Fix-pack facts

Terence Green tackles the UK or US fix packs dilemma.

▲ **FIG 1** OS/2 WARP SERVER FOR E-BUSINESS SHIPS BUT THERE'S NO NEW WARP CLIENT

IBM announced OS/2 Warp Server for e-business, formerly Aurora, on 27th April but there was no mention of a new Warp client [Fig 1]. IBM's stated intention, and the purpose of Warp Server, is to move organisations using Warp towards networked computing. Since Warp Server is, in the main, targeted at banks and financial organisations it is time to accept that Warp 4 is the last of the OS/2 clients.

IBM is committed to support Warp 4 until 2001 and so continues to ship Fix Packs with updated hardware support. You will find Warp 4 Fix Pack #10 on our cover-mounted CD — apologies to those readers who thought that the Fix Pack on May's cover was for Warp 4 when it was, in fact, for Warp 3. We will try to flag the version more obviously in future but do take time to read the INSTALL.TXT file which identifies the Warp version to which the Fix Pack applies.

Fortunately you can't damage your system by applying the wrong Fix Pack because checks built into the process prevent this from happening. This also applies to the version of the Fix Pack that we put on our cover disc.

We always supply the English-US version which worries some readers who have English-UK versions of Warp. Reader Fred Bone is concerned because he has been trying to find information on the possible adverse effects of applying US Fix Packs to UK Warp.

Fred supports both Warp 3 and 4 at work and says he really doesn't want to apply US FP10 to a UK Warp 4 if it were likely to cause him problems. He might go ahead and do it if, say, he knew that problems would be confined to some aspect he did not need.

My experience, and that of many other users including IBMers who have applied an English-US Fix Pack to an English-UK Warp system, is that there are no problems.

Nevertheless, Fred quite rightly wants to know whether there are any definitive sources of information on the subject. After several hours of searching I'm not sure there are. But one instance in which applying an English-US Fix Pack could cause a problem did come to light. I found the reference in IBM's online Technical Document database and double-checked with an OS/2 expert from IBM.

Under some circumstances a Remote-IPL client running English-UK Warp can fail to find the right codepage when booting up from an English-US server. Remote-IPL clients are better known as 'diskless PCs'; they boot up from an operating system image on the server. Even if this situation applies to you there's a simple workaround so, in short, there is no reason to worry about applying an English-US Fix Pack over an English-UK Warp client.

These days, anyway, the Fix Packs we place on our cover CD are generic even

FIX PACKS ON CD

On the subject of Fix Packs, reader Leslie Robinson asks whether it is possible to obtain them on CD-ROM in the UK. (Apart from our *Personal Computer World* cover CD, that must be!). I am not aware of any OS/2 Fix Packs released on CD-ROM by IBM UK.
☛ **Fix Packs** can be ordered online from BMT Micro at www.bmtmicro.com for $15 plus $2.50 postage [Fig 2].
☛ **The UK OS/2** software outlets, OneStop <www.onestop-group.com> and Hedgehog International Trading <www.hedgehog.co.uk> may be able to help — check out their web sites.
☛ **BMT Micro's offer,** prepared in conjunction with the OS/2 Supersite <www.os2ss.com>, looks good — I may even get one myself! It contains the latest Warp 3 and Warp 4 Fix Packs, along with the most recent TCPIP, MPTS and PEER services updates.
All of these can be installed from the CD.

▲ **FIG 2** FIX PACKS ON CD-ROM FOR $15 — BUT WITH **PCW** YOU GET A GOOD READ, TOO!

ics & DTP
SHEETS Databases
Word Processing
Visual Programm
Windows3.1
/2 Unix Networks
95

Questions

& *answers*

Reader Martin Jones is one of many who have written to tell me that in a quest for reliability they are considering making the switch to OS/2. His long list of very pertinent questions is reproduced below.

Q Is there a fix to allow Warp to boot from an LS120 drive?

a The LS120 is only supported as a large floppy diskette and not as partitioned media, which is required in order to boot OS/2.

