From: Michael Schwartz
To: Microsoft ATR,bfoer@antitrustinstitute.org@inetgw
Date: 1/2/02 5:38pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello Mr. Foer,

Please fwd this email to Mr. Hawker.

I just read an article at the following link:

http://www.eweek.com/article/0%2C3658%2Cs%253D701%2526a%253D20391%2C00.asp

and noticed the following quote (in-line with paragraph) by Norman Hawker:

From the perspective of tough-remedy advocates, however, restoring competition to the marketplace necessarily means examining the position of competitors. "Right now, we have one single institution that's directing what will happen in the future, and that's Microsoft," AAI's Hawker said. "Antitrust law is about protecting and promoting competition, and you cannot have competition without competitors.

That is an absolutely pathetic claim. This only drives a self-fulfilling prophecy that is aimed at "settling on mediocrity." Hawker's statement does nothing but enstill a "bandwagon type of fear (i.e., hysteria)" into the average consumer. If his statement is true, why didn't the MS X-Box put Sony Playstation and Nintendo Game Cube out of business. The introduction of the X-Box will only make the other game companies strive to make better products. To claim that MS will stifle future, yet-to-be-developed technologies is so lame. Norman would say something like "MS can't deploy a VOIP network because they might succeed at it and take away business from other companies doing the same thing." Norman seemingly advocates a perspective that my parents worked to enstill when raising my brother and I, namely "Don't compare yourself with those who don't excel just so that you look better. Raise the bar and compare youself with the top students in your classes." Limiting Microsoft's future technology endeavors by some force of law will only remove the incentive for other companies to make high-quality products in the concerened technology.

If the AAI puts their money where their advocations lie, then: 1. AAI supporters never use any Windows OS. They only use Macs or Linux or Solaris or some other non-ubiquitous OS. 2. AAI supporters never use MSIE for surfing the web; rather they use Opera or Netscape Navigator (which is now junk since AOL took over; why don't you sue AOL for the crap they generate and the IE-based browser they deploy), 3. AAI supporters never use MS Office, rather they only use Lotus Suite, WordPerfect, or Star Office. 4. AAI supporters never use HotMail or MSN; I don't even dare list the endless "other" competing options available on free email and portal web sites.

If any of the above (1,2, or 3) are "false" from an AAI perspective, then the AAI advocates are solely in the witch hunt against MS for personal gain, such as receiving AAI contributions from any number of plaintiff companies or states.

I am confident MS will prevail in the long run. Although some of thier software is buggy, at least the average consumer doesn't need a computer science degree to use it effectively and it usually always works as expected.

Regards,

Mike Schwartz

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