

From: Jeff Finkelstein
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 8:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe it is time for the Federal and State Government to settle the Microsoft case. I believe the current agreement is reasonable and fair given the results of the trial. This agreement will provide reasonable protection for the industry and still permit Microsoft to continue to improve its products to benefit millions of America consumers.

However, I believe key aspects of the government's case are flat-out wrong, such as the contention that Microsoft holds a monopoly over desktop operating systems. That ignores the resurgent Apple Macintosh and the emergence of new Unix-based competitors, like Linux. Americans can purchase an operating system that cost over a billion dollars to develop for \$89, or they can get a less capable Linux OS free, or buy a MAC. There is no evidence of consumer harm and none was provide in the trial. I see the case being driven significantly by politics. More specifically political use of the DOJ for special interest (Microsoft's competitors).

Consider Microsoft's competitive position; Microsoft must convince consumers that its product at \$\$\$ dollars is better than its competitor (Linux) at the cost of \$0 (zero). How can Microsoft be considered a monopoly when it has this level of competition? Will the government be satisfied when a Chinese version of Linux dominates the desktop and tax revenues and jobs from high-tech industries are lost?

Please review this issue carefully as it affects the ability of our nation to compete in the world economy. Please don't undermine the free market and hard work of millions of American who invest in Microsoft and other great companies.

Regards,

Jeff Finkelstein
1015 Woodsman Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28213