

From: Ted Abel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/25/01 4:50pm
Subject: U.S. Dept. of Justice vs. Microsoft

Dear Attorney General of the U.S. Dept. of Justice,

I was very disappointed and dismayed by recent information coming out in the news media regarding the U.S. Dept. of Justice vs. Microsoft case. What is this so-called 3harsh penalty² when a company can give away its software (Microsoft Windows) and PC computers/peripherals w/Windows to underprivileged schools? This just adds to the monopoly and bundling Microsoft was accused of in the first place! Am I missing something here? Or am I reading this information incorrectly? Shouldn't the penalty be tied to financing the purchases ONLY and not to giving away their own company's software or hardware/software bundling? Why not Unix, Linux, Sun, Apple, etc.?

Also, if the ruling stands that they were doing something illegal, show the like-minded companies that you have the best interests of the American people in mind and not the monied interests. Do your job for the people not just business! I am ashamed of my present U.S. Government Administration, and this present U.S. Department of Justice in particular, for wasting precious time and public money from the past Administration and squandering the past ruling with acquiescence in this matter of the future of technology, rather than concluding a ?just1 penalty. What a waste and defeat for the public trust and software companies everywhere!

Advancing a monopolistic technology that is mediocre at best (just adequately gets the job done) rather than striving for real competition with the best quality technology (superior performance) is like a slap in the face to the software/hardware companies that truly feature innovative and advanced feature sets. If we all strived for the mediocre or common denominator in the technology arena, or for that matter in any endeavor, where would we be today? Would our military be as successful in Afghanistan? Would MIT, Stanford, Yale or Harvard pump out B or C students. We certainly would not be the technology innovators we are known for today!

I hope and pray that Microsoft has a ?just1 penalty to pay and not a slap on the wrist for practicing unethical, monopolistic and predatory business practices. No company should be able to profit from such behavior. Surely, my Government should be that 3first line of defense² to see that these kinds of companies do not gobble up the competition!

Sincerely,
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