From: Keith E. Folsom
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 12:27am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

My name is Keith Folsom. I am the Director of Systems and Communications at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. I have been a computer professional since my graduation from college with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 1981. I have had many roles in the field, including Software Engineer, Programmer, Systems Administrator, and manager. My desire to stay current in a field I really enjoy convinced me to enter an evening Master's program in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington in 1999. I completed this program last month, graduating with a Master's degree.

I am writing this letter in order to urge you to consider more far-reaching sanctions against Microsoft than those proposed, which I feel is justified in light of the conclusion that the company is a monopoly. It is my opinion that the sanctions as proposed will do little or nothing to prevent Microsoft from continuing to use their monopoly power to crush competition and true innovation in the computing industry.

I do not believe in a government that unnecessarily interferes in the matters of industry. Free enterprise and capitalism normally self-regulate. But when a company grows too large and is no longer subject to the normal laws of economics, a government has the duty to reign this company in. As I've watched Microsoft gain a strangle-hold on the computing industry, I've also seen my choice of products and solutions dwindle. It frankly scares me. And Microsoft's latest attempt to control the Internet with their .NET initiative convinces me that they have not learned any lessons from the long battle against the Justice Department in the anti-trust case. They are determined to own it all.

Once again, I urge you to consider stronger measures against Microsoft, up to and including splitting the company into smaller, more fairly competitive units. I believe such measures are the only way to prevent the computing industry from sinking into a mire of mediocrity, with no true choice of solutions for computing problems. This is what monopolies do unless they are stopped. Please stop Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Keith Folsom

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