

From: Craig Van Degrift
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice,

I have used computers since 1961 and owned them since 1978. It is with great frustration that I watched excellent software and innovations be destroyed by Microsoft's strongarm tactics.

Their forcing of IBM to stop supporting OS/2 was especially painful as I had been using OS/2 for 6 years and had written a Japanese-English Electronic Dictionary program for OS/2. OS/2 was an excellent operating system, far superior to any offering from Microsoft at the time.

I now teach computer programming languages and the Linux operating system at Los Angeles City College Community Services. Much effort is expended working around Microsoft's secret or deviant protocols.

The greatest exercise of their monopoly position, however, is with computer hardware manufacturers. It is extremely difficult for competing operating systems to gain market share when the manufacturers are strong armed by Microsoft licenses.

Capitalism does not work when there are monopolies and Microsoft is most certainly a monopoly that must be broken up. It must be forced to obey published industry standard interfaces. It must be prevented from using its monopoly power against hardware manufacturers. It must be prevented from selling both an operating system and the applications that interface with it.

A monopoly in the computer industry moves too fast to be treated with the same process as Standard Oil a century ago.

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