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Subject: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT

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Originally posted by: Maus

Would anyone recommend a book (Kindle if possible) or article about the time that Bill Gates took over the control of PC market from IBM?

--

greymausg@mail.com

That's not a mousehole!

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 29 Nov 2021 16:19:21 GMT

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On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT

Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:

> Would anyone recommend a book (Kindle if possible) or article about  
> the time that Bill Gates took over the control of PC market from IBM?

He never did.

IBM lost the PC market to the clone makers not to Microsoft it was and is a completely open market now dominated by Dell. The PC clones slowly but surely killed off every other hardware architecture so that now apart from tablets, netbooks and Z-series mainframes everything is essentially a PC from laptops to rack mount servers by way of blades.

What Microsoft did was take control of the PC operating system market by pushing Windows (3.1 IIRC) on everyone and forcing a shift away from DOS applications. That was done by giving PC vendors a huge discount on the Windows license (one told me they paid £5 per machine when at the time buying your own copy cost £200) provided they installed it on \*every\* machine they sold. They coupled this with dropping the DOS versions of all their applications and of course making Windows non too good at running most of the DOS applications around because nearly all of them bypassed DOS and BIOS to get performance.

By the time they got their wrists slapped for it the damage was done - Microsoft owned the PC operating system market - just in time to destroy DesqView-X which could run multiple DOS and Windows applications simultaneously - as well as WordPerfect which never made the transition to Windows despite being dominant on DOS.

Microsoft didn't have any kind of competitor on the PC OS market until Linux came along which they actively tried to kill until they shifted strategy and stopped caring about the PC OS market.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 29 Nov 2021 22:14:56 GMT

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On Mon, 29 Nov 2021 14:48:44 -0500

Andreas Kohlbach <[ank@spamfence.net](mailto:ank@spamfence.net)> wrote:

> First they took over the OS market with MS-DOS,

Not really, IBM did that for them by commissioning PC-DOS and arranging to get a lot of DOS software written (a new DOS program every day I recall being advertised). That killed off CP/M-86, but there was competition and DR-DOS was a very popular alternative to MS-DOS also there was GEM and DesqView-X. I'm pretty sure they were in serious danger of losing the market before they pulled the pre-installed Windows on every PC stunt.

> but also were about the only supplier for BASIC;

Hardly, selling a crappy BASIC to Commodore, Tandy and Apple got them started but nobody else in the eight bit era used their code - everyone else made tighter and faster BASICs - in the Newbrain a full "16K" BASIC fitted in 4K of ROM - there was a bit of a celebration when that was achieved.

> not only for the IBM PC but almost the whole home

> computer rage, killing off CP/M in the process.

A lot of the early CP/M adopters didn't drop it because they had become used to multi-user and networked systems based around MP/M and MMOST. A lot of them turned into unix early adopters and skipped the PC completely.

When the AT came out one of our customers wanted us to port our MP/M applications to it because it was new and shiny and IBM. I pointed out that the AT was a single user system and he wouldn't be able to attach terminals to it (he had four or five terminals in constant use with a database application). He didn't believe us at first - surely IBM's "Advanced Technology" with 16 bits and huge memory could do better than the

MP/M he'd been using for years, we must be mistaken (veiled implication lying)! So I told him to go and ask the IBM salesman about adding terminals and running multi-user applications. When next we saw him he had confirmed what we said and couldn't understand why IBM were so proud of something so primitive.

We sold him an Altos XENIX system next (they got a lot more mileage out of an 80286 than IBM ever did - a couple of 80186s doing I/O helped).

I heard similar stories from other people in the "vertical market" business at trade shows and supplier events.

Not many people noticed it because the CP/M and MP/M early adopters were swamped first by the "Now it's a real computer IBM made it" brigade and then by the clones making it cheap for those who didn't care about the name. But very few of them switched to the PC and the PC users didn't start to catch up until Novell by which time they were a nearly invisible minority mostly using unix boxes with Intel or Motorola or MIPS or ... it didn't matter much they all had a QIC tape on the front and a bunch of 9 pin RS-232 sockets on the back, the bigger ones were accused of looking like fridges.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith  
Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2021 07:04:37 GMT  
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Originally posted by: A.T. Murray

On Monday, November 29, 2021 at 2:30:02 PM UTC-8, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Mon, 29 Nov 2021 14:48:44 -0500  
> Andreas Kohlbach <a...@spamfence.net> wrote:  
>  
>> First they took over the OS market with MS-DOS,  
>  
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> RS-232 sockets on the back, the bigger ones were accused of looking like  
> fridges.  
> --  
> Steve O'Hara-Smith  
> Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

Many outfits did not initially go with Mentifex AI, either.

