From: whalemeat@shaw.ca@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 6:08pm
Subject: Comments on proposed deal

I have read the text of the proposed settlement, as well as various opinions and analyses appearing in the on-line press, and I believe the proposal as it exists is very, very weak. Weak to the point of irrelevance, even. Where is the penalty? What price must Microsoft pay for having broken the law? There is nothing here that is going to prevent or even discourage MS from continuing to bully their own customers. There is nothing here that is going to substantially alter the relationship between MS and their competitors.

History has shown that once MS decides to integrate a piece of software into Windows, the competition quickly vanishes. How can anybody compete against something that is being given away? If there is to be a thriving, innovative, competitive software industry MS must be prevented from stealing their competitors customers in this way. The only real, effective, long-term solution I can see is to break the company up. To attempt to police MS in the long term is simply not practical. The bureaucracy that would have to be created to do this effectively would be enormous.

I am extremely dissapointed in the DoJ. I feel they have sold us out, and I hope the Judge sees it too.

M Hale
average computer user