

From: David Dahl
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:37am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Microsoft settlement is, in my opinion, a slap on the wrist. Microsoft's business practices have been underhanded and illegitimate for as long as I can remember, and this warrants stronger measures. Microsoft has single-handedly set back computing by many years with their buggy, slow, virus-prone, monopoly operating system. In fact, almost every time there is a new virus or worm outbreak, it only infects Microsoft systems, causing billions of dollars in damage and downtime. Microsoft has never paid for this either, and it seems to me the public is not aware of this. I still get hits on my Linux server (which remains uninfected, of course) for the "Code Red" and "Code Blue" viruses, which Microsoft issued a patch for months ago.

Microsoft is trying to spread unwarranted rumors about Open-source software and the GNU Public License, which governs much of the Open-source world. In my opinion, Open-source software is more reliable than anything Microsoft has ever coded, and as a small business owner, I rely on these Open-source tools to compete on even ground. If I had to buy all of my software for development, I would not have a small business because of the costs.

If Microsoft is given a "slap on the wrist", I will really fear for the future of computing, Open-source software, and freedom to choose which software I use to program products for my clients. The proposed settlement will only increase Microsoft's monopoly power, and help crush more of the little guys.

You should not "Settle" with Microsoft, you should THROW THE BOOK AT THEM.

Highest Regards,

David Dahl
President/Application Developer
ddahl.com, inc
<http://ddahl.com>