From: Jesse
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 2:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the United States Department of Justice,

I'm a self-employed computer consultant working in eastern Washington. As a small business owner/operator, I don't have much time to spend on superfluous activities like composing long editorial diatribes. After all, I have to be the janitor, accountant, tax lawyer, bread winner, well... you get the picture.

In any case, I felt compelled to add my voice to this issue of the "Microsoft Settlement." I've been in the the computer and information technology industry for 18 years. In those 18 years, I have personally seen how the Microsoft monopoly has developed, from its embryonic beginnings in the early '80s, to its stranglehold in present time.

I am a true believer of capitalism, and hold dearly to the idea that you get what you work for. But when a company controls all but 5 percent of the world's computer systems, something needs to be done. This is not speculation or exaggeration, it is a fact. When a customer, or supplier, can order any computer system they wish from a top-tier PC manufacturer, as long as it comes with a Microsoft Operating System, it's gone too far. Allowing Microsoft to continue on its way will only hasten the development of the Microsoft refrigerator, Microsoft Motor Company, Microsoft Burger King, and Microsoft Grocery Store line.

The computer and information technology industry needs true competition in the operating system and productivity software markets. Please add my voice to those that hope for a settlement that would at minimum, break Microsoft into two parts, operating systems, and productivity applications. Anything less than a breakup, will do nothing to stop the monopoly. Even then, the two Microsofts would own their respective markets, but at least it would hopefully put an end to the unholy alliance between the two, and allow some semblance of competition.

Best Regards,

Jesse Mireles
Yakima, WA