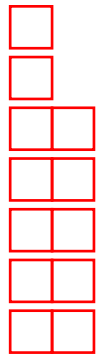




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Microsoft Answers Critics

No IP Restrictions in Windows NT Workstation 4.0

7/19/96 -- Following rising criticism from customers and ISVs of planned limitations on TCP/IP clients of Windows NT Workstation 4.0, Microsoft will be issuing a statement that it will not include the restriction in the shipping version of the operating system.

For months, Microsoft had been discussing the limit of ten IP connections to an NT Workstation in the upcoming 4.0 version, for which the second release candidate shipped to developers this week. Under the plan for the limit, the workstation would reject connections after ten prior connections had been established within a 10-minute period.

According to Microsoft representatives, the plan was not well-received by many customers. Internet server software vendors expressed concern, some publicly. They would have been put at a disadvantage by this restriction, which would have made it impractical to run a Web server on NT Workstation 4.0. Customers buying NT Server to avoid the limit would also get Microsoft's Internet Information Server, which is bundled with NT Server, further putting third-party Web servers at a competitive disadvantage.

Tim O'Reilly, president of O'Reilly and Associates and publisher of WebSite and WebSite Professional, said, "This move by Microsoft will hurt the efforts of Internet service providers, Web developers, and intranet developers, a great many of whom have been happy to create sites on NT Workstation." Ben Horowitz, senior product manager at Netscape, agreed: "Microsoft is removing functionality from NT Workstation 3.51 to NT 4.0. This is bad news for NT Workstation customers."

Since the decision to remove the limitation was made after the shipment

of Release Candidate 2, that version contains the code which restricts TCP/IP connections. Thus it is likely that further candidates will be necessary.-- *Larry Seltzer*

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