

From: Sean Parsons
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/1/02 12:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to express my disappointment in the settlement against Microsoft. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly's demand for expediency was at the cost of accomplishing true justice.

The settlement codifies the legality of Microsoft's predatory practices. While it forces Microsoft to share its APIs with the competition, it also forces those who use the APIs to share their finished code with Microsoft. The result is that Microsoft would see all of its competition's trade secrets and easily replicate them. Or, though the ruling ensures that Microsoft competitors be allowed to get their icons on PC desktops, the clause only applies to companies who have sold more than a million copies of their software in the United States. The very companies who need a competitive advantage in this case can't get it.

As if the antitrust settlement wasn't determined in poor enough judgement, the civil settlement is worse. After documented proof and testimony from various respected professionals about how Microsoft has gouged consumers by charging over four times as much as what a competitive-market would allow for similar software (generating billions of extra dollars due to its OS monopoly) all they have to do in return is donate old Microsoft computers and software to poor schools, something it needs to do periodically anyway to keep its staff in the latest tools. This also creates some inroads into schools, the one market it has had some trouble in (it only controls about 50% of that market).

I sincerely hope that upon further reviews of the DOJ's decisions that someone will attempt to correct this terrible injustice.

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