

From: bfriedman(a)excite.com
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 9:07pm
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

I am a computer programmer and instructor at a community college.

I resent the way that Microsoft has conducted itself with regard to the antitrust settlement. This company continues to disregard this country's laws, and should receive appropriate penalties.

Their "settlement proposal" to donate software to schools is ludicrous. A piece of software with a retail price of \$600 or more costs about \$10 in packaging and materials. Microsoft proposes to spend a few million dollars (in real cost), donate this to schools, and then not support the hardware or software in the future. (Thus creating future licensing fees for itself in the future from the same schools.)

The computer industry in general has shown much more good will to the US than many others. In the past, many computer scientists shared information, algorithms, etc., in the hope of advancing the art and technology. Microsoft has dominated an industry, and uses that position as a bully pulpit. They are destroying the previous trends of goodwill within the computing industry.

I do not think that the people in Redmond should be let off with a slap on the wrist. As a corporation, Microsoft should be penalized for their monopolistic and illegal practices. And personally, I do not feel that their proposed gift to schools comes close to being an appropriate punishment for misconduct.

Sincerely,

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MTC-00029136_0002