

From: Ted Grigg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/23/01 2:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement a Slap on the Wrist

This settlement is totally inappropriate for this company that has chosen to thumb its nose at US law. The settlement should not only compensate the end-users and companies harmed by its illegal use of market power, but the company should pay billions of dollars in penalties.

The idea of giving away free software to the educational market actually rewards Microsoft for its deliberate and proven illegal maneuvering in a "free" market place. The court now fulfills Microsoft's desire to steal yet one more more market they do not control.

If the court insists on free gifts to schools, then require a cash settlement to schools so the schools can choose what software they prefer to buy with the money.

The cash should go through the court and not directly to the schools because Microsoft will somehow use the money as a marketing ploy by offering large discounts for their software and treat the cash settlement like a coupon worth several times its value.

Do not allow this settlement to become Microsoft's next court-directed advertising campaign.

Splitting the company was the only settlement that began to make sense.

Microsoft illegally destroyed Netscape and continues to hurt Sun, Apple and others by punishing hardware suppliers from supporting competing products.

Even if the settlement restrains Microsoft (a highly doubtful outcome), Microsoft should now pay more than it gained for its illegal practices in cash.

I only hope that those states who recognize Microsoft for what it truly is will somehow prevail and find a way to punish Microsoft for its injustices.

We still may have a chance to support the law. It appears, however, that the court may actually reward Microsoft's illegal action.

Please punish Microsoft for its illegal actions and lack of respect for the law.

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Best,

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