

From: TLE::DECWET::CUTLER "10-Jun-1988 0639" 10-JUN-1988 10:07  
To: TLE::NYLANDER  
Subj: Happy Confusion

Its happy confusion. We got the cost data from Keating and have integrated into the financial analysis.

For your information, I have come up with yet another idea on how to provide UN\*X support on PRISM. The new idea integrates UN\*X back into Mica, but rather than being at the command execution level it is at the program execution level.

You link a program to run with UN\*X system services or Mica system services. When you run it, the image activator does some magic during process startup that makes it so you can only execute those services that are provided by the particular environment.

We would provide a thick layer for UN\*X system services directly in kernel mode. This layer would execute Mica system services and directly call other executive components to implement directly the UN\*X operating system abstractions.

Your job gets easier.

ALL Digital layered products would run in the Mica enviroment!

We just have to make sure we can invoke them from the various command interpreters.

We still have to do the common runtime support for the UN\*X enviroment but it is only the runtime support for compiled code. We do not have to be able to run the layered products in the UN\*X environment unless the product is a support library.

When you link a program you specify which environment you would like it to run in. That selects the correct library to link against.

Once the image activator has done its thing, you can only execute your particular environments system services.

Shared files, byte stream I/O, process groups, ad nauseum becomes the problem of the UN\*X system service layer.

I think it is EXTREMELY important for us to have OSF compliance directly on Mica. That's why my brain is burning. This would remove Strecker's concern about Mica being only a proprietary OS that doesn't address OSF. It should fix some of Heffner's doubts.

I know there are a lot of fuzzy details on the edges like error messages, etc. but I don't think they're any worse than we had with the dual system strategy.

I hope you are receptive to this idea.

I believe I've got to pull someting like this out of the bag so that we can keep our efforts going. OSF is one of the top managements current buzz words. We'll got to comfort them (the lousy bastards).

d