

From: Gregory Bradford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Opinion

To whom this concerns,

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

As a California resident I am very disappointed that the US Attorney General has settled with Microsoft on such an important issue in such a minor manner.

I have many friends who have lost jobs because of Microsoft's unfair trade practices. Please be fair to my friends, give them some justice.

Many of California's high tech firms, which have been very innovative (such as Netscape for example) and have brought us all great wealth, have been driven out of business or something close to that by Microsoft's monopolistic practices.

It is not in California's, or the US's interest, to let Microsoft go essentially free once again. I urge you to adequately address Microsoft's illegal practices.

Otherwise, I truly fear that our technology industry will be crippled by being handed over to a monopolistic corporation which seems to extend its reach on a week by week basis.

If you need proof of this reach please take the time go down to you local software store. It would be a safe bet that one out of every two software titles there will carry the Microsoft name. In some categories of software there is no longer any competition. Please try to buy a spreadsheet product that is not made by Microsoft. Or try to buy a piece of business presentation software not made by Microsoft. It is virtually impossible

Go to your local electronics store. Microsoft has now built a large presence in palm-top computers. It is only a matter of time before Palm will be gone just like Netscape.

At your local electronics store take note of the new X-Box technology. A company even as large as Sony will have a hard time competing in game consoles when Microsoft is deliberately losing hundreds of dollars for each X-Box sold. Recently, a Morgan Stanley analyst, Mary Meeker estimated Microsoft will lose \$1 billion on the X-Box. Who can afford to lose \$1 billion dollars? A monopolist can since it can subsidize businesses that would otherwise fail. This is not in the consumer's interest.

A couple of months ago I was purchasing a digital video recorder called a TIVO. Microsoft competes with this product with their Ultimate-TV product. I was directly told by a Microsoft salesperson in a retail electronics store that I would regret my purchase because TIVO would soon be out of business because Microsoft is going to put them out of business. Even the lowest Microsoft employees understand that they hold all of the cards at the moment.

Take note of Microsoft's balance sheet. If their balance sheet is accurate, then it is a smoking gun. Compare it to IBM's, Sun Microsystems's, Oracle's, Borland's, Corel's, Amazon's, AOL's, and other's balance sheets. Not one of these other companies has the wealth and influence that Microsoft retains. It is only a matter of time before several of those companies are forced out of business because there is no way for them to compete on an equal footing.

Lastly, note Microsoft's effort's to control access to the Internet via it's Passport and .Net strategies. These strategies are designed to slowly wear down the consumer into submission to Microsoft's desires. Much like Microsoft has done to the DOJ it will attempt to do with consumers. Microsoft is very patient. It is the key to their survival. Please, do not allow them to do this.

It is readily apparent that justice is not being served. It has been discarded by the Department of Justice in favor of moving on to less than adequate remedies. I urge everyone involved to carefully consider my comments, and those of others, to arrive at a conclusion to this case that will serve the interests of all.

If Microsoft is not reigned in quickly you will be buying all of your software, electronics, information services, and anything else Microsoft desires to take-over from one vendor. Think about it! This is a national crisis that can be avoided!

Thank you,

Gregory Bradford

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