Q Regarding the previous Fix Pack provided on CD-ROM I seem to recall that you thought it may cause problems with Cyrix CPUs. Was this also true of the IBM version?

a There was a particular issue with Cyrix CPUs which was fixed in a revised version of the Fix Pack. My memory is a bit hazy on this subject but I have not come across any follow-up problems. Fix Pack #40 for Warp 3 on our June issue cover disc should be fine.
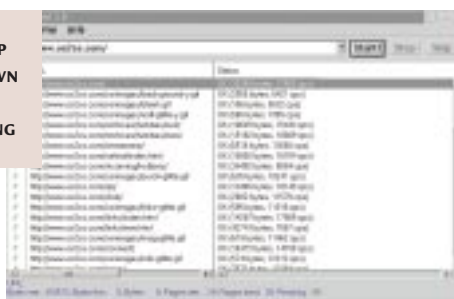
Q Is there a driver available for the Logitech three-button trackball ?

a Look for Logitech mouse drivers at the OS/2 Device Driver Pak Online at http://service.software.ibm.com/os2ddpak/html/miceandt/logitech/index.htm.

Q Do any free ISPs, other than Freeserve, permit an OS/2 connection?

a I haven't tried them all — only FreeServe and BT ClickFree, in fact — but you should be able to get on to any free ISP which only needs a login name and a password. However, some of them require you to register, using their software. In this case you can probably sign up using a Windows 95 PC and then transfer the phone number, login name and password to your OS/2 Dial Other Internet Provider setup. See last month's PCW for more information about DOIP.

Q Is there an offline browser available for OS/2 ? That is, to allow downloading all or most of a site for later perusal so as to save telephone call time.

a Sslurp! 2.0 [Fig 4] downloads web pages,

▶ **FIG 4** SSLURP **2.0** SUCKS DOWN WEB SITES FOR OFFLINE VIEWING

can follow all links and download inline images, and stores it to disk. It needs an HPFS partition. You can find sslurp20.zip (77,909 bytes) at www.kaneff.de/~mike/sslurp/.

Q I have problems starting Windows applications from the desktop. They complain about sound even though they make no use of it. Is this peculiar to the red box Warp 3 or is there a fix ?

a Set Audio_Adapter_Sharing in DOS & Win OS/2 Settings to NONE for the Windows sessions that do not need sound.

◀ **FIG 3** ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT **FIX PACKS** EXCEPT WHY **ENGLISH-US** IS OK

versions tend to lag behind the generic version: this is why we put the latter, labelled XR_xxxxx, on our cover-mounted CD-ROM. Effectively, the underscore NLV descriptor means that it's neither language nor country dependent.

though they may be described as English-US. A true English-US Fix Pack only intended for USA versions of Warp would be labelled XR0xxxxx, where the '0' descriptor refers to the National Language Version. English-UK NLV Fix Packs are labelled XRUxxxxx.

IBM only produces NLV Fix Packs based on customer demand so the NLV

As Fix Packs only update the base system — and will only update files to which they apply (i.e. they should not overwrite NLV files) — it is my belief that the only problem which could arise, other than the Remote-IPL issue described above, is that you might have to search Help for, say, 'color' rather than 'colour'.

For more on the subject of Fix Packs have a look at Frank McKenney's *Applying Service to OS/2 Warp* document on www.cincyteamos2.org/warpservice.html. He doesn't mention the NLV issue but tells you all you want to know, and more, about Fix Packs. A revised version of the document can be found on the IBM web site. Visit http://ps.software.ibm.com/ and click on 'Downloads and News' to get to the 'Fixes, Drivers, Files, and News' page, then click on the link just below to get to 'The OS/2 FixPak Primer' [Fig 3]. The 'Technical Databases' link on the www.ps.software.ibm.com page links to the searchable technical documents database mentioned above — it is a useful resource when you have problems with Warp.

PCW CONTACTS

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