

Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-08/msg07737.html>

- *From:* "Robert Moir" <robspamtrap+msnews@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 13 Aug 2005 13:42:23 +0100
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All Things Mopar wrote:

- > Writing software is a business, where the intent is to make
- > money. Testing and fixing bugs costs money that can better be
- > spent on new features. So, compromises are frequently made
- > when quality problems become obvious. Maybe nobody sets out to
- > design bad code, but "management" certainly condones it by
- > making an economic judgement /not/ to fix things that are
- > obviously broken if they at all think they can get away with
- > it. If 100 million users showed up at MS's HQ in Redmond with
- > their CD in hand demanding a refund, you can bet your ass
- > there'd be some changes made in the debugging process!

And what would the 100 million users say when the price of Windows changed to reflect the costs of the new engineering standards required of it?

<http://www.fastcompany.com/online/06/writestuff.html>

A very interesting article, but reflect on the differences in the engineering philosophy and the costs of applying that to a big project such as Windows.

Also we have to accept that the market drives the need for commercial shrinkwrap software. You say you want perfection, we all do for sure, and yet millions of people buy software that isn't perfect, and being 2nd to market with a perfect product while someone with a product that is simply "good enough" eats your lunch can kill your company stone dead.

- > If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. Whether
- > software developers personally, or robber baron bastards like
- > Bill Gates like it or not, there is /never/ an excuse for
- > /knowingly/ producing and selling defective code, nor in
- > charging a fee for trying to get it to work.

I've never been charged by Apple or Microsoft for a bug fix.

- > It /is/ possible

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- > to automate regression testing, and it /is/ possible to buy
- > the various hardware and software you purport to support, and
- > test your own code, and testing /does/ uncover bugs.

You are aware that Microsoft already do this, right?

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Rob Moir

Website – <http://www.robertmoir.co.uk>

Virtual PC 2004 FAQ – <http://www.robertmoir.co.uk/win/VirtualPC2004FAQ.html>

Kazaa – Software update services for your Viruses and Spyware.

• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: All Things Mopar
- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: Don Taylor

• **References:**

- ◆ **Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: NoStop
- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: Alpha
- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: Alpha
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- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: All Things Mopar
- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: Robert Moir
- ◆ **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
 ◇ From: All Things Mopar

- Prev by Date: **Re: Recycle Bin Error—"Cannot delete file; cannot read from the so**
- Next by Date: **RE: Removing USB causes PC Crash (BSOD)**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
- Next by thread: **Re: Demand That 'Microsoft Sell No Code Before Its Time'**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**