Mentifex

--

[http://ai.neocities.org/mentifex\\_faq.html](http://ai.neocities.org/mentifex_faq.html)

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [usenet](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2021 20:45:25 GMT

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On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:

> Would anyone recommend a book (Kindle if possible) or article about  
> the time that Bill Gates took over the control of PC market from IBM?

It wasn't all Microsoft. IBM shot themselves in the foot in the '80s when they tried to reign in control of the clone market by coming out with a proprietary bus. (Was that EISA, or something else? I'm getting a memory error on the correct acronym.) Anyway, it was spurned by the industry and the clone makers went right on doing their thing.

Then around 1990 Microsoft did the rope-a-dope with IBM over their collaboration on the OS/2 operating system. They dragged their feet on their contribution to the project while moving ahead with Windows 3.0 and then 3.1. I think there is a chapter about this in:

Big Blues: The Unmaking of IBM

Paul Carroll

1993; Crown Publishing Group

This is part of what eventually killed WordPerfect, who placed their bets on OS/2.

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2021 20:49:57 GMT

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Originally posted by: Dick

On 12/2/21 3:45 PM, Questor wrote:

> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:

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> This is part of what eventually killed WordPerfect, who placed their bets on  
> OS/2.  
>  
MCA -- micro-channel architecture.

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2021 22:05:34 GMT  
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On 2021-12-02, Questor <usenet@only.tnx> wrote:

> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:  
>  
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> spurned by the industry and the clone makers went right on doing  
> their thing.

s/reign/rein/

The metaphor refers to horses, not monarchs.

IBM realized that they had made a mistake when they completely opened the box, publishing detailed technical specifications that enabled anyone to clone it. The introduction of the MicroChannel bus was their attempt to close the box again by going to a proprietary bus. But as with Pandora, it was too late. As you said, the industry thumbed its collective nose at IBM and came up with EISA - and the architecture remained open. (In the Pandora legend, the last thing left in the

box was Hope.)

--

/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.  
\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.  
X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.  
/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2021 22:48:50 GMT  
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Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 22:05:34 GMT, Charlie Gibbs  
<cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2021-12-02, Questor <usenet@only.tnx> wrote:  
>  
>> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:  
>>  
>>> Would anyone recommend a book (Kindle if possible) or article about  
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> box was Hope.)

Their big error with Microchannel IMO was that it addressed all the  
"issues" with ISA that IBM's engineers and technicians and managers  
cared about, but customers didn't care about things like "better



grounding" and "not having to have an expensively trained technician add cards" and the like. They cared about whether it would run their workloads any faster and the answer was, in general, no.

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Anne & Lynn Wheel](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2021 23:31:18 GMT

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J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

- > Their big error with Microchannel IMO was that it addressed all the
- > "issues" with ISA that IBM's engineers and technicians and managers
- > cared about, but customers didn't care about things like "better
- > grounding" and "not having to have an expensively trained technician
- > add cards" and the like. They cared about whether it would run their
- > workloads any faster and the answer was, in general, no.

except the communication group performance kneecapped the PS2 microchannel cards ... part of its fiercely trying to fight off client/server and distributed computing ... trying to preserve its dumb terminal paradigm/business.

AWD (workstation division) had done the PC/RT with PC/AT bus ... and did some of their own high performance cards ... like its own 4mbit token-ring card.

Then with RS/6000 and microchannel ... AWD was told they couldn't do their own microchannel cards, they had to use the (performance knee-capped) PS2 microchannel cards. For instance the PS2 microchannel (\$799) 16mbit token-ring card had lower (per card) throughput than the PC/RT 4mbit token-ring card. There was joke that if RS/6000 was limited to the (knee-capped) PS2 microchannel cards ... for lots of things, RS/6000 wouldn't have any better throughput than PS2/486.

