netscape Navigator browser, and the Warp porting effort was called WarpZilla. This project is a voluntary effort, not connected in any way with the IBM Netscape Communicator 4.04. WarpZilla has not yet produced a real beta although an early version was posted on the internet. This was based on work which has since been discarded, as earlier in 1998 Mozilla decided to change to a new layout engine called NGLayout (for New Generation). As a result, it looks like there'll be a delay before the next WarpZilla test code based on NGLayout appears. You can find news and pointers to the Warp material at www.mozillaZine.org/.

Opera, the other OS/2 browser under development [Fig 1], seems to have run into trouble with Open32, the Lotus/IBM technology that was used to port Lotus SmartSuite for Warp 4 from the 32-bit Windows version. We remember how many years it took for that product to arrive, so we can only hope that the Opera team manages to crack the problems quicker. You can track progress at www.operasoftware.com/alt_os.html, but if you really want to run a thin browser under OS/2 there's always the 16-bit Windows version. @Macarlo has instructions for using the Opera 3.5 beta for Windows in a Warp 4 Win-OS/2 session at www.geocities.

▲ **Fig 1** @Macarlo explains how to run Opera for 16-bit Windows in a Win-OS/2 session

com/SiliconValley/Horizon/5423/operabeta35.htm. The last word on browsers for the time being is that Lynx 2.8 for OS/2 is now available from the Hobbes archive. It should be in the http://hobbes.nmsu.edu/pub/os2/apps/internet/www/browser/ directory. Lynx is a text mode browser — ideal for command-line users.

Readers' favourites

If, like me, you're old enough to remember XTree Gold, you'll want to follow up the suggestion from reader Holger Granholm to download ZTreeBold [Fig2], an OS/2 text mode program that mimics XTree Gold's way with files and directories. I hate to admit it, but when I graduated from DOS and Windows to OS/2 I continued to use XTree for housekeeping. It was only when I started playing with Windows 95 that we finally parted company because it (95) seemed to make XTree go crazy.

While we're talking about the weird stuff that Windows 95 does to FAT to make long filenames work, does anyone
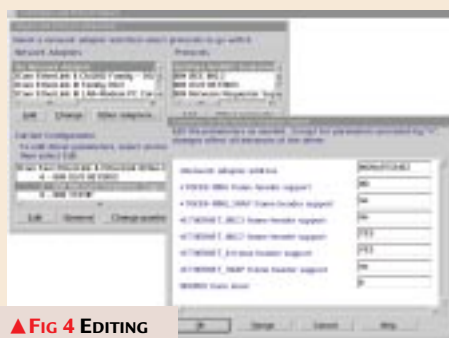
FIX PAK #8 ON THE COVER CD

Fix Pak #8 for Warp 4 didn't make it to last month's *PCW* cover-mounted CD because there were a few glitches in the first release and a potential problem with the installer. However, these were rapidly sorted and it is on this month's cover-mounted CD, so there should now be no problems. Well, almost none! After a slight contretemps with Fix Paks, reader Ian Park suggested that Fix Packs on the covermounted CD should be accompanied by a list of contra-indications. It's a fair point, but there are really only two contras to remember: please don't install a Fix Pak unless you really need to; and do read the README files —they have full information on how to install, what to be wary of, and how to back out of a Fix Pack if there's a problem. Having said that, please note that you have to install Fix Pak #32 or later in order to install the Java and Netscape Communicator 4.04 packages on Warp 3.

BITS AND PIECES

Here are some issues arising from reader problems, Java stuff and an update on an earlier featured utility.

☛ **NetWare connection failure.** One item I haven't noticed in a README is a reference to NetWare connections failing after installing NetWare client support with Warp. If the Warp NetWare client then fails to find a NetWare server at boot time, it throws up a REQ0815 error: "Program cannot get the connection ID". This problem invariably occurs

▲ **Fig 4** Editing the MPTS settings of the NetWare client for Warp

because the Warp client defaults to 802.3 Ethernet frames whereas NetWare has defaulted to 802.2 frames since 1993. Here's how to fix this [Fig 4]:

1 **Open an** OS/2 Window and run MPTS. Select "Configure" from the Multi-Protocol Transport Services window. Now, with the "LAN Adapters and protocols" radio button checked in the Configure dialog window, again select "Configure".

