From: Wouter Van Hemel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir, Madam,

I would hereby like to express my doubts about the effectiveness of the proposed settlement in the Microsoft case. I am sincerly concerned about Microsoft's position in the software market, and I don't believe the proposition lives up to the harm done in the past, nor does it provide enough of a remedy for the future. Mellow as it is, half a punishment will reduce itself to no punishment at all with a company that has the financial power Microsoft has; words will be bent, restrictions circumvented, new tricks will be learned, and legal statements adapted, reducing what's already too small a price to pay, to basically nothing.

Strong, adequate measures should be taken against Microsoft - being fully accountable for their actions - so as to ensure that at least something's left after Washington lobby'ing and stretching legal phrases beyond recognition. It should not be let off easily, clearly still not having understood the message.

Thanks for listening.

Wouter Van Hemel