Boeing Browser Decision History

1994 - 1996 NCSA Mosaic v1 and v2

- Web emerging, lack of commercial product availability
- Mosiac versions, public domain software, available for all significant platforms
- Boeing decides to adopt Mosaic until technology matures

early 1996 Netscape v2

- Mosiac problems with Windows Sockets and WIN32s API; Mosaic lacked support for tables
- Netscape versions available for all significant platforms, considered the industry leader
- Internet Explorer was not functionally adequate
- Boeing adopts Netscape v2 as a Standard and produces kits for deployment

late 1996 - 1998 Netscape v3

- Netscape delivers needed enhanced functionality (frames...)
- Netscape versions available for all significant platforms
- Also Boeing business case reasons not to change (cost of changing)
- Internet Explorer v3 now almost functionally competitive, however not available for Unix platforms
- Internet Explorer v3 had significant security risks due to ActiveX, Boeing develops a policy to prohibit use of Web-based client-side ActiveX controls
- Boeing produces Windows 95a (OSR1) image. Removes internet icon links
- Boeing adopts Netscape v3 as an Enterprise-wide Standard

• 1998 Netscape v4

- Netscape versions available for all significant platforms
- Browsers diverging in critical technical areas; Boeing needs to plant a "stake" (code signing, object technology, document object model, Java)
- Boeing business case (3 year) indicated \$5M savings by upgrading Netscape & not allowing dual standard; \$8M savings by not switching (cost of changing)
- Internet Explorer v4 is now essentially functionally equivalent, ActiveX issue mitigated by Zones
- Boeing adopts Netscape v4 as an Enterprise-wide Standard 1Q98

1999 Planning

- Boeing develops Desktop Integration Roadmap as 18 month plan for technology roll
- Internet Explorer v5 will be so deeply embedded in NTW 5, Office 2000, & Outlook 2000 that we will not be able to extricate it
- Therefore both Netscape and Internet Explorer browsers will be installed on Windows desktops
- Netscape will continue to be the standard web browser, next step will be to determine how to constrain use of Internet Explorer as the browser
- Continue to evaluate 1999 browser direction



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