From: Timothy Worman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 8:49pm
Subject: Microsoft still using same tactics

To whom it may concern:

As someone who is employed in the technology sector I am extremely displeased with the settlement which has been agreed to between Microsoft and the DOJ. This settlement amounts to years of wasted effort and money and it has not changed Microsoft's tactics one iota. Even as you broker a deal, Microsoft continues to use one product to foist another separate product on what is nearly entirely an unsuspecting public.

As an example, take my recent purchase of a cordless Microsoft Intellimouse Explorer - a fantastic mouse. In order to register my new product with Microsoft, I am being directed via their software to sign up for a "Passport" account. If you're not familiar with Passport, it is Microsoft's protocol to store consumer names and passwords so that you are not "inconvenienced" with having to remember multiple passwords on web sites you frequent.

However, if I don't deem Microsoft trustworthy, there doesn't seem to be a way for me to register my product otherwise. And as coincidence would have it, Passport is the centerpiece of Microsoft's new .Net software strategy whereby applications such as Word would be accessed over the internet on a subscription basis. However, Passport is a completely unrelated product to the mouse I purchased yet I don't see how I, as a consumer, am presented with other options.

However, merely giving me a choice about what method of registration I prefer is not nearly the whole issue - DOJ efforts have fallen short on exactly this type of action. Microsoft is attempting to move their monopoly from the desktop to the Internet via their .Net strategy. I do not want Microsoft to be in a position of being able to choose, for example, what Bank I use if in fact they leverage Passport and .Net to promote strategic partners.

Passport is just one more example of a technology which would serve the public better if it were an Open Source standard that did not promote any one company or it's partners. And indeed there is an alternative to Passport being proposed by another consortium. However, does it stand a chance? Microsoft can force almost it's entire desktop consumer base to use Passport or some aspect of it's .Net strategy simply via the sheer numbers of its installed base - THE VERY SAME TACTIC THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE UNDER DECREE NOT TO DO with respect to other products.

Please, do not let this kind of manipulation continue. Please don't

reduce your penalties to simply forcing Microsoft to provide options and concessions along with the default - which is continued use of these tactics. Simply put: DO NOT allow Microsoft to use one product to force another UNRELATED product on consumers. Make this stop. PERIOD.

Do you trust Microsoft with your personal information?? Already, using the same Windows/Outlook/Word/Excel/VisualBasic vulnerabilities which have made a recent rash of Windows-based worms possible, a programmer has demonstrated the ability to steal Passport information from another's computer. Should the products of a commercial company that stands to reap the rewards of my personal data be in control of protecting it? Please, MAKE THIS STOP!! PERIOD.

Thank you for your time,

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Tim Worman
Database Administrator
Graduate School of Education and Information Studies
University of California Los Angeles
worman@gseis.ucla.edu

Home Address:
417A North Mentor Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106