

From: Zackary D. Deems
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/5/01 5:01pm
Subject: What was the point?

I'm sorry, but after watching the court battle and knowing the DOJ had actually beaten Microsoft..I don't understand why you would give up. Microsoft wins. Microsoft gets a slap on the wrist. Microsoft continues to strongarm the general public and there's absolutely nothing we can do about it.

90% of people currently running windows 95, 98, ME, NT, or 2000, have absolutely NO real reason to upgrade to XP. none. Yet Microsoft is effectively forcing us to do so by de-supporting 95 and refusing to sell licenses to anything but XP. If I want to install ME on a new machine, I have to purchase an XP license first. If I want support, I'd better upgrade.

Innovation.. it's a nice big fat word that is the equivalent of "Taking what somebody else has done, making it slower, making it bigger, putting an MS logo on it, and making it completely incompatible with the original version." Your settlement manages to fill 21 pages with legal speak, but accomplishes absolutely nothing. I don't know if Bush instructed you to take whatever they offered in order to settle, but it reads like a self-imposed punishment from Microsoft. "Ok mommy, I promise to play nice and let the other boys use my toys.. as long as they give me their toys, but I want them back, and if they get one like mine, I get theirs too, because it's based on mine."

You left enough holes that *I* could find legal loopholes, and I'm no lawyer.

I certainly hope the states refuse to accept this settlement, because you basically wasted the country's time and money for three years in order to accomplish what had already been done.

Microsoft is busy positioning itself to cement its monopoly firmly in place, and extend it further into the internet realm, and all you can do is slap them on the wrist. You seem to have forgotten what the case was about to begin with.

Remember Netscape? That company that MS tried to drive into the ground by tying Internet Explorer with windows 98? The one seriously hurt by MS deciding to give away explorer, knowing that netscape had been making money on Navigator? Remember RealNetworks?

I don't care who places what icons where on the desktop. People who use the operating system long enough to learn it tend to ignore that stuff anyway, or delete it (which is what I do). Rather than following the

whole tying issue, you chose to ignore that and concentrate on a PRESENTATION issue. COME ON!

Who gets helped by allowing microsoft to prevent hardware makers from putting icons on the desktop if MS doesn't have a competing product? Certainly not the competitors.

At the moment, Microsoft has NO incentive to a) Write better software, b) fix the horribly insecure and buggy software they are currently selling, c) abide by your ruling, because they know that they're set for at least the next 8 years (assuming Bush gets reelected).

In other words, Microsoft gets to spend the next 8 years innovating themselves more firmly into an abusive situation.

By the way.. would you consider it an abuse on their part for them to.. embrace and extend.. the TCP/IP protocol.. which is what the internet is based upon.. allegedly in an effort to "Improve" the protocol.. only to make it so machines speaking THEIR version don't play as nice with traditional TCP/IP networks? You might want to look at their implementation in XP, because before long, they're going to be doing their best to force the non-XP computers off of the internet, because Unix, Mac, etc, all speak real TCP/IP.. but the billion+ computers running XP run MS's new TCP/IP variant.

Sounds like strongarming abuse to me.

But then again, you're busy slapping them on the wrist.

You failed. You did a horrible thing. I hope you look back in 10 years and read in the history books about how pointless you made this whole case. History will not be kind to you. For your sakes, I just hope it doesn't offer your specific names signed to the settlement. The country as a whole no longer has any faith in your abilities. You can't protect us from Anthrax, and you knowingly let a predator like Microsoft loose into the wild, after you had it locked firmly in a cage.

A writer for ZDNet was correct, it seems: A vote for Bush WAS a vote for Microsoft.

My condolences on your defeat.

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