By comparison, there were \$69 10mbitethernet cards with significantly higher throughput than the (\$799) 16mbit token-ring microchannel card (nearly ten times the performance at 1/10th the cost).

In the late 80s, a senior disk (division) engineer got a talk scheduled at the internal, world-wide, annual, communication group conference supposedly on 3174 performance, but he opened his talk with the comment that the communication group was going to be responsible for the demise of the disk division. The disk division was seeing a drop in disk sales with customers moving to more client/server and distributed computing friendly platforms. The disk division had come up with a number of solutions that were constantly being vetoed by the communication group (with its corporate strategic ownership of everything that crossed datacenter walls).



--

virtualization experience starting Jan1968, online at home since Mar1970

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2021 23:55:23 GMT

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On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 20:45:25 GMT

usenet@only.tnx (Questor) wrote:

> It wasn't all Microsoft. IBM shot themselves in the foot in the '80s

by tripping over the shotgun while bolting them door on the empty  
stable ...

> when they tried to reign in control of the clone market

... to where the horses had long since bolted and were temporarily  
enjoying quality pasture with Compaq and endless acres of open scrub in  
China before mostly legging it off to the mega-livery yards Dell and HP.

See Charlie he did mean reign :)

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [John Levine](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 01:45:07 GMT

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According to Questor <usenet@only.tnx>:

> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:

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>> the time that Bill Gates took over the control of PC market from IBM?

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> tried to reign in control of the clone market by coming out with a proprietary  
> bus. (Was that EISA, or something else?

Microchannel for the PS/2. It was better than ISA but not enough better to  
pay license fees.

> Then around 1990 Microsoft did the rope-a-dope with IBM over their collaboration

> on the OS/2 operating system.

It was earlier than that. I was at IBM's 1984 PS/2 announcement event in Miami Beach, where I met Bill Gates in a bar the night before (he ignored me) and the evening's entertainment was the Beach Boys. At that point it was all about Microsoft OS/2, but it's clear that even then Bill was planning to put all the effort into Windows, not OS/2.

--

Regards,  
John Levine, johnl@taugh.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",  
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

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---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Dan Espen](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 02:08:39 GMT  
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usenet@only.tnx (Questor) writes:

> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:  
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> correct acronym.) Anyway, it was spurned by the industry and the clone makers  
> went right on doing their thing.

MCA - Micro Channel Architecture

This was to remove the restrictions on ISA which were supposedly unfixable. In short order EISA appeared and IBM's new cash cow the PS/2s started to lose market share.

> Then around 1990 Microsoft did the rope-a-dope with IBM over their collaboration  
> on the OS/2 operating system. They dragged their feet on their contribution to  
> the project while moving ahead with Windows 3.0 and then 3.1. I think there is  
> a chapter about this in:  
>  
> Big Blues: The Unmaking of IBM  
> Paul Carroll  
> 1993; Crown Publishing Group  
>  
> This is part of what eventually killed WordPerfect, who placed their bets on

> OS/2.

The culture clash between IBM and MSFT developers must have been epic.

I remember reading that IBM wanted it's mainframe graphics architecture GDDM to be used in OS/2. I can just imagine the MSFT guys reading up on GDDM.

--

Dan Espen

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 03:12:02 GMT

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On 2021-12-02, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 20:45:25 GMT

> usenet@only.tnx (Questor) wrote:

>

>> It wasn't all Microsoft. IBM shot themselves in the foot in the '80s

>

> by tripping over the shotgun while bolting them door on the empty

> stable ...

Congratulations; you have won the Metaphor of the Day award.

>> when they tried to reign in control of the clone market

>

> ... to where the horses had long since bolted and were temporarily

> enjoying quality pasture with Compaq and endless acres of open scrub in

> China before mostly legging it off to the mega-livery yards Dell and HP.

>

> See Charlie he did mean reign :)

A horse is a hoarse? Off course, of coarse.

--

/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.

\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.

X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.

/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 03:14:08 GMT

On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 21:26:34 -0500

Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

> On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 17:48:50 -0500, J. Clarke wrote:

>>

>> Their big error with Microchannel IMO was that it addressed all the  
>> "issues" with ISA that IBM's engineers and technicians and managers  
>> cared about, but customers didn't care about things like "better  
>> grounding" and "not having to have an expensively trained technician  
>> add cards" and the like. They cared about whether it would run their  
>> workloads any faster and the answer was, in general, no.

