

From: Chris Johnson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/1/01 7:00pm
Subject: re: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

Some of the best software alternatives to Microsoft's products are open source software projects. There is nothing in this settlement which addresses Microsoft's FUD (Fear Uncertainty and Doubt) campaign against its competition, including OSS. This campaign of mis-information is of course much better funded by the Microsoft monopoly than its competition and should not be permitted.

Furthermore Microsoft has lobbied and campaigned heavily (and very likely bought a few polititions) for changes to licensing and commerce such as those proposed in the UCITA which would strip consumer rights and effectively place non-commercially developed software such as OSS at a competitive disadvantage. If the whole idea of anti-trust legislation is to protect consumer rights and prevent unfair anti-competitive practices, then clearly your settlement does not do enough to block these Microsoft practices which fail both tests.

Lastly the settlement does nothing to recover damages from years of Microsoft illegal practices nor prosecute the Microsoft executives who felt they were above the law. If this settlement stands it will prove to a new generation that it's illegal to steal food to feed your family but it's ok to steal millions from people and government. That the rich don't have to worry about the law. Don't make that statement. Assess damages and require compensation from Microsoft that is to consumer advantage, not Microsoft's. And prosecute the individuals responsible for the willful and blatant violations of law of which the company has already been found guilty.

Sincerely,
Christopher Johnson
Somerville, Maine