From: Ross Brazzi
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Operating Systems from Microsoft are found in over 95% of computer desktops, and by definition, that level of market share constitutes a monopoly. Microsoft aggressively protects its monopoly, and consequently consumers pay the prices dictated by Microsoft for Operating System and Application Software such as Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office. For the benefit of consumers, competition must be introduced into the desktop market, and the most efficient method is through market forces, not regulation or consent decree. Microsoft should be broken up into separate and independent companies: one that develops Operating Systems software, such as Windows, one that develops Applications Software, such as Office, and one that encapsulates its Online and Broadcast Services, such as MSN and MSNBC. Market forces would provide a natural incentive for these separate and independent companies to offer their products and services on many platforms, including those of former competitors of the original, monolithic Microsoft. For instance, a separate and independent company that develops Microsoft Applications Software would want to broaden its user base by porting its products, such as Microsoft Office, to other Operating Systems, such as Linux. As a result, other vendors of Operating System Software such as Linux, can compete on a playing field that is more level when attempting to offer an alternative Operating System for the desktop market. Today, most businesses will not even consider an alternative Operating System, unless it runs Microsoft Office, because they are locked into the proprietary document formats of Microsoft Office. Splitting up Microsoft may seem drastic, but in the long run, it is the most effective and efficient way to introduce competition in a market controlled by one company.
