

From: Dominic Eldridge
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 8:38pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to encourage the Department Of Justice to take a tougher stance towards Microsoft's attempts to avoid any meaningful punishment. The settlement ordered by Judge Kollar-Kelly after the court ruled against Microsoft was an aberration within the United States Judicial System. Microsoft has been declared an illegal monopoly and to this day continues it's ruthless and predatory practices. Yet nine States of The Union have crumbled to Microsoft's demands on how the company feels it should be "punished". The few concessions Microsoft has made are riddled with loopholes, some of which may actually help the company increase the viciousness of it's licensing schemes. The three member panel designated to watch over Microsoft is in part composed of one person Microsoft has appointed. This panelist will co-decide who the third panelist will be. This is clearly no different than protecting sheep by placing wolves at the fence gate. And if Microsoft violates these meager restrictions? The penalty will be extended for another two years. That is to say, they will be allowed to continue to break the rules for another two years with no repercussions.

Please put an end to this sham of a solution. Call for Judge Kollar-Kelly to reinstate Judge Jackson's ruling that the company should be broken into two parts. If at all possible, single out those figureheads responsible for Microsoft's illegal behavior and ask the court to hold those individuals responsible for their actions. It's a shame that upper management of these companies are never punished directly. By permanently removing them from the company and replacing them with employees from below, the courts could avoid having to slap the company on the wrist many times over, as it has already done with Microsoft. Nothing changed then. Nothing will change now if harsh penalties are not enacted-and the world will have been shown once more that in America, laws are only limits for those with shallow pockets.

-- Dominic Eldridge

[This letter has also been mailed via traditional mail to Renata B. Hesse at the U.S. Department of Justice.]