

## Re: what's a callback?

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.arch.embedded/2004-12/1280.html>

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"Frank Bemelman" <[f.bemelmanq@xs4all.invalid.nl](mailto:f.bemelmanq@xs4all.invalid.nl)> wrote

> *You obviously never looked at a typical Linux distribution that*

> *comes on 4 CD's. Or what about 8 CD's and a DVD:*

>

[http://store.mandrakesoft.com/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=166&osCsid=7f8b48da611942205d5bf4553185534d](http://store.mandrakesoft.com/product_info.php?products_id=166&osCsid=7f8b48da611942205d5bf4553185534d)

That's because you get all the source code and about 3000 other applications as well. You should download a Knoppix live cd and see what comes packed on that. You just stick it in your drive and boot it. It detects all your hardware on the fly at boot time, no installation required.

> *A complete WIN98SE installation directory is 109MB.*

A fresh install of XP with a copy of Office is about 3GB, that's a bit fat don't you think?

> > *One does NOT need hundreds of megabytes for a GUI based desktop*

> > *userinterface. Also look at RiscOS 3.11 that was available on a*

>

> *No, but it comes as hundreds of megabytes these days, because there*

> *is little reason to squeeze it in less. What I remember from ~10 years*

> *back is that windows 3.x came on a bunch of floppies. That were*

> *perhaps 20 floppies or 30MB. Those were also the days that you really*

That's just plain wrong, Win 3.11 came on 6 floppies. It literally boots in about 2 seconds on anything faster than 200Mhz, I really need to dig out that old 40MB drive and try it on my p4 now. ;-)

Gem desktop ran on an 8088, loaded up quick and gave me a high-res desktop with task switching. It was allot better than Win286. AIR, it came on 1 5.25" floppy.

> *ran out of memory or disk space, if you were careless. Today I don't*

> *bother about it all. I save/keep everything, even emails that have*

> *megabyte attachments. It is not that it is a lost art or something,*

comp.arch.embedded: Re: what's a callback?

- > *for instance PocketPC Windows doesn't take up that much space either.*
- >
- > *My point is that the argument that Windows is 'bloated' doesn't hold.*
- > *I bet that there are more PIC's running (relative) bloated code than*
- > *PC's. Programmers at Microsoft aren't that stupid.*

Yes they are, but it's not about stupidity. It's about selling stuff. It's just simple collusion between the hardware makers and MS. Why do you think Intel pushes software based hardware (printers, modems, sound cards, etc...)? HP needs at least four background start-up tasks just to run a printer as well as the driver. It's just to make sure you want something faster. OEMS preload so much junk onto new machines that they are crawling right out of the box. What about the fact that Excel contained a full 3D flight simulator game easter-egg? How can that not qualify as bloat?

- > *But I could be wrong about all that. My buggiest application is Protel.*
- > *It is full of bugs. That said, I find it a brilliant piece of software.*
- >
- > *[snip]*
- >
- > > *The expectation that one needs multi-megabyte applications, that has*
- > > *been created largely by Microsoft is actually holding things up*
- > *these*
- >
- > *I don't look at the size of an application to judge it's value. Who*
- > *knows*
- > *what's in there, or wants to know.*

You should, if you put personal information into it.

- > > *days. Today's hardware, with apps written a bit better would be*
- > > *unbelievably fast.*
- >
- > *Yes, and nobody seems to be able to deliver. Have you tried*
- > *open-office ?*
- > *Last time I checked, their spreadsheet was about 5 times slower than*
- > *an*
- > *older version of Excel (2000).*

It's written in Java, what would you expect? It also didn't cost hundreds of millions of dollars to develop. Have you tried the latest version of Excel? I promise you that it loads whole lot slower than the 2000 version. Maybe if you press the right keys and click in the right spots, you can get "Monster Truck Madness" to play. Perhaps even HALO-2 will be available after the install of the next MS Office Service Pack.  
;-)

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- > *But here is a great oppertunity for you. You only have to write it a*
- > *'bit' better.*