From: J. Jentink
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 11:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed settlement is BAD, BAD idea!!!

I have been in the US computer industry since the late sixties and there exists no threat to the long term American economy that approaches where Microsoft is headed. Allowing them to continue their shady practices and underhanded tactics based on monopoly and monetary power must stop. We must come down on them hard and immediately. The proposed settlement is less than a hand slap. We need some real teeth in terms of immediate penalties to aid those harmed, a prohibition of Microsoft expanding their tentacles into new areas and a totally independent mechanism for makes certain their practices are brought back into the norm of honest and fair business practices.

1) The quality and reliability of Microsoft products are at a level that would be unacceptable in any field without monopoly control.

2) Any company that choices to partner with Microsoft has brought about their own death. Some are bought but for most, their intellectual property is usurped by Microsoft.

3) Almost no innovation is happening within the areas of Microsoft control. Companies know that every innovation they introduce will eventually be taken by the evil monopoly. For example, it is almost impossible to get venture capital for software development today. The people with the money know that Microsoft will use its power to take it for their own and then they will have to pay the costs of fighting a legal battle with the big money machine. They know historically that there is not winning, eventually Microsoft will prevail.

NOTE: The drying up of venture capital money and the greed of the investment bankers lead to the unsustainable tech market and crash.

4) The only things that Microsoft seems to be afraid of today are truly open standards that they can not "embrace and extend" and the Linux "free and open" operating system. One should note that Linux is a essentially a product of Europe and often associated with their institutions of higher learning. There is little input from US institutions since our universities take our public money but instead of giving new technologies and software developed using this money back to the public, they sell or license them for additional income.

If these trends continue, the world will eventually need a solution to the high cost and low quality of Microsoft products. By that time, only countries like India and China or the EU will have the ability to

produce systems and products independent of Microsoft's control. Such a turn of events will dramatically reduce our now dominant position in computing, networking and information engineering to that of a third rate contributor, with a heavy toll on our economy and quality of life.

Thank you for your attention, orignal email sent with wrong Subject line.

J. Jentink