

From: Greg Wittmeyer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:54pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

As a software developer, I have a special understanding of Microsoft's criminal activities.

API DOCUMENTATION

I work very closely with Microsoft's API's, and it is very clear that Microsoft wants to make it as difficult as possible for anyone else to write software. Even a non-programmer can see that the documentation for the Windows API's is very spartan. A programmer working with the documentation will quickly discover just how bad the documentation is. There are typos, inaccuracies, omissions, and broken hyperlinks. I can provide an extensive list of examples if you like. Microsoft is clearly doing this on purpose to stifle competition - their own programmers would never be able to use such shoddy documentation.

PREDATORY PRACTICES

- Microsoft gives away Internet Explorer to hurt Netscape.
- Microsoft has used every dirty trick in the book to hurt Java, and they have been largely successful. Java is a threat to Microsoft's monopoly on operating systems.
- Microsoft introduced code into Outlook Express in order to hurt Blue Mountain Arts, who rejected Microsoft's attempts to buy them.
- Service Pack 3 for Windows NT 4 changed the operating system's communications protocols, making it incompatible with Samba. Simultaneously, they removed all technical articles relating to Samba from their website. There is no conceivable justification for this.
- Microsoft uses the Business Software Alliance to blackmail companies into signing exclusive contracts with Microsoft.

The list goes on and on. It is obvious that Microsoft uses its monopoly position to hurt competition.

SOLUTIONS

Microsoft should be forced to release the source code, and their

internal documentation, to all of its operating systems. This would give other software developers at least a fighting chance at competing with the behemoth.

Bill Gates should be forced to give up all ownership and participation in Microsoft. Microsoft's behavior is a direct reflection of Bill Gates' personality. Because they are guilty of so many criminal activities, all Microsoft management should receive the same penalty.

Microsoft's behavior and reputation has damaged the entire software industry. Microsoft's direct actions have clearly been illegal. But their infamous reputation has been very damaging as well. Disgruntled users pirate software because of their hatred for Microsoft, and unfortunately this dissatisfaction extends to other software developers. Because of Microsoft, people see software companies as rich and greedy, and this justifies their piracy. As a result, piracy is rampant. As a remedy, Microsoft should be forced to pay a large fine, which should be used to pay off the income taxes of software developers.

The DOJ has a horrible record on breaking up monopolies. Breaking up Standard Oil made Rockefeller vastly more wealthy. Breaking up Southwestern Bell simply turned one big monopoly into smaller, local monopolies. Monopolies can only be stopped by competition on a level playing field. Please do not repeat your past mistakes by giving Microsoft a slap on the wrist. It currently appears that the DOJ is going to completely cave in to Microsoft. That would be a great disservice to the human race, and a shame from which you would never escape.

In the absence of communism, evil greedy corporations are the biggest threat to our society. Microsoft is the greediest, most evil company the world has ever seen. There is no penalty that will make up for Microsoft's atrocities, so it is imperative that you punish them to the maximum extent possible.

Sincerely,

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