

From: Jeremy Lassen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 1:50pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been an IT professional for 10 years, and have watched the Microsoft Monopoly grow and grow, with no relief in site. Currently, I work at the University of California, San Francisco where I run a number of computer labs. In my duties there, I have seen first hand the heavy handed powers of market coercion that Microsoft wields. Their most recent licensing schemes amount to blackmail, forcing us to pay for twice as much for a software product if we want any chance of having bugs fixed down the road. I have watched for years as Microsoft has abused its monopoly powers and eliminated competing companies from the market, going as far back as MS Dos 3.3 vs DR Dos 4.0.

I would LOVE to deploy competing products, but the threat of file level incompatibilities for their office suite of products, and the threat of changing API's has repeatedly made it impossible for me to do so. From my perspective, the best remedy would be to open up the Windows API, and lock in the office suite file standards, and have a third party technical body, or government agency oversee and approve any extension to these standards. Thank you for taking my viewpoint into account.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Lassen
UCSF Library computing lab Manager