

From: Kevin Herrboldt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:07pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I oppose the proposed settlement on the grounds that will do little to alter Microsoft's practices and does not undo damages caused by Microsoft's illegal monopoly behavior.

A specific point I take issue with involves tying and bundling. Every release of Microsoft software seems to limit what users can do with their systems and increase Microsoft's control over people's computers and their use. This creates an environment that is almost impossible for any software vendor to succeed with any great success as well as hurting end users.

I have been in the computer industry for over 20 years and have watched it grow from a cottage industry to a vibrant competitive market, only to collapse back into one dominant controller (Microsoft) and a "cottage industry" of smaller players who are left to earn meager profits on the fringes of computing. As soon as an area gets big enough to draw Microsoft's attention, they move into the space and push all players out. A classic example of this is with word processors. Microsoft Office became dominant due to the leverage of Microsoft's Windows operating system, virtually destroying viable options such as WordPerfect and Ami Pro.

Please reconsider the settlement agreement. I feel it does not go far enough to address Microsoft's transgressions.

Respectfully,

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