

From: John R. Munn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 1:55pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear Sir/Madam;

I strongly oppose the DoJ proposed settlement with MicroSoft as it does not address the core issues of marketing misconduct and anti competitiveness. It will not result in a more competitive industry nor even in a better product from MicroSoft.

As a 30+ year programmer and a user of MicroSoft products for 13+ years I know what I am talking about technically. MicroSoft products are pretty and incorporate many innovative ideas (some great in practice and some disastrous). However, the performance and stability is such that if I had produced them and did not correct the problems in short order I would, justifiably, be replaced. With no significant market share competition, MicroSoft has no compelling reason to improve their products beyond keeping them pretty for the sales department with a new looking version periodically (without ever fixing the underlying problems).

If I as a private citizen continually violated agreements with the Justice Department (or any government agency) I would be jailed. If there were a small business which violated the laws to the extent that MicroSoft has it would be shut down and possibly have its principals jailed. What would not happen is having an agreement drawn up based on "what can you say that you will do that will sound like some action has been taken?".

While I do not advocate the destruction of MicroSoft and am ambivalent on it's breakup. I do know that effective (underlined) action must be taken to 1) restrict future unlawful action on MicroSoft's part, 2) some punitive steps for past misdeeds, and 3) provide a competitive environment for the entire industry. The current proposal addresses none of the foregoing effectively, if at all.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

John R. Munn
Miami, FL 33157