From: rcrow@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 8:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

Please do consumers a huge favor and DO NOT leave the language of Section III(J)(2) and Section III(D) as is. If you really are interested in promoting competition and innovation, level the playing field by allowing open source software to compete unobstructed by Microsoft's interpretation of "business criteria". If there is ANY competitive threat to Microsoft at all - it is in the open source world, specifically linux. Microsoft is fully aware of this and the DOJ is playing into their hand if language such as this is left in the settlement.

As a side note, it is totally misguided to allow Microsoft to extend their monopoly by allowing the company to be "punished" by putting their software in our school systems for 5 years. This would eventually punish Apple and others and not Microsoft at all! And it is not doing those school systems or the kids a favor. Take a hard look at RedHat's counter offer of providing ALL school systems the software and support. If that happened, you would see ALL KINDS of educational software being ported/written for linux in no time at all! Give it some thought, please!

Please take these comments seriously since many companies and individual careers depend on the direction of the software industry. If Microsoft is to have a competitor on the desktop it will probably come from linux. BUT if linux is to really have a chance to compete for the desktop then it needs to be seen as having a chance of success so that software vendors will put resources into writing applications targeted for linux - WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL FROM MICROSOFT!

http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration and time!

Russell Crow