

From: Todd C. Lawson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have used Microsoft products for years, but I have largely stopped since I've heard about the predatory practices that were brought to light in the anti-trust suit against them. The findings of fact against Microsoft were right on, and should be followed to their natural conclusion - a break up. One of the few key roles for government in the economy, after the printing of money, is the breakup of monopolies. Monopolies such as the one demonstrated by Microsoft not only stifle the marketplace, they injure consumers.

As such, I stand firmly opposed to the settlement. Even if you disagree with me that the suit should not be continued, there is NO WAY Microsoft should be allowed to settle by putting its software out gratis to schools - a thinly veiled slap at one of the few markets it doesn't dominate, thanks to Apple Computer's efforts in education. Agreeing to this permits Microsoft to EXPAND their monopoly, and is not a middle ground safe for a settlement.

We now find ourselves in the midst of a re-assessment of what common business practices should be, in the post-Enron era. The predatory practices of Microsoft are more shameful than the corrupt practices of Enron, and MUST NOT STAND. Do NOT let them weasel out of it and broaden their monopoly in the process. You owe it to the market, the customers, the students and the taxpayers.

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