From: Bob Nixon
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: microsoft monopoly

The current settlement requiring microsoft to donate software or hardware to poor schools only serves to further the company's monopolistic position. Kids who grow up with the microsoft way of doing things are unlikely to change the way they compute later in life. Microsoft's stifling pressure on Netscape has forced one of the truly free browsers into the hands of the unscrupulous and privacy invading marketing practices of AOL (personal opinion). There are many fine operating systems and browsers with advantages far more practical and efficient than Windows/Explorer: Unix , Linux and Macintosh, to name a few. When a company reaches the size and power of Microsoft the question of free enterprise no longer applies because their influence both monetarily and in terms of ubiquity allow them to slant the market as they choose. This is not the American way, as I understand it. (or, perhaps it is but, according to the ideals underpinning this country, should not be.) I have grown up with computing. I learned my first programming language in 1977. Computing can be a truly great tool but lets keep it free and clean and it's marketing practices fair. They have been shown to be guilty, please impose real penalties which don't amplify their crime.

Robert Nixon