

IBM CLOUD

CLOUD COMPUTING

PRIVATE CLOUD

This one comes from the wacky files: Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is calling on IBM to release the source code for its OS/2 operating system so that users will have a "viable" alternative to Windows. Nader, who knows as much about computers as I do



**Paul Thurrott**  
June 9, 1998

1 Min Read

**IT Pro**

This one comes from the wacky files: Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is calling on IBM to release the source code for its OS/2 operating system so that users will have a "viable" alternative to Windows. Nader, who knows as much about computers as I do about Corvairs, seems to think that IBM can follow Netscape's lead and gain back marketshare by giving away its technological crown jewels. IBM, which once positioned OS/2 as a "better Windows than Windows," has since backed off on promoting the operating system as sales fell through the floor. At this time, it's not compatible with any Windows operating system made after 1991.

"We wouldn't give away [the OS/2 source code]," said Stephanie Rasmussen, a spokesperson for IBM. "We've invested a lot of money into OS/2 and it's a product we continue to sell to our customers today."

Well, sort of. OS/2 has changed dramatically over the past few years and is now targeted as a server connected to Web terminals. IBM isn't even trying to sell the OS to consumers anymore.

"We don't see the natural order of things being that everyone gets their OS from Microsoft, especially with all the alternatives that are out there," said Nader crony James Love, director of the Consumer Project on Technology. "People do have choices, and they do have to be asked why they believe they can only buy a computer with Windows on it."

Because we want to run software, James, that's why

## About the Author



Paul Thurrott

Paul Thurrott is senior technical analyst for *Windows IT Pro*. He writes the [SuperSite for Windows](#), a weekly editorial for [Windows IT Pro UPDATE](#), and a daily Windows news and information newsletter called [WinInfo Daily UPDATE](#).

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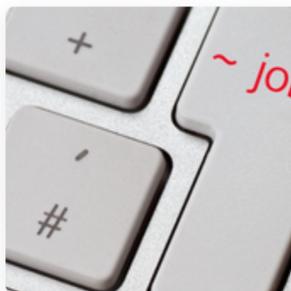
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**DISASTER RECOVERY**

The illustration depicts a man in a yellow shirt and blue pants holding a clipboard and pointing towards a large yellow checklist. The checklist has five items, each with a red checkmark. Surrounding the checklist are several circular icons representing different types of disasters: a blue envelope with a red exclamation mark, a red biohazard symbol, a yellow flame, a red padlock, a red laptop with a red exclamation mark and symbols, and a black silhouette of a person carrying a bag of money. The background is a dark purple with a large red briefcase on the left.

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**POWERSHELL**

# Types of PowerShell Environment Variables

The infographic is set against a dark blue background with a geometric pattern of white lines. It features three main colored boxes: a blue box for 'SYSTEM', a green box for 'USER', and an orange box for 'PROCESS'. Each box has a corresponding icon at the top: a computer monitor for System, a person silhouette for User, and three interlocking gears for Process. The text is white and black, providing a high-contrast, professional look.

- SYSTEM**
  - Applies to the entire operating system.
  - Stores critical information like the system path or the location of system directories.
  - Accessible by all users and processes.
- USER**
  - Applies only to the specific user.
  - Stores only personal settings, such as the home directory or user-specific application paths.
- PROCESS**
  - Created and used by individual processes.
  - Temporary and specific to the process that created them.
  - Removed when the process ends.

ITPro Today

## Introduction To PowerShell Environment Variables

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**MAY 15, 2025**

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