2 **With the** "Adapter and Protocol Configuration" window open, move to the section headed "Current Configuration", highlight "IBM NetWare Requester Support" and select Edit.

3 **Change the** "yes" next to "*ETHERNET_802.3 frame header support" to a "no" and ensure that there's a "yes" next to "*ETHERNET_802.2 frame header support".

4 **Select OK twice,** then "Close", then "Exit" to get to the Update CONFIG.SYS window. Make sure that the Update box is ticked and then select Exit to make the change. Now reboot, and *voilà*!
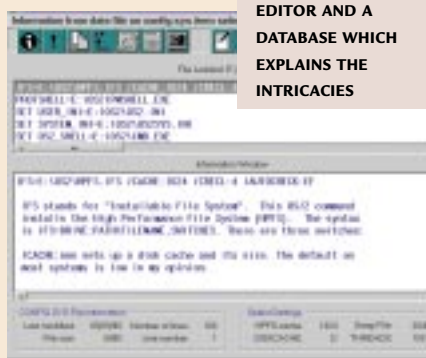
☛ **The -d option.** If you don't use the -d option to create sub-directories when decompressing the Java ZIP files provided on our cover-mounted CD,

you'll hit a "file not found" when you run the install program. This information is in the README file; but then, how many readers first extract the README from the ZIP? I know I don't. Doh!

☛ **Updating Warp.** When updating the Warp installation diskettes with new drivers (from WARPINST.EXE, say) it is sometimes necessary to delete other files in order to make space for the new drivers. If you do this you must also REMark out the corresponding load line in the CONFIG.SYS file on Diskette 1 or else the install will come to a juddering halt. It's in the README. Frankly, my head hurts when I see these huge text files, but more often than not they contain the information you need to recover from problems.

☛ **Dialog Enhancer.** Richard Castle has updated Dialog Enhancer and taken the opportunity to make it work with Netscape Communicator 4.04 for OS/2. The Netscape support was part of a beta when we heard about it,

▼ **Fig 5** ConfigInfo is a CONFIG.SYS editor and a database which explains the intricacies

but should be finalised by now. Dailog Enhancer has added support for German and Spanish, more support for video cards, and there are now more programs supported. Find it at www-student.lboro.ac.uk/~mcrsc/ostrans.html.

☛ **Ace tool.** CONFIGINFO is a great tool [Fig 5] which helps you edit your CONFIG.SYS and explains what all the lines mean. It's a free utility, and you can get it from www.buntspecht.de/files/cfginfo6.zip.
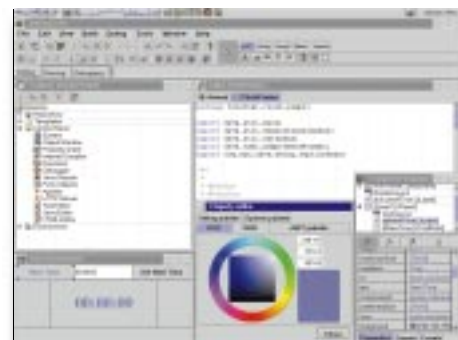
▲ **Fig 2** ZTreeBold is a shareware file manager which takes over where XTree Gold left off

have hard information on the machinations of Windows 98 and FAT32? It's becoming apparent to me that Windows 98 does more to the Boot drive than I had at first thought, but I'm not sure what. Anyone with the answer, please write. You can find ZTreeBold at www.bmtmicro.com/catalog/ztreebold.html.

The IBM bloke who said we could put VisualAge for Java 2.0 on our cover disc has gone all quiet so no news on this front. However, reader Jean-Yves Rouffiac has suggested Simplicity for Java, a 100 percent Pure Java development tool. A not-too-big trial download version can be found at www.datarepresentations.com/

▲ **Fig 3** The NetBeans IDE written in 100 percent Pure Java runs on Warp and many other platforms

index.htm. Another 100 percent Pure Java IDE, NetBeans Developer [Fig 3], is offering a free beta for download. Look for it at www.netbeans.com/.

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