

From: Craig
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft has for years used illegal and unethical means to secure a monopoly in the computing industry. As I understand the workings of anti-trust law, this calls for (among other things) divestiture of all profits made from the illegal activities.

The proposed school settlement plan brought forth by MS and the DOJ, would be a reward rather than a punishment. This settlement would allow Microsoft to extend it's monopoly into one of the few areas it has been unable to penetrate through it's normal, devious devices.

The proposed settlement also, simply put, does little to insure future compliance with the law, as it has far too many loopholes and lacks harsh enough penalties, if they violate it or other anti-trust laws in the future.

I would submit that this is the time to send a message to industry that, crime doesn't pay. The only way to accomplish this is through large fines, which would take away all the profits they have made from their illegal activities.

The only way to insure against future infractions, would be to include a "Crown Jewel" clause, such as disclosure of thier source code, or forcing them to re-license it under the GPL.

I further submit that the arrogance and contempt shown by MS throughout the previous proceedings... the very thing that drove the original judge to distraction, should be considered heavily in this matter. Gates and Company have shown nothing but contempt, for our legal system, for the free interprise system, for the computer field, for our government and for thier customers.

I beg you to do something that will actually have an affect on MS... not just give them a slap on the wrist.

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