

From: Oz Barron
To: Microsoft ATR,consumer@mail.wvnet.edu@inetgw,attor...
Date: 11/20/01 10:19am
Subject: Regarding the settlement

Thank you for providing the ability for the public to comment on the proposed settlement to the Microsoft case.

As as been established for years, Microsoft has indulged over and over again in anti-competitive, predatory monopolistic behavior. The list of companies they have killed, and the technologies they have crushed grow longer every day.

If there were one isolated issue, or a short term business practice involved, I would agree that a soft penalty as is proposed would be appropriate, but Microsoft's history and on-going business practices show a blatant disregard for the letter and spirit of the law.

Through their illegal behavior, Microsoft has established themselves as a monopoly and they have grown wealthy at the expense of true competition and the budgets of millions of technology users. Across the board, we have seen technology prices drop, from hardware to software, except in the case of those tools developed by Microsoft. Competing products, such as word processors, spreadsheets, and even operating systems, have no real chance of competing where the basic rules are written and closely guarded by one company.

To use an analogy, it is as if Ford owned the exclusive right to produce oil. We all have to use it in one form or another, but Ford would be free to sell it for any price they chose, and to restrict its access and use in any way they see fit.

This is very similar to the current climate in the computer industry.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your stance, and to apply much stronger penalties in this case. Allowing Microsoft to continue on as usual, as they will under this proposed agreement, will continue to stifle competition and innovation in the industry. After all, Microsoft has not developed ANY new technologies themselves, with the exception of the Access database, a product so poorly written, it is given away free.

Thank you for your time.

A bit about me: I have been involved with the personal computer industry for over 20 years. I remember when MS first started. I have used every operating system on the desktop from CP/M, DOS, Windows 1.0, Atari, Amiga, Commodore, OS/2, NT, Unix, Mac OS 9, and now Mac OS X. I am not a kid with wild eyes and an axe to grind, I'm just a small business trying to earn a living, but Microsoft's predatory practices continue to cost me a

significant amount of money.

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