

From: Aaron Batty
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 7:29am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft, due to its monopoly status, is able to charge exorbitant prices for even its most basic software. Personally, I like their software. I like their OS (although they often cut corners on security issues); but their pricing doesn't make any sense. They are the MOST expensive OS and office software provider, despite well over 90% market share. The MacOS is cheaper, and more secure, and Apple's office software suite is comparable in functionality, but costs considerably less. Linux is free, and more secure, and the main office suite for that--StarOffice--is usable and ALSO free. It should be obvious to even the most casual observer that Microsoft is engaging in price gouging. It's not fair, and it hurts competition, hinders the advance of technology (Just look at the amazing things happening because of the Intel/AMD competition going on right now!), and gives the consumer the short end of the stick.

My suggestion is to force MS to QUICKLY (say, within one year) open up ALL APIs of the Windows OS, if not take the OS business away from them entirely and make it an open source environment. This way, MS could focus on its Office Suite, which, as one who has used other OSES and other office suites extensively, I can say is their superior product, and would allow third-party competition in this field, advancing technology, lowering prices, and making consumers much, much happier.

I don't hate Microsoft. I would fight to squeeze every penny I could out of this situation as well, but that doesn't mean that it's the right thing for the consumers or for the advancement of technology. Both of those concerns should come long before any concerns of the profitability of any single company.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Aaron Batty