

The New OS/2 Rumours Could Be Interesting

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Some rumours have emerged that IBM is considering an OS/2 comeback and I'm filled with the same mixed feelings that always emerge whenever the subject is raised. Would I want OS/2 back on my desktop now? Not really. Have these rumours got me a bit excited? Absolutely. In fact, I'm willing to take a guess about what the new OS/2 might be.

I'll go out on a limb and say that the chances of IBM recommitting to classic OS/2 are close to zero. Like a lot of great systems of the 1990s, such as the Amiga or NEXT, OS/2 would look laughably out of date now next to, say, the latest KDE or Windows Vista. A lot of its advantages, such as its industry leading DOS support, are irrelevant and most of its other cool features have been equalled or superseded in later systems. In my opinion, ex-users tend to view the user interface through rose tinted glasses. It was good, for the time, but I wouldn't want to give up niceties such as my modern file manager in KDE to return to what OS/2 had.

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