

# An insight into the Windows 95 startup sound

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Doo, dudududingggggg.... ding.... ding... ding...

In an interview with Joel Selvin at the San Francisco Chronicle, Brian Eno explains.

Q: How did you come to compose “The Microsoft Sound”?

A: The idea came up at the time when I was completely bereft of ideas. I’d been working on my own music for a while and was quite lost, actually. And I really appreciated someone coming along and saying, “Here’s a specific problem — solve it.”

The thing from the agency said, “We want a piece of music that is inspiring, universal, blah-blah, da-da-da, optimistic, futuristic, sentimental, emotional,” this whole list of adjectives, and then at the bottom it said “and it must be 3 1/4 seconds long.”

I thought this was so funny and an amazing thought to actually try to make a little piece of music. It’s like making a tiny little jewel.

In fact, I made 84 pieces. I got completely into this world of tiny, tiny little pieces of music. I was so sensitive to microseconds at the end of this that it really broke a logjam in my own work. Then when I’d finished that and I went back to working with pieces that were like three minutes long, it seemed like oceans of time.

The Windows 95 CD contained extra multimedia toss-ins. The ones I remember are a cartoon or two by Bill Plympton, a Weezer music video, and music video of Edie Brickell singing *Good Times*.

For some reason, everybody wanted to know the artist from the *Good Times* video. Nobody was interested in the artists who did any of the other stuff. (Okay, probably nobody asked about Weezer because, well, that’s the group right there in the filename.)

Hint: Right-click and select Properties. That will tell you the artist.

Oh, and the question nobody asked but I’m going to answer it anyway: The composer of the Windows 95 Easter Egg theme is Brian Orr. Here’s his story of how it came to be.

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