From: Jeff Harvey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:41am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I just want to buy an operating system. According to
http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,289893,sid9_gci212714,00.html,

"An operating system (sometimes abbreviated as "OS") is the program that, after being initially loaded into the computer by a boot program, manages all the other programs in a computer. The other programs are called applications or application programs. The application programs make use of the operating system by making requests for services through a defined application program interface (API). In addition, users can interact directly with the operating system through a user interface such as a command language or a graphical user interface (GUI).
An operating system performs these services for applications:

a.. In a multitasking operating system where multiple programs can be running at the same time, the operating system determines which applications should run in what order and how much time should be allowed for each application before giving another application a turn.
b.. It manages the sharing of internal memory among multiple applications.
c.. It handles input and output to and from attached hardware devices, such as hard disks, printers, and dial-up ports.
d.. It sends messages to each application or interactive user (or to a system operator) about the status of operation and any errors that may have occurred.
e.. It can offload the management of what are called batch jobs (for example, printing) so that the initiating application is freed from this work.
f.. On computers that can provide parallel processing, an operating system can manage how to divide the program so that it runs on more than one processor at a time. "
I don't want any programs on the operating system. This includes Web Browser, Media Players, Mail Readers, Newsreaders, Picture Viewers, Firewalls, Games, etc.. Paint, Notepad, Wordpad and Calculator I can live with as long as they can be uninstalled. Microsoft's Problem is they also put applications on the Operating System and don't let you uninstall them. I don't mind that they are producing these applications but the fact that they are including them for free ALONG WITH the Operating System gives them an unfair advantage with respect to their competitors who also make programs. I don't want to feel like I'm contributing to putting these smaller companies out of business and that's how I feel when I buy Windows. I have used programs such as 98Lite and IEradicator (http://www.98lite.net/) and Revenge of Mozilla (see http://www.webattack.com/get/ros2se.shtml) all of which REMOVE Internet Explorer from Windows and they work great. Microsoft has put Windows File Protection into Windows

2000 SP2 and Windows XP so that these programs will
not work. They don't want the browser uninstalled because they want to use
the browser to make money (ie. ".NET"). In XP there
are also some folders that you cannnot delete from your own hard drive, such
as Movie Maker, MSN Gaming Zone, Netmeeting,
xerox and Microsoft Frontpage. It's MY hard drive and I should be able to
delete anything I want!
Here's a summary of what changes should be made:
1. Release an "operating system" only. It should be free as part of the
settlement to anyone who can prove they purchased any previous
version of Windows.
2. In this operating system, Windows File Protection must be easily shut off
for those who do not wish to use it.
3. This operating system must not include any of the programs such as
Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, Image Viewer, etc., etc.
4. Microsoft can include these "extras" on the CD if they want, but they
must be installable and useable INDIVIDUALLY and also
uninstallable INDIVIDUALLY.
5. All evidence to Microsoft's web influences must also be removed, such as
Online Services, MSN, MSN Gaming Zone...anything
where they use the operating system to link to the web to make money.
6. I would like the source code of this basic operating system to be
released.
7. The basic operating system must be released for the Windows 98 kernel
even though it may soon be "obsolete" and also for the
most recent kernel (ie. XP) Any new Windows versions must also be
released with the free "light" version (at the same time).
The "light" version must be a "full version" in that it needs not to be
installed OVER TOP OF an existing version. For proof that
one has owned a previous version of Windows, any Windows CD-ROM issued
since Windows 95 can be inserted at the start
of the installation and then the Windows Operating System can be
installed on a freshly formatted drive.
8. Someone in authority must be able to suspend all sales of the full
Windows versions if the "Basic Operating System" version is
not compliant or deliberately issued in an unuseable condition or
inferior to the full release.
9. The basic operating system version must be released promptly with the
threat of suspending all full version sales if not released
promptly. I think they should be able to easily do the 98 kernel
release within 6 months, the XP kernel release within 6 months,
and as I mentioned before any new version of Windows must have the "basic
version" released at the same time.

Thank you for your consideration.

J. Harvey