Jumping into Java

Terence Green looks at Java possibilities for Warp wannabes. His handy tips along with the software given away free on our cover CD, means you can be Java'd up in no time at all.

Java 1.1.6 for OS/2

Select the components you wish to install

Note: The Toolkit, Toolkit Documentation and Samples components REQUIRE an HPFS installation drive. You will not be able to install these components to a FAT drive.

- ☑ Java 1.1.6 Runtime
- ☐ Toolkit, or Java Developer's Kit (JDK)
- ☐ Toolkit Documentation
- ☐ Samples
- ☐ ICAT for Java OS/2
- ☑ Times New Roman MT 30 Unicode Font

Product Information

IBM is a key partner with Sun Microsystems and other industry leaders in developing and promoting Java technology. Java 1.1.6 for OS/2 brings Java's **write once, run everywhere**

▲ JAVA **1.1.6** IS NOW IN THREE REDUCED-SIZE PACKAGES FOR EASIER DOWNLOADS

While responding to readers' letters complaining about IBM's marketing of Warp, it occurred to me that Warp users would be a lot worse off now if IBM hadn't decided to focus on its key OS/2 customers. Had IBM continued to go against Windows on the desktop, it's quite possible that we would now have even less choice. As it stands, we're guaranteed Fix Packs and the latest Java developments as they appear. It's a testament to that continuing support that we barely managed to get Fix Pack 6 and Java 1.1.4 on the *PCW* cover disc before they were overtaken by Fix Pack 7 and Java 1.1.6 (about which more later).

A word on Warp

Mike Hitchcock is not only dismayed by IBM's rejection of the SoHo and consumer PC market, but also doubtful of the benefits for home users in the Java and network computing direction that Warp is headed. I'm convinced that home users will benefit, but it may take a while to filter through. Some of the Java developments mentioned on these pages, particularly the PalmPilot/Warp connection but also the OS/2 Java FAQ sites, begin to show how it can be used to unite today's PCs with the handheld and consumer devices of tomorrow.

Java will also help reader Darren Hufford, who dislikes having to use Windows 95 at work and then having to convert to the older Windows 3.1 programs that run on his home OS/2 system.
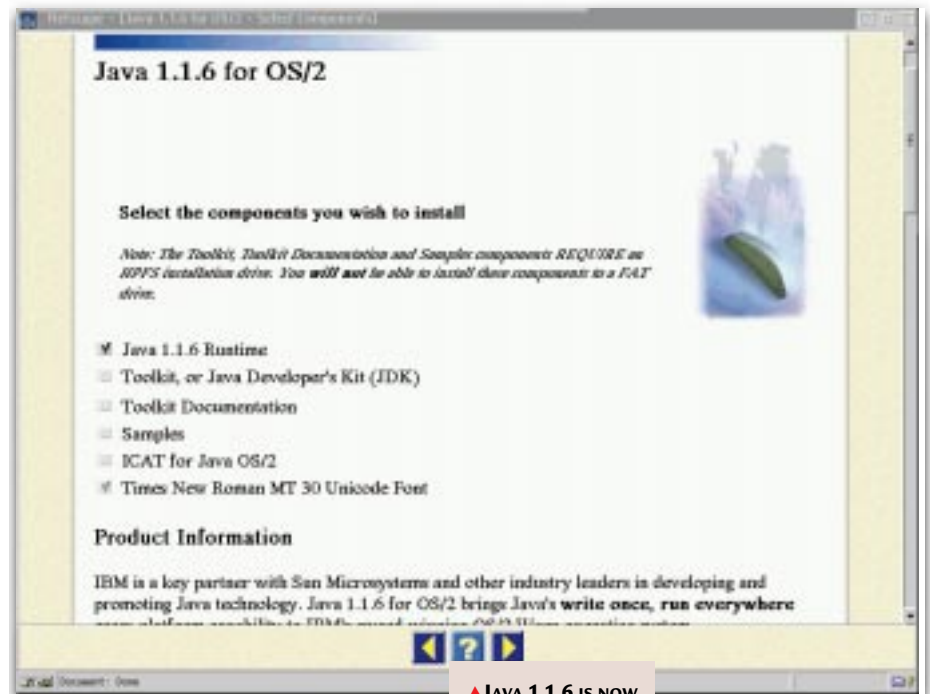
The same program can run on both. Admittedly there are not yet that many shrinkwrap choices, but when there are, Warp will be among the first to support them. Being able to run the same application on Warp and Windows would make my life a lot easier, too.

I'm writing this column from a friend's home in Cape Town on a Windows 95 system! When I set it up a year ago I would have preferred to have set it up as an OS/2 system because my friend's main applications are word processing and email; but I set it up as a Windows system for an important reason. When things went wrong, as they did because my friend is a complete computer novice, she had access to lots of people who could offer help. Had she been an OS/2 user it would have been down to me to maintain the system from 8,000 miles away.

