From: Andreas Pleschutznig
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 1:38pm
Subject: Personal opinion to the Microsoft settlement

First I don't understand the thought process of why this half way solution of imposing some restriction on Microsoft is even thought about. Microsoft has shown in the past that they do not honor such restrictions or try to find a loophole, or turn the words until it suits their needs.

Secondly and even more important I don't understand the justice behind that. Here is someone has has been found guilty of a crime and still show no remorse and we do not punish them as the law would call for, but strike a weak deal with them. In the past the splitup of ATT was the best that could have happened to the customer because it reopened the market. My personal belief is that this should happen to Microsoft as this (the breakup) would force the Mini-MS companies to compete and thus have positive influence on the market.

Here is how I could imagine how the market could be made better:

Suppose Microsoft got broken into 2 or more companies which in my opinion could be

a) The OS (Windows) company
b) The Application company (Office, ...)

This would lead to the situation that the Office company would want to sell as many copies of their Software as possible, and thus they maight want to port their Software to other OS's. Since now Windows no longer has the advandage of being the only one that has this office suite they would have to compete in the open market with features, stability,... as they could no longer rely upon being the only one having this office suite.

Just my $0.02
Thanks

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