

From: Charles McKnight
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 12:26pm
Subject: Settlement comments

Greetings,

I would like to express my concern about the settlement reached during the recent Microsoft antitrust case. In the past Microsoft has openly flaunted its disregard of any attempt to impose regulation. The 1995 settlement was essentially toothless, and led to the demise of Netscape as a separately operating company. As Judge Sporkin pointed out, "simply telling a defendant to go forth and sin no more does little or nothing to address the unfair advantage it has already gained." The current "sanctions" can be, and most likely will be largely ignored by Microsoft. The entire settlement comes across as wishful thinking on the part of the government that this leopard will change its spots.

Although I have no desire to see Microsoft broken up, I am concerned about the predatory tactics it has used in the past and continues to employ. Given the similarities between the 1995 settlement and the currently proposed settlement, I do not believe that any positive effects will be achieved. I believe that Microsoft will continue to drive other companies out of business by bundling software into the operating system, much as they have done with the browser, and are attempting to do with the Windows Media Player and its proprietary formats.

I ask that you reconsider the settlement terms, and offer protection for the smaller companies that are trying to make a living. Don't deny them their chance to enjoy some portion of the same level of success that Microsoft currently enjoys.

Thank you for your time.

Charles McKnight

=====
Disclaimer: My opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect the
opinions of my employer.
=====