

**From:** coyote@anim.dreamworks.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 1:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to indicate that I, as a US citizen and experienced software developer, object to the currently proposed final judgment in the United States vs. Microsoft case. My biggest objection is the lack of a requirement for clearly and publicly documented file formats. The use of undocumented file formats results in users, typically without their knowledge, being locked into using Microsoft or Microsoft approved software for accessing and sharing their data.

I have made the personal choice to not use Microsoft products. This has resulted in a significant amount of difficulty when I try to access information that other send me or to produce information that others can easily use. It causes even bigger problems when I try to access information that no one is actively maintaining and yet is in essence encrypted by Microsoft without the explicit permission of the owner of that data.

Requiring that all file formats be publically documented would significantly improve the ability for other products to compete effectively in the areas that Microsoft has been judged to engage in monopolistic practices.

Sincerely,

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