>

> Wasn't MCA technically superior to ISA? From what I read is that MCA was  
> not compatible, so users has to buy new cards for PS/2 machines.

Yes to both - but the big killer was that manufacturers had to  
license MCA from IBM and it wasn't cheap to do so. Nearly all the clone  
makers looked at the license fee, the terms, the lack of ISA card support  
and decided their future lay elsewhere.

> The "alliance" of clone (Gang of Nine) manufacturers exploited it to  
> create EISA (Extended Industry Standard Architecture), which was  
> succeeded by PCI in 1993. According to Wikipedia:

Yep when it became obvious that IBM had a point and ISA was out of  
steam and that license fee was still there cooperation seemed like a good  
plan. There was VLB (Vesa Local Bus IIRC) somewhere in there, just before  
EISA IIRC (that's not a bus) and of course PCIe after PCI. I'm sure there's  
something coming soon PCIe's starting to feel long in the tooth - USB4 or  
USB5 probably going by the way that's cranking up speeds - system looking  
something like this at the chip/board level:

RAM <DDRn channel>|cache|<USBm> Peripherals  
RAM <DDRn channel>|cache|<USBm> Peripherals  
RAM <DDRn channel>|xCPUs|<USBm> Peripherals  
RAM <DDRn channel>|cache|<USBm> Peripherals  
RAM <DDRn channel>|cache|<USBm> Peripherals

Now anyone in the back who thinks it looks a tad familiar if you  
change the labels please keep quiet the kids think it's all new ideas.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 03:15:50 GMT  
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On Fri, 3 Dec 2021 01:45:07 -0000 (UTC)  
John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

> Microchannel for the PS/2. It was better than ISA but not enough better  
> to pay license fees.

The mouse and keyboard connector from the PS/2 did amazingly well  
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--  
Steve O'Hara-Smith  
Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

---

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [ted@loft.tnolan.com](mailto:ted@loft.tnolan.com) ( on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 04:50:35 GMT  
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In article <20211203031550.44462f4ace6a80493c927f6b@eircom.net>,  
Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Fri, 3 Dec 2021 01:45:07 -0000 (UTC)  
> John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:  
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>  
> --  
> Steve O'Hara-Smith  
> Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

I'm typing this on a keyboard with a PC style barrel connector,  
connected to a PC to PS/2 adaptor, connected to a PS/2 to USB adaptor...

--  
[columbiaclosings.com](http://columbiaclosings.com)  
What's not in Columbia anymore..

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 09:47:27 GMT  
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Originally posted by: Maus

On 2021-12-02, Questor <usenet@only.tnx> wrote:

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> bus. (Was that EISA, or something else? I'm getting a memory error on the  
> correct acronym.) Anyway, it was spurned by the industry and the clone makers  
> went right on doing their thing.

This was what I wanted to know, and there is very little about it. I  
remember that anyone who wanted to take the IBM route had to pay some  
money down, including (Bernie Sugar(sp?)) who resented it fiercely.  
Looking back, I wonder if os/2 was a sort of chromebook is some sort  
followup?

I suppose the IBM was conflicted between the Boca Raton branch, and  
their main business,

>  
> Then around 1990 Microsoft did the rope-a-dope with IBM over their collaboration  
> on the OS/2 operating system. They dragged their feet on their contribution to  
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--

greymausg@mail.com  
That's not a mousehole!

---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 11:47:40 GMT  
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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Fri, 03 Dec 2021 04:50:35 +0000, Ted Nolan <tednolan> wrote:

> In article <20211203031550.44462f4ace6a80493c927f6b@eircom.net>,  
> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:  
>> On Fri, 3 Dec 2021 01:45:07 -0000 (UTC)  
>> John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:  
>>  
>>> Microchannel for the PS/2. It was better than ISA but not enough  
>>> better to pay license fees.  
>>  
>> The mouse and keyboard connector from the PS/2 did amazingly well  
>> though. I still have a few adaptors to plug USB devices into them.  
>>  
>> --  
>> Steve O'Hara-Smith Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>  
>  
> I'm typing this on a keyboard with a PC style barrel connector,  
> connected to a PC to PS/2 adaptor, connected to a PS/2 to USB adaptor...

