XEROX
BUSINESS SYSTEMS
Systems Development Department

To: Robert Kierr

From: H. C. Lauer

Subject: Pilot status report

Date: September 12, 1978

Org: SDD/SD

Filed: [Iris] < Lauer > PilotStatus.memo

Reference: *Pilot Pre-alpha and Alpha releases,* dated September 5, 1978 from H. C. Lauer to Robert Kierr

The following is a brief summary of the status of Pilot and of the components which, by agreement, will be included in the Alpha release of Pilot. It appears that it is possible to come very close to meeting our September 15 target for starting the release procedure. The remaining unknowns are: (1) how rapidly we can get new microcode releases into use by the Pilot group, and (2) the number of "surprises" in demand paging.

Demand paging

> All modifications to Pilot necessary to test demand paging are complete.

> We have run VFSTest (formerly MockClient) for an extended period in page faulting mode, but without paging out existing code or data.

> Charnley has identified a means of making BitBlt restartable after page faults (at the expense of speed)

> Garner is fixing a bug in XFER which prevents code segments from being demand paged.

> Remaining tasks:
> > Fix the Map Log to allow larger log to be kept
> > Continue testing

OIS and PUP communications

> Yogen is on schedule and in the midst of testing Pup communications (see September 5 memo); he has ~3 days remaining work on his contributions to the Alpha release.

Disk-bootable microcode

> Charnley claims that this problem is solved; a hardware fix is required to make it work.

> Charnley will produce a new release of microcode Wednesday containing:
> > Long pointer disk controller
> > Restartable BitBlt (short or long pointers)
> > "Identical" .BT and .MB versions
> > (Perhaps) Garner's fix for the XFER bug

> Remaining tasks:
> > Make a second microcode release containing long pointer IUTFP and last minute bug fixes

Compatible long pointer IRDC

Pitts has developed and tested a controller and driver.

Redell is waiting for this to appear in an official version of microcode to proceed

Remaining tasks:
    Convert DiskIO for long pointer arguments
    Move buffers into hyperspace

Mapping off the ends of files

Remaining tasks:
    Minor bug fixes
    Obscure case testing

Logging

Testing has been bogged down in the cycle of getting Jalics's bug fixes bound into Pilot

Tom Horsley will take over responsibility from Paul Jalics

The public interface to the logging functions appears to have settled down

Remaining tasks:
    Convert Jalics's existing implementation to final version of interface
    Finish testing

Compatible long pointer IUTFP and Long BitBlt

Charnley has converted BitBlt to accept either short or long pointers; Wick will produce a new version of BitBltDefs for using this.

Remaining tasks:
    Convert Display controller per Pitts's specification
    Test

The following other items are also of interest:

Iris has been very flakey this past week. Since this is our principle vehicle for storing and transmitting files and since we use it heavily, an hour of down time per day is beginning to hurt. We are starting to find that we cannot do the task next on the list because Iris is down and we cannot get at the necessary files. *If Iris gets any worse, it will impact our schedules.*

All sources and command files on CoPilot have been converted to the Librarian, and Pilot implementors are using the Access utensil successfully. So far no serious problems have been encountered, and users seem happy with it.

Greg Shaw and Diamond have been extremely helpful in uncovering a host of minor bugs.

For the forthcoming release of Pilot, we will overlap final testing of its accompanying microcode release with the six-day release schedule. *In the future, however, we will require a microcode release to be in our hands at least one week prior to starting the Pilot release.*

Items not affecting the Alpha release of Pilot:

Victor Schwartz is at approximately day 6 of the seventeen day schedule for converting and integrating the RS232C into Pilot (see my Sept 5 memo)

The Microcode Executive is awaiting the return of the czarina from Bora Bora

The Pilot kit still needs to be defined

c: W. C. Lynch, PilotImplementors