



Do it with the dialer

Comfort for Warp users frustrated by Microsoft: your trusty DOIP can do it. Terence Green on ISPs and modems.

I was mildly amused to read in the coverage of the Microsoft vs DoJ (US Dept of Justice) battle that Bill Gates had complained, by email, of the problems caused to Microsoft arising from rampant virtual device drivers. This email exchange with senior vice-president Paul Maritz discussed how to stop Intel from shipping software that would compete with a Windows component. Gates says Microsoft doesn't want another problem like the VxD one. Warp users, all too familiar with the use of VxDs to lock out Warp, should have no difficulty spotting the irony in this.

It was not headline news when Warp was being sidelined but Microsoft's habit of making small software changes to inhibit competitors hit headline news recently. Documents were published in which a Microsoft employee suggested making proprietary changes to internet protocols in order to combat the open source movement currently riding the Linux wave.

This touched a nerve because I've been trying to dump NETBEUI and run an all-TCP/IP network but I've been hitting detail problems which prevent Warp from easily connecting to Windows in the absence of NETBEUI. Nevertheless, it looks as if it can be done and I hope to explain how in next month's column.

The practical effect of Microsoft's tweaks becomes apparent if you're running OS/2 in an organisation which moves over to Windows networking. Warp has excellent networking but your organisation will probably make you drop Warp as 'it doesn't network with Windows'. This isn't true, but tracking down the details has not proved easy.

■ ISP for free

Freemove, the free ISP from Dixon's, is another area in which you don't need Windows, although they say you do. Ostensibly, you need Microsoft Internet

Explorer 4 to sign up, after which you can use any browser. But you can easily sign up and use Freemove with Warp's Dial Other Internet Provider dialer [Fig 1] and an OS/2 web browser.

I came across the clue to this on the UK OS/2 User Group mailing list. If you want to find out what the OS/2 UG has been up to lately, their new web page is at www.warp.in-uk.net [Fig 2].

➔ To register an account on

Freemove you must access the Sign-up page [Fig 3]. So, fire up your trusty DOIP, select 'Add Entry' and fill in only the details below — any more is superfluous. You don't even need 'Your Domain Name' although DOIP won't save the entry if you leave it blank.

- On page one. 'Login Info':
Login ID freemovesignup
Password signup
Phone Number 08450796699
Connection type PPP
- On page two. 'Connect info':
Domain Nameserver 194.152.64.68
Your Domain Name freemove.co.uk
- Leave page three (Server info) blank, and on page four, fill in your modem details.
- Save the new entry and hit the Dial button to connect. Use Netscape Communicator or Web Explorer to open the sign-up page at <https://signup.freemove.net/> and follow the registration procedure.

If you have a problem accessing the sign-up page, double-check that you have entered the URL correctly. It's a secure connection, hence 'https' rather than 'http'. You won't be allowed to load any page other than the sign-up page — you'll see a DNS failure.

Once you have completed the registration process you are offered the option to 'Finish'. This applies to Windows users. When you select Finish, Freemove sends a Windows



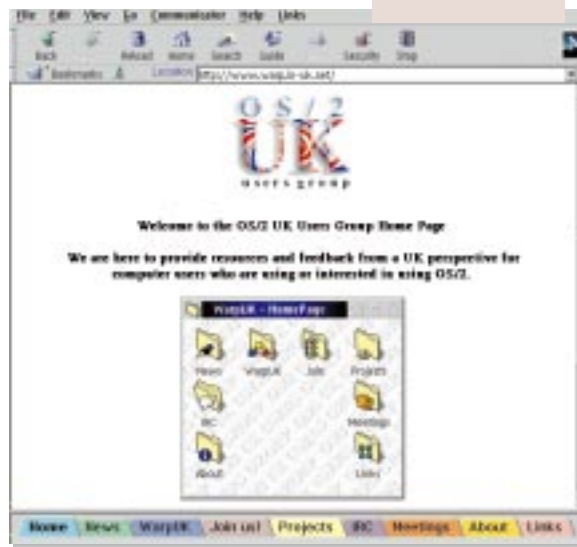
▲ FIG 1 USE DIAL OTHER INTERNET PROVIDER TO GET ONLINE WITH FREEMOVE

configuration file down to

your computer. Save the file if you like. It's text and can't do OS/2 any harm but note that it lists your details, including your password, in clear text.