I'm typing this on a 1989 Model M keyboard, in daily use since November  
of that year. Plugged into a KVM that does good conversions.

--  
Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:  
<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Andreas Kohlbach](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 14:46:49 GMT  
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On Fri, 3 Dec 2021 03:14:08 +0000, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:  
>  
> On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 21:26:34 -0500  
> Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:  
>  
>> On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 17:48:50 -0500, J. Clarke wrote:  
>>>  
>>> Their big error with Microchannel IMO was that it addressed all the  
>>> "issues" with ISA that IBM's engineers and technicians and managers  
>>> cared about, but customers didn't care about things like "better  
>>> grounding" and "not having to have an expensively trained technician  
>>> add cards" and the like. They cared about whether it would run their  
>>> workloads any faster and the answer was, in general, no.  
>>  
>> Wasn't MCA technically superior to ISA? From what I read is that MCA was  
>> not compatible, so users has to buy new cards for PS/2 machines.



- >
- > Yes to both - but the big killer was that manufacturers had to
- > license MCA from IBM and it wasn't cheap to do so. Nearly all the clone
- > makers looked at the license fee, the terms, the lack of ISA card support
- > and decided their future lay elsewhere.

Interesting to see, how IBM could be so blind not to have forecasted this. OK, they did big business with large corporations before the birth of the IBM PC in 1981. But until the release of PS/2, six years passed. IMO enough time to gather some experience with small companies and the use in home offices.

Heck, IBM could even had asked Charlie Chaplin (or his look alike). He would have known better. ;-)

--

Andreas

---

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 14:53:04 GMT  
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On 3 Dec 2021 09:47:27 GMT  
Maus <Grey Maus@mail.com> wrote:

- > This was what I wanted to know, and there is very little about it. I
- > remember that anyone who wanted to take the IBM route had to pay some
- > money down, including (Bernie Sugar(sp?)) who resented it fiercely.
- > Looking back, I wonder if os/2 was a sort of chromebook is some sort
- > followup?

Nothing to do with OS/2 - what they had to pay for was the license to use the proprietary MCA bus which added a chunk onto the cost of a PC and without which you couldn't use PS/2 expansion cards. I think the license also came with strings because I don't recall seeing a dual bus machine.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith  
Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Robin Vowels](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 16:50:03 GMT  
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On Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 3:30:03 AM UTC+11, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT  
> Maus <Grey...@mail.com> wrote:  
>  
>> Would anyone recommend a book (Kindle if possible) or article about  
>> the time that Bill Gates took over the control of PC market from IBM?  
> He never did.  
>  
> IBM lost the PC market to the clone makers not to Microsoft it was  
> and is a completely open market now dominated by Dell. The PC clones slowly  
> but surely killed off every other hardware architecture so that now apart  
> from tablets, netbooks and Z-series mainframes everything is essentially a  
> PC from laptops to rack mount servers by way of blades.  
>  
> What Microsoft did was take control of the PC operating system  
> market by pushing Windows (3.1 IIRC) on everyone and forcing a shift away  
> from DOS applications.

..  
IBM and Microsoft were working in a co-operative venture,  
that enabled OS/2 and Windows to be run on the same  
computer.

..  
IBM gave up on that venture after OS/2 Warp.

..  
DOS was still popular and in use long after windows 3.1

..  
I still use it, including with Windows 3.1 and Word 1.1a.

..  
> That was done by giving PC vendors a huge discount  
> on the Windows license (one told me they paid £5 per machine when at the  
> time buying your own copy cost £200) provided they installed it on \*every\*  
> machine they sold. They coupled this with dropping the DOS versions of all  
> their applications and of course making Windows non too good at running  
> most of the DOS applications around because nearly all of them bypassed DOS  
> and BIOS to get performance.

>  
> By the time they got their wrists slapped for it the damage was  
> done - Microsoft owned the PC operating system market - just in time to  
> destroy DesqView-X which could run multiple DOS and Windows applications  
> simultaneously - as well as WordPerfect which never made the transition to  
> Windows despite being dominant on DOS.

