All I can say is holy API batman... I'm not kidding... we are talking about literally 500-800 APIs here, no joke... all of layers, all of .map, etc and there is virtually no documentation on these right now. It means it will be literally many many man months to get this done and all with no resources allocated to do this.

Paulma, is this what we really want to? It will not be a whitepaper, but a very large whitebook.

Now this may sound horrible, but:

1.) We'll document, but we WILL NOT encourage, and in fact, we'll aggressively discourage any use of these interfaces by ISVs (and won't be talking about them); and,

2.) Remember we are not going to stick this doc into a book or even an SDK box. It will be written up as a whitepaper and "inserted" into the MSDN CD-ROM containing hundreds of Meg of other tech notes. It will be very "low profile", but it will provide enough "air-cover" for us to say they are documented.

This is what I'm afraid we need to do. Paul?
schr, but I think there is a global question that needs to get
answered first and that is just what exactly are we going to doc? There
are 100s of layers calls, 100s of mapi calls, etc etc and I think it is a
real waste of time to spend the huge $s of man hours will take to do these. So
what is the answer, I took a stab at it below but heard nothing back...

Here is the mail I sent earlier:

From: Brian Valentine
To: rsega, mikesart, nick, todd
Cc: dougie, jonkauf, susan
Subject: BR: Hidden books for Beyond

I want us to be very very clear here on what is going on, else we are
going to dig ourselves a hole and be screwed for the future. What
understand as to what we are doing as far as the white paper is
doc'ing undocumented apis that apps may be using. Well since mail
and schr are in the OS, they are not apps. So I don't see any
reason to do anything... Word, excel, PPT, project, et al just use simple
mapi to add the send on their menu, they don't use anything else.
I can see a nice well organized white paper that talks about using
simple mapi and how to mail enable apps, etc etc, but I don't see
it.

doc'ing ANY store, address book, etc apis.

Granted there are literally 1000s of apis that deal with the mapi
file, that deal with address book, etc etc, but we SHOULD NOT
publish these. Nobody is using them except for mail and schr. We don't
publish all the internal windows apis or data file formats, just
the ones that apps have used, so we need to make sure that we are in
line on exactly what rick's paper is going to be.

Just talk about simple mapi and capi is all we should do.

comments?

From: Cameron Myhrvold
To: brianv, dougie, johhu, rsega
Cc: jerry, john, mark, nick
Subject: RE: documenting mapi calls
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 1992 09:42am

Paula thinks we have to document the bullet and bandit stuff.

Daniel has committed. I do not know
timeframes, but clearly there is big exposure with guys like
Andrew Seulman running around. If we do not
do this expeditiously we lose the value of doing it at all.

Brian, Rick, when do we think this will be completed?

Cam