From: Stephen Parrott
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 7:42pm
Subject: MS penalty

Your proposed penalties of Microsoft aren't nearly enough to restore competitiveness! Microsoft has been found guilty, and I as a consumer and as a taxpayer expect appropriate action from the government. However, what I see is an apparent decision to move on to other things, and do whatever you can to settle this quickly. Don't do this! The computer industry is important to the American economy, and far too important to leave to Microsoft's domination!

I have watched Microsoft since the 1980's, and I firmly believe their business practices have caused a lot of harm to the software industry, and to me as a consumer. What no one knows, and what I can only imagine, is what the software world would be today if Microsoft hadn't put so many competitors out of business. Would we have Windows if Apple hadn't developed the Mac system? Would we have Excel without Lotus 1-2-3? Internet Explorer without Netscape? The list goes on for most all of Microsoft products. Without the other companies, Microsoft would have had no ideas to copy from, and in addition very little reason to innovate. Now that these other companies have become minor players, they aren't able or willing to commit major resources to development.

Microsoft claims innovation, but has only displayed innovation when it comes to using their software to achieve business goals. Innovation for providing truly better software is left to people outside Microsoft; when a successful improvement emerges then Microsoft takes it.

I want the justice department to take the responsibility of protecting a vital element of modern life, and the proposed settlement does not seem to do that. I don't want a facade; I want strong measures that truly level the playing field so that real competition thrives again in the software world. Come on guys, do your job!

Steve Parrott