

**From:** kittykat579@juno.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 10:06pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Attached are my thoughts on the Microsoft settlement. I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion on the matter.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Katharine Cahill

**Katharine Cahill  
2 Sagner Court  
Frederick, MD 21701**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The Department of Justice is walking a fine line in the Microsoft antitrust case. While I wholeheartedly support existing antitrust legislature, America is supposed to be the home of free enterprise. The federal courts are stifling Microsoft's ability to innovate. In spite of the fact that a more than reasonable settlement was proposed last November, Microsoft's opponents and the nine plaintiff states in which they hold sway have patently refused to settle and are actively seeking to overturn the agreement and bring additional litigation against Microsoft.

I believe the proposed settlement is more than fair. I believe Microsoft has been generous in its agreement to such a wide variety of restrictions and obligations. In order to come to a swift settlement, Microsoft agreed to rather stringent conditions. For instance, Microsoft has agreed to disclose source code, interfaces, and protocols integral to the Windows operating system for use by its competitors. In essence, Microsoft has been made potentially vulnerable to legalized plagiarism. Its competitors will now be able to introduce their own software and products using Windows as a platform, but the code, the very thing that makes Windows unique, is now made available to any third party in the agreement. Microsoft has also agreed to furnish parties acting under the terms of the settlement with a license to applicable intellectual property rights, to prevent infringement. Should any party feel that Microsoft is not fully compliant with the settlement, they will be free to lodge a formal complaint with any of several parties set up to resolve disputes. Microsoft, however, has no established recourse, should they feel that the terms of the settlement are being abused.

Ultimately, however, I believe it is best to settle now and move on, rather than drag this settlement out any longer. The case already had a tremendous negative impact on the economy and the technology industry. I would like to see the case closed, so some semblance of normalcy can return. I urge you and your office to support the finalization of the settlement.

Sincerely,

Katharine Cahill