

From: karl sebastian
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 8:07pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I write as a former user of Microsoft software products, and now a user of Apple hardware and software, to protest the apparent lack of will on the part of the American legal system to apply its laws equally and in fair measure to its citizens.

This is a situation reached because of my perceptions of Microsoft as a major obstacle to competitive software innovation, through improper use of its financial strength, and now seemingly to be excused by the American legal system of any significant penalty although found guilty of these practices by that same legal system.

Also I write because of my perception of Microsoft as being less of an innovator and more of an imitator. In the process providing software systems that have had defects that have resulted in enormous costs to business worldwide, both through vulnerability to viruses and through faulty operation, and because of the harmful effects they have had on true innovation.

In fact producing products with so many defects that, if experienced in similar measure in any other field of production, would have long ago resulted in costly litigation by dissatisfied consumers.

The other competitive software operating system, Apple, while certainly not a perfect example, would seem to offer some pointers as to a preferred way of doing business in the field of computer operating systems, with their inclination to a more co-operative approach to other software producers, even to the extent of ensuring great compatibility with the Microsoft software through the proper use of generally accepted codes, such as pertain to the Internet. A field where once more Microsoft have a dubious record.

As a resident of Australia, and an admirer of much that is American, the present attitudes and actions of the Microsoft corporation reflect in the microcosm much that is deplored in the macrocosm that is called the United States of America, and if justice is not seen to be done will only be harmful to your reputation in the longer term.

A severe and applied penalty to this arrogant corporation is long overdue and thoroughly deserved.

Yours sincerely,

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