

From: Michael Bowen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:05am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to you under my rights contained in the Tunney act concerning the proposed settlement in re the Unites States vs. Microsoft. I believe the proposed settlement does a poor job in reducing Microsoft's monopolistic power and in providing at least a level playing field to competitors.

In brief, I feel Microsoft has and exercises monopolistic power through its operating system and application products in what may be one of this country's most important industries - computer software.

It is generally understood that software is what drives hardware development and sales. Information technology in all of its ramifications is crucial to our competitive position in the world. To leave one company with over 95% control of the basic software used by our IT infrastructure is dangerous.

This danger is compounded by virtue of Microsoft's having attained its position by using monopolistic and anti-competitive practices. It is further compounded by Microsoft's products being inferior in design and structure to other alternatives.

How do we rectify this serious problem? I realize this is a complex question, but the simple answer would be to force Microsoft to place its Windows Application Programming Interface and the file formats of its Office programs IN FULL into the public domain. Over time, programmers and other various interested parties would be able to use this information to provide some credible competition to some, but not all, of Microsoft's monopolistic products. This would foster and preserve our country's strength in IT and would offer competitive products.

Therefore, my request is please make the Windows API and Office file formats publicly available.

Yours sincerely,

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