>  
> Microsoft didn't have any kind of competitor on the PC OS market

..  
There was OS/2 -- a far better OS than Windows.

..  
> until Linux came along which they actively tried to kill until they shifted  
> strategy and stopped caring about the PC OS market.

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 17:03:10 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On 2021-12-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Thu, 02 Dec 2021 21:26:34 -0500  
> Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:  
>  
>> Wasn't MCA technically superior to ISA? From what I read is that MCA was  
>> not compatible, so users has to buy new cards for PS/2 machines.  
>  
> Yes to both - but the big killer was that manufacturers had to  
> license MCA from IBM and it wasn't cheap to do so. Nearly all the clone  
> makers looked at the license fee, the terms, the lack of ISA card support  
> and decided their future lay elsewhere.

One exception I recall is Tandy / Radio Shack.  
I don't see much of them anymore...

--  
/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.  
\/ <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.  
X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.  
/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 19:00:22 GMT  
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Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:  
> On 3 Dec 2021 09:47:27 GMT, Maus wrote:  
>>  
>> On 2021-12-02, Questor <usenet@only.tnx> wrote:  
>>> On 29 Nov 2021 14:55:40 GMT, Maus <Greymaus@mail.com> wrote:  
>>>> Would anyone recommend a book (Kindle if possible) or article about  
>>>> the time that Bill Gates took over the control of PC market from IBM?  
>>>  
>>> It wasn't all Microsoft. IBM shot themselves in the foot in the '80s when they  
>>> tried to reign in control of the clone market by coming out with a proprietary  
>>> bus. (Was that EISA, or something else? I'm getting a memory error on the  
>>> correct acronym.) Anyway, it was spurned by the industry and the clone makers  
>>> went right on doing their thing.  
>>  
>> This was what I wanted to know, and there is very little about it. I  
>> remember that anyone who wanted to take the IBM route had to pay some  
>> money down, including (Bernie Sugar(sp?)) who resented it fiercely.

>> Looking back, I wonder if os/2 was a sort of chromebook is some sort  
>> followup?  
>  
> I don't have the feeling of a Chromebook with OS/2. My first PC came with  
> Windows 95, and a computer store sold off OS/2 Warp 3 (or was it  
> 4?). They had like 50 packages stapled somewhere on the floor. I guess I  
> was one of the few to pick one up. It just felt like "another Windows" to  
> me.

When OS/2 was in it's death throes IBM came out with "Workspace on Demand" (WSOD) that was sort of like Chrome or an XTerm where your customized OS/2 was downloaded to whatever machine you logged on to.

>  
> ..  
>  
> At home I managed to kill the existing Windows 95. I had no boot disk and  
> the CD-ROM (or the Windows installation CD itself) had no autoboot. I  
> called a friend if he could create an MS-DOS boot disk for me. But "he  
> was too busy". So I went to a small local computer store and asked the  
> guy to create one. He asked for the equivalent of \$5 today! SOAB! But I  
> needed Windows 95 back, so I paid. Never went to that shop again.  
>

Cut the storeowner some slack, he has to make a living.

I never used windows myself until XP. I went right from DOS to OS/2, and compared to OS/2, all versions of windows were cr@p.

--  
Pete

---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 20:22:50 GMT  
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On Fri, 03 Dec 2021 09:46:49 -0500  
Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

> Interesting to see, how IBM could be so blind not to have forecasted  
> this. OK, they did big business with large corporations before the birth  
> of the IBM PC in 1981.

I think that's the point. IBM were never really a hardware company they provided hardware and software as part of a package that included the up front consultancy and ongoing support. The main business was in the service contracts, training courses, media and stationary supplies, forward

planning consultancy and any other ongoing contracts they could find to sell once they had a customer on the hook.

The PC was supposed to fit into this like the phone systems and tape storage racks. It worked for a bit but then customers started to buy clones instead (first as well) because they were cheaper and faster and in the shop round the corner. Even when they had real PCs supplied by IBM they kept putting competitor's expansion cards and drives in rather than let their IBM rep tell them what to buy as normal.

