

From: Will von Reis
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 10:40am
Subject: MSFT is monopoly

As a software developer who uses Microsoft products, I am grateful that they often give away development resources in order to promote the use of their technology. For example, they announced that in the next quarter they will be giving away their .NET development environment for free (it is currently priced ~\$600-\$800). This is great, but it also tells me that Microsoft sees a threat to their business coming from this area of technology. As a developer I have witnessed them taking aggressive steps against many other technologies that they must have seen as threats to their core desktop business. It is difficult to evaluate the real threats posed because most of these other initiatives floundered soon after Microsoft introduced their own. Some examples off the top of my head.

MS Win CE -> 3COM Palm
MS Direct Draw -> OpenGL
MS Internet Explorer -> Mozilla/Netscape
MS OCX Web Objects -> Java Applets

From my perspective, MS clearly uses their dominance in one arena to squash innovation in others.

SOLUTION:

prevent MS from selling to OEMs. Consumers must install windows themselves. IE you can't buy a machine with windows pre-installed.

This forces them to be vulnerable to the same market forces as everyone else- CONSUMER CHOICE!

Will von Reis
1737 West Arbor Dr.
San Diego, CA 92103