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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/13/01 10:31 am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it may concern,

I have worked as an IT professional since 1985 and have stayed on the cutting edge the entire time.

Under Related Documents, the first link entitled Complaint (5/18/1998) I read the following false statement. To me this one untrue statement ruins the whole case against Microsoft

2. Microsoft possesses (and for several years has possessed) monopoly power in the market for personal computer operating systems. Microsoft's "Windows" operating systems are used on over 80% of Intel-based PCs, the dominant type of PC in the United States. More than 90% of new Intel-based PCs are shipped with a version of Windows pre-installed. PC manufacturers (often referred to as Original Equipment Manufacturers, or "OEMs") have no commercially reasonable alternative to Microsoft operating systems for the PCs that they distribute.

Contrary to what is written in red, PC Manufacturers DO have a reasonable alternative to Microsoft operating systems. That operating system is free unless you pay for support or manuals. That operating system is Linux. Another option is IBM OS/2. Unfortunately, IBM seemed incapable of properly making their operating system work with their own computers and peripheral devices. When they lost the operating system wars, it was due to their own failures and consumers recognizing that.

How can Microsoft compete with something that is free? The answer is to make your product so good and so easy to use that everyone still wants it. I used to dislike Microsoft products because I considered them of inferior quality. However, their products are currently superior quality and are much more cost-effective for a business to run with. This competition has been good for consumers.

For example, Oracle is extremely expensive (years ago you couldn't touch it for under \$50,000) and it takes a highly-trained expensive person to keep it running. Microsoft's competing product SQL Server goes for about \$1,500 and can run efficiently on much less expensive equipment virtually maintenance free. Compare the price of a Sun vs. Intel and you will see a huge difference.

The thing that has irritated me throughout this entire fiasco is that the government says they are trying to protect consumers. If Oracle, Sun and

IBM would have had their way consumers would never be able to afford or understand their products. Microsoft has brought computers to the common people and the common people love them for it.

If you want to chase after someone harming consumers, then go after the electric companies. When they shut off an elderly person's power because they can't afford to pay it out of their meager Social Security check and then die of heat or cold, you tell me who is hurting consumers. Hmm let's see, a \$99 operating system or a \$200/month electric bill? You figure it out. Go after the phone companies who don't shut off services when customers request and then continue to charge and then send collections agents their way.

In fact, go after the biggest monopoly there ever was! This monopoly is like a parasite which only drains life and offers nothing in return. When a business is working, they are there to get their share of the profits yet they offer no help in return. When that business pays out wages, they are there to take from the business again and from the employees. When the employee goes to the grocery store they take some more. When that employee tries to start a small family owned business, they are there to take food out of the children's mouths. They create laws so complex that only highly paid professionals can understand them. They make new rules at a whim and yet ignorance of their rules is unpardonable. This monopoly takes about 40% of a small business profits or individual person's income. Sometimes more and sometimes less. They get a cut of every financial transaction that occurs yet they did nothing to contribute. When a son or daughter has an incurable disease, they are there to hold back progress, yet a pill to kill unborn babies they do not halt. Guess who or what I am referring to!

If you want to judge others, start within our (I'm ashamed to say 'our') own corrupt government! It's not the government itself that is corrupt, but the people who disguise themselves as 'public servants' but do that which is not right.

... And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Isaiah 59:14

Fortunately, we have a President who seems to be a righteous man. Maybe he can help make a difference!