

From: Jane Griscti
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement of little or no benefit to consumers

To the average user there is only one operating system available for PC's ... Microsoft. Most users are not even aware there are options.

This is more than just 'branding'; MS has successfully wiped out any consciousness of choice in the operating system market.

Their success places developers in a bind; if most of the installed base is MS then they must write applications for MS. Often these applications don't have the newest feature displayed by MS developed applications. This in turn pushes consumers to use MS applications and MS NEVER writes applications for non-MS platforms.

Developers end up in a Catch-22 situation. The consumer doesn't become aware of competing products because the hot applications get written for MS first then MS releases a newer 'hotter' application taking advantage of the latest MS operating system bells and whistles (known about by MS internal developers) and the external developers play catch up.

In the end, the MS operating system becomes the only playing field; one slanted heavily in MS's favour.

Application and Middleware development need to be spun off in to an independent company. As well, the new company should be encouraged to write software for non-MS operating systems as well as MS systems.

Not only will that open up the operating system playing field but also the application software field. Then maybe consumer's will begin to learn that PC does not equal MS.

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