

From: Mike Combs
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 10:28pm
Subject: Settlement

I am an avid Linux user, but I am also a systems administrator for 2 Microsoft Windows Local Area Networks in the employ of the U.S. Navy. It is my firm belief that if the United States Department of Justice allows the settlement to include disbursement of Microsoft Windows software, then not only is the Department impotent, it would at that time be propagating the acts of a convicted monopolist and abetting in the expansion of such monopolies.

Look at the facts...Microsoft would be "giving" away free versions of its software to needy schools to teach the next generations how to use computers. This is brilliant for Microsoft in that it is an investment in several ways.

First, it is an investment in that in 5 years, the software would have to be upgraded in order to retain proper taining for the young people of today and tomorrow, but also to retain compatibility. As it stands now, Microsoft, in the near future will no longer provide support for Windows NT4. This will force all businesses that use it, Including the Department Of Defense which uses Microsoft products almost exclusively, to upgrade. Therefore they are investing in a tremendous rush on per seat licensing to occur 5 years from now...

Secondly, they would be training the next generations to use computers, but not providing them with any other education other than Microsoft Products. And it is obvious to anyone that cherishes reason. Those who are taught to use Microsoft Products as youth will buy those same products as adults because that is all they know how to use, because the free computers and software is all they can afford. (It is acknowledged that the computers and software will go to the less fortunate schools that cannot afford computers to teach their children.

If this is allowed to happen, I fear for free trade everywhere. I hope, as a servant of a great Nation that our leaders, and the enforcers of laws of the greatest Nation on earth will recognize the marketing genius of such a move and stop it before it is too late and they themselves are rendered impotent by a long range corporate marketing scheme.

Brgds,
Michael Combs ET2(SW) USN

--

#!/bin/bash
~~Chix Dig Unix~~
