From: Joel Waterman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:48pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I feel that the proposed settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case will do little to change the monopolistic practices of Microsoft.

Any settlement which does not severely restrict Microsoft from building its products in the Operating Systems, Internet, and Applications market will do little to create a fair open computer software arena in which competitors are allowed to compete.

Windows XP has been used as an advertising platform for Microsoft products and services, and to lock out competing products. Microsoft's unfair practices (oft-referred to as strong-arm) leave precious little room for competitors in this environment.

You needn't look any further than to the open-source community for clues as to the state of the software industry. Thousands of developers donating their time and valuable skills in order to compete against the giant Microsoft. Why would thousands of computer programmers take time out of their busy lives to do for free what they easily could be paid for elsewhere? Because they want to see the project (linux) succeed in the face of MS. Because they want an alternative to Windows. Because they aren't as naive as the typical home user who has no alternative to Microsoft, and they are not satisfied to use a product that forces them (or tries to force them) to use software inferior to that which they could write or have written...

To continue to let Microsoft bully their way around the software industry is to let that industry die a slow stagnant death. Competition and alternative is the only way to keep this huge part of the American economy thrive. Without a fair settlement of the MS case, this may not be possible. With MS allowed to compete unfairly against its rivals in Application and Internet markets by using its OS, is to allow them to squash any rival they wish. Please do not let this continue to happen.

Thank you,

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