

From: Les
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/29/01 12:00pm
Subject: Comment on proposed settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I find it incredulous that the Justice Department is proposing to facilitate Microsoft in extending their Windows-based monopoly. I'm referring to Microsoft's offer to donate one billion dollars' worth of PC's and Microsoft software to public schools.

As for the software component of the donation, Microsoft's cost would be a miniscule fraction of the announced dollar amount. This is because once the fixed cost of developing the software is paid, the incremental cost of burning an additional CD-rom is merely pennies. The Microsofties in Redmond must be rolling on the floor in laughter at being able to get away with this "smoke and mirrors" agreement.

If the Justice Department is truly interested in punishing Microsoft for its monopolistic behavior and discouraging the company from such behavior in the future, it should require them to purchase one billion dollars' worth of Apple computers and non-Microsoft software for public schools. Anything less is a sham and goes squarely against the Department's intent when the suit was initially brought against Microsoft.

I respectfully request that this aspect of the proposed settlement be withdrawn by the Justice Department. If the Department cares at all about fashioning a just solution to the problem that it initially sought to correct, it will replace this remedy with one that addresses the issue of Microsoft's monopolistic behavior rather being an accomplice in perpetuating it.

Yours truly,
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