From: Jonathan Tarbox
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/7/02 10:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs;

I was deeply involved with the BeOS operating system at one time and would greatly love to get back into the swing of things with it. However, since Be, Inc. is no more and Palm is hesitant about licensing out the BeOS source code to the BeUnited project (www.beunited.org), I thought I'd voice my opinion.

The main thing that prevented BeOS, or any non-Microsoft operating system, from being shipped on any mainstream OEM computers was the MS licensing preventing OEM companies from being able to install other operating system. There should be no bonus or penalty to an OEM for not installing or installing another operating system on a shipping PC. From what I knew of the deal, an OEM company would loose out on bonuses that Microsoft would award thier OEM purchasers if they installed other operating systems on thier shipping PCs.

And because of the lack of OEM support, hardware manufacturers would often not write drivers for thier hardware for the BeOS. This greatly hurt the momentem of the BeOS to a point that the owners of Be, Inc. had to shift focus to Internet Appliance devices instead of PCs. This also didn't pan out and the IP of Be, Inc. was sold to Palm recently.

Personally, I believe the settlement should prevent MS from using licensing or monetary bonuses to sway OEMs into using only MS products on thier PCs. It should also remove limitation of not allowing any other operating system to dual boot with any MS operating system.

Thanks,
Jonathan Tarbox