The PS/2 was an attempt to fix this - IBM didn't care much about the mass market but their captive market was finding out that there was more to the world than IBM ... not good from IBM's perspective. So enter the PS/2, make the bus expensive so their won't be much competition for the expansion cards or the machines then our customers will have to buy from us to get the real IBM experience that they can't get elsewhere. OK that didn't quite go as planned - try something else ...

... which worked out a treat in the end, they still have the Z-series market working just the way they want it and they even got some dosh out of Lenovo for that pesky PC business.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith  
Odds and Ends at <http://www.sohara.org/>

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 21:58:14 GMT  
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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Fri, 03 Dec 2021 08:50:03 -0800, Robin Vowels wrote:

- > IBM and Microsoft were working in a co-operative venture, that enabled
- > OS/2 and Windows to be run on the same computer.
- > .
- > IBM gave up on that venture after OS/2 Warp.

It wasn't co-operative. Microsoft hated it.

Steve Ballmer was quoted as saying that if IBM got Windows running inside OS/2, he'd eat a floppy disk.

IBM did it, but Steve reneged. IBM distributed free chocolate floppy disks on a number of occasions.

The last IBM version of OS/2 (which I have) supported Windows 3.1 programs. Even some Win32 ones - I have my Palm Pilot software running nicely.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:  
<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [ted@loft.tnolan.com](mailto:ted@loft.tnolan.com) ( on Fri, 03 Dec 2021 23:24:34 GMT  
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In article <j0vi7mFhvioU9@mid.individual.net>,  
Bob Eager <news0009@eager.cx> wrote:  
> On Fri, 03 Dec 2021 08:50:03 -0800, Robin Vowels wrote:  
>  
>> IBM and Microsoft were working in a co-operative venture, that enabled  
>> OS/2 and Windows to be run on the same computer.  
>> .  
>> IBM gave up on that venture after OS/2 Warp.  
>  
> It wasn't co-operative. Microsoft hated it.  
>  
> Steve Ballmer was quoted as saying that if IBM got Windows running inside  
> OS/2, he'd eat a floppy disk.  
>  
> IBM did it, but Steve reneged. IBM distributed free chocolate floppy  
> disks on a number of occasions.  
>  
> The last IBM version of OS/2 (which I have) supported Windows 3.1  
> programs. Even some Win32 ones - I have my Palm Pilot software running  
> nicely.  
>

I drove up to a Bank of America (or whatever it was called then)  
ATM that was rebooting after a thunderstorm once, and it was OS/2.

Only time I ever saw a copy..

--

columbiaclosings.com  
What's not in Columbia anymore..

---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [ted@loft.tnolan.com](#) ( on Sat, 04 Dec 2021 06:01:53 GMT  
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In article <soefiq\$sst\$1@dont-email.me>,  
Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:  
> On 12/2/2021 10:50 PM, Ted Nolan <tednolan> wrote:  
>  
>> I'm typing this on a keyboard with a PC style barrel connector,  
>> connected to a PC to PS/2 adaptor, connected to a PS/2 to USB adaptor...  
>>  
> Oy veh, potential failure point stacked upon failure point. Everything  
> I ever did that involved stacked adaptors.

Plugged into a dual KVM switch..  
--  
columbiaclosings.com  
What's not in Columbia anymore..

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2021 15:35:00 GMT  
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Originally posted by: Kurt Weiske

To: Andreas Kohlbach  
=> Andreas Kohlbach wrote to alt.folklore.computers <=-

AK> Cannot remember what ports a desktop had (my last desktop; switched to  
AK> notebooks thereafter) I bought late 1999. A 56.000 baud modem was  
AK> plugged into one of these - probably serial, and PS/2 faded into  
AK> history already.

Most only had an AT-style keyboard port. All of the other ports were on add-on cards.

I had an AT; it had a ISA multi-IO card with 2 serial, one parallel and one game port. Video was on a separate card. If you had a bus mouse or a proprietary CD-ROM, they had their own card. Ditto for sound.

