

From: david@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 12:29am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I respectfully submit you do not accept the Microsoft settlement.

While I have not been a Systems Admin. for over ten years now, I can state with some certainty the tactics I have seen used by Microsoft are not normally innovative, but rather monopolistic.

At one time Microsoft had competition in all areas (Lotus comes to mind the quickest), but in any area Microsoft wanted to own the market, the competition usually was squeezed out, often by the use of vague, or changing standards within their operating system. I saw this same technique brought out again with the idea of placing "free" computers and software in schools. This solution would basically have the US government assist Microsoft in their attempt to force Apple out of the schools, allowing Microsoft to monopolize even the educational system.

PLEASE don't take the easy way out of this one! I have the opinion, as simplistic as it may sound, that Mr. Gates was so arrogant on the witness stand because he had little fear of even the United States Government. His product was in most government offices and all he had to do was threaten national security with the threat of total economic and governmental collapse if Microsoft was broken up, but I fear it may well be the other way around. It may well be Microsoft's products which some day bring a collapse of the US economy - or worse.

I am sorry I have no "hard evidence" to point to, but to those who have watched, Microsoft's intent has been clear nearly since the first contract with IBM: "assimilate or exterminate" could well have been their battle cry as they attempted to own a piece of every desktop in the world.

Please do not allow the US Government to assist Microsoft in their growing monopoly... Please do not settle with Microsoft according to the latest terms.

Respectfully,
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