From: eileen hamilton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:15pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement?

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The proposed Microsoft settlement is a bad idea. Please do not allow it to move forward in its current form.

Microsoft is once again using the terms of an agreement to wipe out competition. Specifically, because Microsoft maintains an operating system monopoly, Section III(J)(2) will leave Open Source projects such as Apache, Samba, and Sendmail very vulnerable to Microsoft's predatory practices. Because under the terms of this agreement, Microsoft would not be forced to describe or license protocols that affect companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as businesses. This would effectively allow Microsoft to write code in such a way as to make it impossible to use with Open Source code, thereby forcing users of Microsoft operating systems to use only software that Microsoft creates itself or allows non-competitors to create.

Microsoft is doing what it has done many times in the past. It has squashed competitors through tactics of intimidation, buyout, and outright theft. Now it is attempting to reverse the initial verdict which declared unequivocally that they were a monopoly, back to their advantage.

As a taxpayer, I find it disgusting that Microsoft is allowed to act in such a cavalier manner toward the US justice system. They continually display an arrogance that shows they have no regard for the law.

Please, do not allow them to remap the playing field to their advantage. It is not in the interests of the United States for one company to exert so much control over the electronic infrastructure of our country - as ongoing and extremely alarming security problems with Microsoft products demonstrate.

Thank you,

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