

**From:** Peter Rinehart  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 12:10am  
**Subject:** my comment on the Microsoft Antitrust case

To: Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Sirs,

I wish to provide my opinions on the current Microsoft antitrust case. Let me begin by saying that I am also a co-signer of Dan Kegel's e-mail, and that I agree wholeheartedly with the points he raises in it.

I would like to add that it is imperative that the settlement to this case be thorough and binding enough to prevent Microsoft from expanding their already extensive monopoly on personal computer operating systems to other aspects of computing. Microsoft's products have proven, time and again, to be insecure and a popular target for various attacks. The company does not see this as a problem for their software engineers, however, but for their public relations department. They have not shown any significant interest in improving their software in order to prevent problems, rather, they are only interested in stopping problems after they affect enough users.

How could the personal computer market come to be dominated by one poor product being procuded by an apathetic company? Because the natural market forces were prevented from correcting this problem. Microsoft enjoys the monopoly it has only because it has constantly sought to protect its business by any means necessary, most of which have proven to be unfair and anticompetitive. I believe that if companies and individual users had a truly fair choice in which operating system to use, Windows would not have nearly the market share it does now.

I realize that creating a level playing field at this point is all but impossible; Windows is here and so many people use it that it will be here for a long time, despite its many flaws. However, now is the time to act to ensure that this situation does not get worse. As Dan Kegel states, the current proposed settlement does a poor job of preventing Microsoft from continuing to engage in anticompetitive behavior in the near future, and therefore should be revised or replaced with something more appropriate.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Rinehart