

From: Walter Padgett
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 8:34am
Subject: Microsoft

Good Morning,

I've tried to follow this case as close as my schedule would allow. My brief summary of all of it is as follows:

1. Bill Gates has a history of not following the law in the past, so what will make him change now?
2. Technology changes too fast for this type of settlement to be effective five years out.
3. Bill Gates uses other companies technology and then settles out of court.

I am a supporter of the American way but Bill Gates tramples all over the smaller Americans. I understand that everyone has the chance to make something of themselves but it is more difficult when someone steals your code. I believe the settlement should include some type of provision protecting the small guy when he sues to reclaim his code or program. It's a formidable task to fund a legal defense that can combat Microsoft's team of lawyers.

I believe the laws of the land should be changed to allow technology lawsuits to proceed fairly quickly through the courts. The reasoning for this is that technology changes everyday and by the time the case is settled, companies have a chance to change their program to avoid future lawsuits and release a new version during the current lawsuit. This basically makes it harder for the small guy who might be a victor to continue writing and selling his program.

Thanks for your time,

Walter "Wally" Padgett