From: George Czerw
To: microsoft.atr
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Subject: Proposed Microsoft Anti-trust Settlement

As a 30 year veteran in the networking side of the computer industry, I have watched as the Microsoft Corporation has been allowed either buy out or bury (beginning with the Digital Research Corporation and continuing through IBM's attempt to collaborate on OS/2, the Novell Corporation's marketing of NetWare and Netscape's marketing of its own Netscape Web browser) hundreds, if not thousands of what used to be innovative, independant software companies. Outside of stealing or buying the technologies developed by others, the Microsoft Corporation has done little in the way of true, original innovation, and in my opinion, Microsoft's financial success has been dependant upon allowing its arrogant, deep-pocketed, overbearing Marketing Department to blitzkrieg its competitors, threaten computer hardware vendors into offering nothing but Microsoft's own operating system, and otherwise bamboozle both the government and the general public into believing that Microsoft's bloated, ill-conceived, poorly designed, poorly performing and security-vulnerable software is the best software offering in the world.

I find it appalling, laughable, and sickening (yes, all three at once) that both the Bush Administration and the DOJ would take a position which suggests that a "just penalty" would be to allow the Microsoft Corporation to convert millions or billions of its dollars for the purpose of providing computer hardware and its own computer software to the US primary and secondary educational systems. You people must be daft, for those educational systems are among the few markets which have always been dominated by the Apple Computer Corporation, and in which the Microsoft Corporation has never been able to gain a significant foothold, despite its best efforts.

It is past time that the Federal Government and the White House stopped shamelessly pandering to those special interests, corporations and individuals who are large campaign contributors and begin listening to and protecting the interests not only of the general public but also of the corporations and businesses who have not agreed with or contributed to the coffers of the party in power.

The only thing that the Microsoft Corporation understands is brute force, and it deserves no less a penalty than that which was given to Standard Oil and AT&T.

For the good of this country and its citizens, break Microsoft up into small pieces and do it now! Only then will the nation see some true innovation and competition in this nation's software industry.

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