From: Bill Vlahos
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 12:28am
Subject: Microsoft Monopoly

I believe that Microsoft has clearly and unlawfully abused its monopoly for many years and am dismayed that the "remedies" discussed so far are neither appropriate nor will be effective in either punishing or changing Microsoft's behavior.

Assuming that Microsoft is guilty, which has been proven and re-affirmed in court, then not only should their behavior change but they should be punished. There are numerous products and companies which no longer exist because Microsoft eliminated them.

Let me suggest a solution that would not only meet the goals of the anti-trust case, be relatively easily achieved, but actually would effect a change.

1. Make the file formats for Word, Excel, and Powerpoint open so that other companies can make competitive products which would transparently interoperate with Microsoft's products.

2. Prohibit the Government (U.S. and States) from purchasing any Microsoft products for a period of time based on how long Microsoft abused their monopoly. This would punish Microsoft for past abuses while at the same time provide a waiting market for competing products.

These remedies would certainly hurt Microsoft which is appropriate. They also would stimulate competition which would be good for consumers.

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