

From: Bruce Truax
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/10/02 8:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hon. Renata B. Hesse,

I am very disappointed in the Federal Government's remedy for the Microsoft Antitrust suit. Although I am a conservative and I normally do not like to see the government interfering in private business, this is one case where I think intervention is justified and necessary.

I am a long time Apple Macintosh user and as the world slowly migrates to almost 100% Microsoft I find that I have less choice with regards to software and hardware options for my computer. Much of the problem is related to the method which Microsoft has used to increase the integration of their software. I must admit that this increased integration has improved the ease of use and functionality of the personal computer for users of Windows but the method by which this is done slowly but steadily forces competitors out of the market. From my vantage point it appears that when Microsoft wants to add functionality to their operating system they tend to chose a proprietary solution rather than an already existing standard. This has happened numerous times with Java as a prime example. As these functions become proprietary, users of other operating systems suffer. For example, there are now numerous web sites which cannot be viewed by users of Linux or Macintosh computers because the site designer has chosen a Microsoft Proprietary technology for certain web site functions. As it becomes more difficult for other operating systems to obtain access to internet content, hardware and software, even the last few holdouts will be forced to migrate to Microsoft windows until they have 100% of the market.

An additional problem is related to the security of our internet infrastructure. As the operating systems on the internet become more homogenous, the opportunity for a well written, malicious virus to seriously affect the infrastructure of he internet is increasing. A more diverse population of computers and operating systems on the internet would make it less vulnerable to malicious attack.

Although I do not know what the proper remedy is for this problem, it is obvious to me that the Federal settlement is not sufficient.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Truax

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