
From:Steven SinofskySent:Wednesday, February 06, 2002 5:38 PMTo:Jeff RaikesSubject:dateFollow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Flagged

This is FYI for you.

I am concerned about the length of time that we're looking at for the next product cycle, as you know. But I am getting more worried as the impact of the Windows security month starts to take hold. While it is unclear to me what the specifics are, from a pure engineering point of view there will be at least 1000 code changes (one per developer) which means there will be 200-400 new bugs introduced as a result. This is a huge effort by itself.

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While the security "stand down" (as it is now called) will get a lot of focus in discussions about the date, it is worth noting that even without this work it had been becoming clear that the server was stretching out. This was causing pressure on WinXP SP1, which was expanding in scope (meaning it would take more and more of testing to get it done, which means they would not be testing Longhorn). As this stretches out the pressure to have an interim SP will grow, especially with some of the LCA requirements looming.

For a thought experiment I drew up this table for chrisio. It is not based on any "data" from Windows, but sort of based on the realities of where we are. This is an uneducated guess so to speak.

	Optimistic Case	Less Optimistic Case
Security Month (when do bugs get fixed and tested?)	Feb-Mar 02	Feb-Jun 02?
SP1 (includes time for increased scope)	Aug 02	Dec 02 (will this drive an SP0?)
Server (assuming sim-ship with SP1—is that OK?)	Aug 02	Dec 02
Office+Longhorn (18 months)	Feb 04	Jun 04
Office+Longhorn (24 months)	Aug 04	Dec 04

This is definitely a "serial" schedule, but as we've been hearing at the very least through SP1 the team is going to be single threaded (serial) This means changes in the early dates have at least one for one changes in the later dates.

This is really looking pretty bleak in terms of getting products to market. The optimistic case is very optimistic.

An 18 month schedule is fine for Office, but will clearly eliminate significant strategic features on the Windows side. This will certainly not be enough time for Kodiak as well. And Windows has not done an 18 month schedule before.

A 24 month schedule is doable by Windows, but the "must haves" still make this very risky.

It really looks like Fiscal 05 is the right planning assumption to make. Taking into account EA/SA agreements makes this look very difficult.

5/16/2005

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