

From: Eron Lloyd
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I, Eron Lloyd, an active and concerned U.S. citizen, request that the Department of Justice take more serious action in the settlement agreement against Microsoft corporation. Along with many others, which unfortunately will probably not make a stand and state their opinion, I feel that justice has NOT be served on the part of the people of this country. To me, the penalties (or lack thereof) imposed represent a mere "wrist slap", and only make it seem like the company CAN get away with more monopolistic practices and predatory business tactics, and in doing so remain above the law of the land.

Furthermore, with the near future of some of their new strategies on the horizon, we'll see these actions become more abstracted from the public's viewpoint, so the ability to raise a red flag will be nearly impossible. I foresee wider control of the Internet access market through MSN, online service and identity entrenchment with Passport and .NET, Digital Rights Management exclusive powers through the preposterous patent on DRM for operating systems given to them by our very own USPTO, market-cornering of consumer and media convergence technologies through X-Box second generation and proprietary Windows Media implementations. They want a stronghold on every major market. I do NOT want my children growing up in a Microsoft-governing information society with a single corporation trying to become the thought police.

I also dislike the fact that my government itself is almost completely reliant on Microsoft technology for its intellectual and business process property. I want to see more investment and support for open technologies and government contracts for companies developing DEMOCRATIC solutions using things such as Linux, standard networking protocols, and open hardware. On the state and local level I want to see Microsoft barred from competitive bidding, and contracts given to local technology solutions providers.

I support the settlement recommendations presented at <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html> and stand firmly as a co-signer to these recommendations. I am angered by the fact that one of the penalties imposed is requiring Microsoft to pour more Microsoft products into our public education system. This does nothing but solidify their standing and give them another legitimate way of exposing and influencing the next generation of the consumer market. It does not teach children how to think for themselves. If you want real technological solutions for our schools, come to the communities that truly care, us, who have the future in mind.

We are all counting on you, the DOJ, to serve swift and heavy-handed justice

for the good of the people, and we will hold you accountable for the final outcomes. You must represent us. Thank you.

Eron Lloyd
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility
Technologist, Activist, Community Builder, Citizen
elloyd@communitycode.org