

From: Tom Edwards
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:42am
Subject: Microsoft Case

This note is in response to an article I read on Excite.

I am in favor of the DOJ dismissing the Microsoft case in total and putting whatever pressure you can on the states to do likewise (i.e. tell them they will lose any appeals). Watered down penalties will create a lot more bureaucracy, but for no gain. Stiffer penalties designed to help Microsoft competitors will weaken Microsoft, but only add to the clutter on the other side. If the competitors had product with a clear advantage people would already be buying it. If they don't, they don't deserve being propped up by pulling Microsoft down. I see no real gain for the consumer. As for the competitors, I would love to have an alternative to Microsoft Windows that works well, doesn't glitch as often, and is more intuitive to operate. Maybe they should be spending their money on that instead of on lawyers!!!

I have been a PC user since 1978, starting with a Radio Shack TRS-80. Since that time I have always had a PC at home, trading up every 2-3 years. I currently have two PC's personally and am looking to buy a third. I also have a server and four other PC's that I co-own with a partner in my business. I am considered by all but "real power users" to be a power user. If the DOJ wants to do something for folks like me, you should look at software licenses, not just Microsoft. Once upon a time many software companies took the approach that you had to own enough licenses to make sure you never had more users using a piece of software than you have licenses. The industry is evolving, however, to an approach that says one license per machine. In my case, where I have multiple machines per user, that significantly increases my cost to own software that sits idle almost all the time. With a change in license policy, I could then buy Microsoft Office Professional for about \$600, install it on all three of my personal machines, and use it on the machine I want to at any given time. If my wife wanted to use it, I would have to make sure I wasn't using it at the same time or buy two copies. Either way, I wouldn't be stuck buying three. In the current environment and under current licensing, I would get branded a "Software Pirate" under either scenario.

Thanks for listening.

Regards,

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