Originally posted by: vallor

Thought I'd better introduce myself:

I was in the USCG in the 80's, and we used the Convergent
Technologies Operating System (CTOS), which became _BTOS_
(Burroughs)(that is to say, Unisys) while I was in the service.
I was the ship's "systems manager".

CTOS was a message-passing microkernel OS that had almost
transparent access to some devices over the network. The shell
on it was the "Executive", where the user would fill out
a form with all of a command's options, then hit a special
"go" button on the keyboard. I thought that was a great interface.

And it was a great operating system, ahead of its time in a lot
of ways. They wrote it in assembly: I believe the source files
were entitled "Project Olympia".

Does this even count as computer folklore? The processors
they used in the New Generation (NGEN) CTOS/BTOS workstations
were a bit unusual: 80186's.

--
-Scott Doty
vallor@vallor.earth
(my email address does work)

Originally posted by: gareth evans

On 24/03/2023 08:46, vallor wrote:
>
> Does this even count as computer folklore? The processors
> they used in the New Generation (NGEN) CTOS/BTOS workstations
> were a bit unusual: 80186's.

30 years ago I was part of the design team of a PABX that
used the 80186, the Interconnect Ltd I3000.

Subject: Re: CTOS/BTOS
Posted by Anonymous on Fri, 24 Mar 2023 22:48:38 GMT

Originally posted by: drb

> CTOS was a message-passing microkernel OS that had almost
 > transparent access to some devices over the network. The shell
 > on it was the "Executive", where the user would fill out
 > a form with all of a command's options, then hit a special
 > "go" button on the keyboard. I thought that was a great interface.

There's a fellow, AJ Palmgren, who has attended the VCFmw show several
times who has a number of these and has been working to sort out various
problems and learn about them. He has a youtube channel here:

https://www.youtube.com/@ConvergentMightyFrame/featured

De

Subject: Re: CTOS/BTOS
Posted by Anonymous on Sat, 25 Mar 2023 08:20:56 GMT

Originally posted by: vallor

On Fri, 24 Mar 2023 22:48:38 +0000, Dennis Boone wrote:

>> CTOS was a message-passing microkernel OS that had almost
>> transparent access to some devices over the network. The shell on it
>> was the "Executive", where the user would fill out a form with all of
>> a command's options, then hit a special "go" button on the keyboard.
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>
> https://www.youtube.com/@ConvergentMightyFrame/featured
>
> De

Thank you for the pointer, I've subscribed to his
channel. :)

--
-v

Subject: Re: CTOS/BTOS
Posted by Anonymous on Mon, 10 Apr 2023 19:45:30 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Originally posted by: Timothy McCaffrey

> On Fri, 24 Mar 2023 22:48:38 +0000, Dennis Boone wrote:
>
>>> CTOS was a message-passing microkernel OS that had almost
>>> transparent access to some devices over the network. The shell on it
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>>> a command's options, then hit a special "go" button on the keyboard.
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>>
>> De
> Thank you for the pointer, I've subscribed to his
> channel. :)
>
> --
> -v

That is a the Convergent Unix (nee CTIX) system, not CTOS (and I think it used 68000s, not
8086s).
I think you could hook up CTOS systems to CTIX and have the CTIX systems provide services to
the CTOS systems, but I never had the "pleasure" of working with CTIX (although we did have
several at one point).

I worked with BTOS systems quite a bit, 30+ years ago. When they switched to protected mode
they (Convergent) made some really iffy design decisions that badly affected some aspects of the
performance.

I think the original OS was written in PL/M. It may have been ported to C later on when they
moved
up to the 386 & 32 bit.

  - Tim