After you hang up you must edit the DOIP entry to replace the sign-up Login ID and password with your new Freemove user name and password. You have to be careful here. Your Login ID is the fully-qualified Freemove host name. If you were to choose, say, 'dogbert@coolcat.freemove.co.uk' as your Freemove user name, your Login ID would be 'coolcat.freemove.co.uk'. You also need to use the full user name when you set up email [Fig 4].

▼ FIG 2 THE OS/2 USER GROUP AT ITS NEW WEB SITE



A TOP TIP FOR DOIP AND V.90 MODEMS

Reader Chris Potts wants to buy a new modem but wonders whether it would work with Dial Other Internet Provider, which by now has an outdated modem list. He also wanted to know if there was any difference between internal and external modems.

Almost any modem other than a Winmodem will work with DOIP. Winmodems have to run software on Windows so they're useless for Warp. If you have an external modem simply attach it to COM1 or COM2 and away you go.

If you have an internal modem you'll most likely set it as COM3 so as not to clash with the existing COM1 and COM2 serial ports on the PC. This involves a bit of extra work as you probably want to retain the use of COM1 (for a mouse, say). You must change the default IRQ and I/O Port settings for COM3 to prevent a conflict with COM1 which uses IRQ4 and Port 3F8.

When you set up your internal modem as COM3, make sure it is set to something like IRQ5 and I/O Port 3E8.

You will also find that DOIP knows nothing of COM3 because OS/2 by default only sets up COM1 and COM2. Add support for COM3 by adding a line to the CONFIG.SYS. Here's how to do it:

- Find the line in CONFIG.SYS which reads
`device = x:\os2\boot\com.sys`
(where 'x' = the OS/2 boot drive).
 - Now edit it to read
`device = x:\os2\boot\com.sys (3,3E8,5)`
- This tells OS/2 that COM3 is on I/O Port 3E8 and IRQ5.

You won't find a recent modem in the DOIP modem list, and I don't know how to update it, but that's not a problem. Simply use the generic Hayes entry.

You may need to edit the Dialing strings if the modem doesn't connect properly. Start by changing it to a simple AT&F which sets the modem back to its factory configuration. If you want to tinker further you'll need to look up the AT commands in the modem's handbook.

For example, if you use Netscape you would normally use 'coolcat' as your user name but you need to enter 'coolcat.freemove.co.uk' as your Mail Server User name under Mail Server in the Preferences dialogue.

The Incoming Mail Server name is 'pop.freemove.net'. When you open Messenger and 'Get Msg' the dialogue that asks for your password should read 'coolcat.freemove.co.uk@pop.freemove.net'. The other servers are straightforward. The outgoing mail server is smtplib.freemove.net and the news server is news.freemove.net. If you want to use the proxy server it is www-cache.freemove.net.

■ Warp can't see my CD!

Reader Carl Robson has asked me whether it is necessary to install Fix Packs

in sequential order. The answer is no. They are cumulative and you need only the latest to pick up all fixes to date.

Carl also wanted to know whether it was possible to create the Fix Pack

floppy diskettes on a Windows system because his CD-ROM drive isn't recognised by Warp 3. This cannot be done because the program which creates the floppies from the Fix Pack images is an OS/2 program.

There is a solution to the CD-ROM recognition



◀**FIG 4** YOU CAN USE NETSCAPE MESSENGER TO COLLECT EMAIL FROM FREEMOVE

problem, though. Download IDEASD.EXE from the 'IDE-ATAPI CD-ROM Support' link on the OS/2 Device

Driver Pak On-Line at service.software.ibm.com/os2ddpak/html/miscellb/os_2warp/index.htm.

Extract the files into a temporary directory or onto a diskette by running IDEASD.EXE and follow the instructions to update an existing

installation. You can also update a set of Warp installation diskettes if you have not yet installed it. This update applies to all versions of Warp.

Carl offered up the URL for 'The 13th Floor', a site which links OS/2 applications against the equivalent Windows item. This useful site includes shareware and freeware as well as commercial applications. He noted that it offered a way to network Warp 3 with Dial Other Internet Provider and a network card. The site is at www.tstonramp.com/~freiheit/os2apps.shtm.

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◀**FIG 3** USING NETSCAPE COMMUNICATOR 4.04 FOR OS/2 TO SIGN UP WITH FREEMOVE