The hard disk controller was also on a card, first MFM using two ribbon cables and later 40-pin ATA ribbon cables. Kids these days don't know how easy they've got it with regards to cable management. :)

kurt weiske | kweiske at realitycheckbbs dot org  
| <http://realitycheckbbs.org>  
| 1:218/700@fidonet



--- MultiMail/DOS v0.52  
--- Synchronet 3.19a-Win32 NewsLink 1.113  
\* realitycheckBBS - Aptos, CA - telnet://realitycheckbbs.org

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2021 14:18:39 GMT  
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On Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 1:43:00 PM UTC-7, Questor wrote:

> It wasn't all Microsoft. IBM shot themselves in the foot in the '80s when they  
> tried to reign in control of the clone market by coming out with a proprietary  
> bus. (Was that EISA, or something else? I'm getting a memory error on the  
> correct acronym.)

No; ISA was the original bus of the AT, and EISA was the alternative to the proprietary bus used by IBM in the PS/2. Which didn't have an acronym, it was just called the Micro Channel bus.

John Savard

---

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2021 15:38:50 GMT  
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---

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Thu, 9 Dec 2021 06:18:39 -0800 (PST), Quadibloc <[jsavard@ecn.ab.ca](mailto:jsavard@ecn.ab.ca)> wrote:

> On Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 1:43:00 PM UTC-7, Questor wrote:  
>  
>> It wasn't all Microsoft. IBM shot themselves in the foot in the '80s when they  
>> tried to reign in control of the clone market by coming out with a proprietary  
>> bus. (Was that EISA, or something else? I'm getting a memory error on the  
>> correct acronym.)  
>  
> No; ISA was the original bus of the AT, and EISA was the alternative to the  
> proprietary bus used by IBM in the PS/2. Which didn't have an acronym, it  
> was just called the Micro Channel bus.

Most of us called it "MCA". IBM didn't officially because the Music Corporation of America got snotty about it--I once got a cease and

desist letter from them over posting on either USENET or CompuServe. I told them that if they wanted to sue me I would save them the trouble and that they should let me know where to send the two pairs of torn jeans, 5 stained t-shirts, 8 pairs of of used underwear, and the worn out sneakers, but that if they wanted the beat-up tomcat they were going to have to arrange transportation. I continued using "MCA" and never heard another peep out of them.

>  
> John Savard

---

---

Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 2021 16:17:00 GMT  
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Originally posted by: Kurt Weiske

To: Quadibloc  
==> Quadibloc wrote to alt.folklore.computers <=-

Qu> No; ISA was the original bus of the AT, and EISA was the alternative to  
Qu> the proprietary bus used by IBM in the PS/2. Which didn't have an  
Qu> acronym, it was just called the Micro Channel bus.

I heard MCA a lot - Micro Channel Architecture.

I worked for a large retail/mail order company back in 1991 as an IT "Generalist" and the shop was all IBM, from the token ring network to 2 S/38s and 2 AS/400s, PS/2 model 60s for admin users and 80s for power users. IBM 4019 laser printers. The IBM reps referred to MCA a lot.

Oddly enough, I went to work in local government in 2016. The raised floor server room was still there and you could see the outlines where the midrange iron used to be, now filled with racks of intel servers. In the corner was the last remaining AS/400, and next to it was a PS/2 model 80, Model M keyboard, IBM ball mouse, 8514 VGA monitor and a 4019 laser printer - they kept it around with an external tape drive to pull data from AS/400 backups. The kit looked like the same one I had used 25 years earlier.

kurt weiske | kweiske at realitycheckbbs dot org  
| <http://realitycheckbbs.org>  
| 1:218/700@fidonet

.... Always the first steps  
--- MultiMail/DOS v0.52  
--- Synchronet 3.19a-Win32 NewsLink 1.113  
\* realitycheckBBS - Aptos, CA - telnet://realitycheckbbs.org

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Subject: Re: IBM2Dos  
Posted by [Jan van den Broek](#) on Fri, 10 Dec 2021 12:12:20 GMT  
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3 Dec 2021 23:24:34 GMT  
ted@loft.tnolan.com (Ted Nolan <tednolan>) schrieb:

[Schnipp]

> I drove up to a Bank of America (or whatever it was called then)  
> ATM that was rebooting after a thunderstorm once, and it was OS/2.

At a ppoe (fifteen years ago), we sold network-equipment which ran on OS/2, very stable, but we weren't allowed to tell the clients that it wasn't a Windows-machine.

--

A tuna is a way of Liff

Jan v/d Broek  
balglaas@xs4all.nl

---