From: beattymp@yahoo.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Let me begin by saying that I completely support the settlement and want this entire case brough to completion. Below are some thoughts that came to mind while reading the case against Microsoft.

First of all, the whole browser issue is a complete waste of time for every party involved, and it makes me sick to my stomach to think of how much money my government has wasted chasing this irrelevant case.

As a technology consultant who has vast experience in many software platforms, the issue of the browser is ridiculous because any programmer worth their weight in beans could easily program their own browser to any operating system. Netscape had a commanding lead in browser share, which was wasted away by their own business policies and made even worse when Sun acquired Netscape. I used to have a lot of respect for Sun when I was consulting on their platform, but then I saw how their pricing and arrogance stifled innovation in the functionality and integration capabilities of the Netscape browser.

This was also true with Java. It was great when it first came out, as the promise of the technology was the sweetest thing to hit the industry in a long time. By keeping such a tight hold on java, Sun has not only missed opportunity to advance the language, but they have kept many companies from innovating the language to provide a feature set that meets the needs of enterprise customers. When Microsoft added to java, they were only meeting the needs of their customers by filling the void in functionality that Sun refused to provide. Other companies have done the same, IBM, BEA, and others to the point that it takes a 'port' of the code from one operating system to the next. This is completely opposite of what the early promise of java was "write once, run anywhere". To meet the needs of my business customers, we always have to find a vendor specific java such as IBM so that we can get the features out of the language that make it usable. If the language was submitted as a standard, these enhancement s would have been made to the language. Instead, Sun has kept the royaltees on all java licensing and has caused the rest of the industry to innovate around their stubbornness. Needless to say, I can better meet the needs of my customers by using another vendors 'flavor' of java versus the straight Sun implementation.

The thing that bothers me the most about this case is that most of the 'facts' (using the term loosely since I completely disagree with the previous findings of 'fact' by the biased judge Jackson) brought to the government's legal team have come from Microsoft competitors, the ones who have the most to gain by hurting Microsoft. I have explained my thoughts on Sun, java and Netscape, and they are just a sampling of why this case

should have never made it to the courts in the first place. To blanket this whole case and say that Microsoft is not allowing the industry to innovate is completely ridiculous. Microsoft should be punished for specific actions that have violated the law, and only for those specific actions. Given the amount of venture capital money that was fed into the economy over the last 10 years, there was plenty of opportunity for any company to come to market with new and compelling products.

In regards to the settlement, it appears that both sides have made significant concessions to see this to an end. Ever since the DOJ brought this case against Microsoft, the economy has been in a tailspin. It appears that as long as this case is active in the courts, the chains of 'waiting to see what happens to Microsoft' will remain, and the economy will remain stale. This tailspin has rippled into other industries and if we are ever to start recovering from this recession, this case needs to be completely settled and resolved.

Please bring this case to an end and let our industry regulate itself. If people are seeing unethical or extremely competitive behavior, they can make their own decisions on who to support with their IT dollars. If companies are explicitly breaking the law, punish them for those specific acts and do not bring the rest of the industry down (and in this case, the whole economy) with them.

Thank you,
Michael Beatty

CC: beattymp@yahoo.com@inetgw