Now, with Java emailers becoming available (and Lotus SmartSuite for Warp to take care of the word processing) it's looking a lot more possible to set up the Cape Town PC as a rock-solid Warp box. This would be a great improvement over the Windows system which, whenever it cannot dial out, suggests reconfiguring Windows 95. These misleading messages create havoc among novice users.

While I'm pleased that IBM took the decision to focus on key Warp accounts, because it has brought benefits for home users, there is a gaping hole in this argument which concerns individual Warp users in companies of all sizes. I receive many emails from readers who feel cut off because they have chosen to run Warp at work. They receive no support from their IT department and yet they regularly report better reliability from their computers than those of colleagues running Windows 95.

I can understand IBM taking the Warp spotlight away from consumers, but leaving all single-unit purchasers in the dark prevents individual Warp users in companies from being able to provide a practical demonstration of a solid alternative to Windows 95.

Java 1.1.6

On our *PCW* cover disc you'll find a copy of Java for OS/2 Warp. Java 1.1.6 is totally groovy. It supports Warp 3 and Warp Connect with FixPak 32 or later, Warp 4, Warp Server and Workspace On Demand, so there's a single codebase to support all versions of Warp. It works

A FRESH SET OF YEAR 2000-READY JAVA RUNTIMES FOR THE NETSCAPE FOR OS/2 BROWSER

with the latest Netscape 2.02 for OS/2 release and IBM has split off a runtime version for those who don't want the full developers' kit. It's Year 2000-ready, too.

Earlier Netscape 2.02 updates included a Java 1.0.2 runtime which made for big downloads and created problems for Warp users who added one of the later

IBM Java for OS/2 packages. This resulted in two Java installations in separate subdirectories and potential configuration problems. The 19th June update of Netscape 2.02 for OS/2 (which should be on our cover CD) now works with Java 1.1.6 and no longer needs to include its own Java runtime.

This will be good news for reader Jean-Yves Rouffiac, who ended up with two Java installations and a pile of problems. He can now junk the previous installations using Selective Uninstall, or by deleting the subdirectories and removing all references to them from CONFIG.SYS, after which he can upgrade to Java 1.1.6.

The 1.1.6 download now comes in

three versions: runtime; runtime with Unicode font for Japanese, Korean and Chinese versions of Warp; and the 1.1.6 Development Kit which includes tools, samples and a debugger. The Runtime without Unicode, which you need for Netscape 2.02 releases dated 19th June or later and also for running Java applets and applications, is only about 8Mb. The separate Developer Kit is a 12Mb download and the Netscape 2.02 download size drops to around 5Mb.

We've previously mentioned the Year 2000 problem in respect of Fix Packs, and Java for OS/2 is only Year 2000-ready from 1.1.4 onwards, which means that previous Netscape 2.02 releases that shipped with Java 1.0.2 are not. You can bring Java and Netscape up to Year 2000 readiness by upgrading to Java 1.1.6 and the latest Netscape package.

One item you won't find on the cover disc for a while yet is VisualAge for Java 2.0. It's due for release in October, which means we can get it onto our cover disc for the January 1999 issue. I know it's a long delay, but we're assured that the 2.0 version is worth waiting for.

PCW CONTACTS

Terence Green *can be contacted by post via the PCW editorial office (address, p10) or email* **os2@pcw.co.uk**

BY THE WAY...

The following snippets were gleaned from WarpCast at www.warpcast .com/.

● If you want to know more about Java and Warp, have a look at the FAQ which Fernando Cassia has at http://fc.home. ml.org/javainst.htm and the screenshot gallery at http://fc.home.ml.org/ javinos2.htm.

● If you have a PalmPilot or IBM WorkPad you might want to try out JPD (Java-Pilot-Desktop), a Java connection for the PalmPilot written by OS/2 people at www.castrop-rauxel. netsurf.de/~arnd.grossmann/jpd/ index.html.

● There's a new IDEDASD.EXE for Warp 3 and Warp 4 which supports EIDE drives greater than 8.4Gb and fixes some problems in Fix Pak #35 and

#6. Find it at http://service. software. ibm.com/os2ddpak/ html/30ABBBF6ABD9D85 F86256598006908FA.html.

● Fortify at www.fortify.net/main. html has released a new free patch for Netscape for OS/2 to enable strong (128-bit) encryption as opposed to the iffy 40-bit stuff we are stuck with outside North America. Note that it's intended for the service level 8 version of Netscape, not the one on our *PCW* cover disc. Hopefully the situation will have changed by the time this appears in print and there'll be a patch from IBM for the latest level of Netscape, but do check the service level before installing the patch. If you open the Help menu and select "About

Netscape" the service level shows up in the title bar of the browser window.

▲ UPDATED SUPPORT FOR THOSE EVER-GROWING IDE DRIVES, AND THIS ONE INCLUDES DOCS FOR REMOVABLE DRIVES