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COMMENT: PLEASE CALL

Jack Bart
1930 Sunrise Highway Apt. 17
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January 17, 2002

John Ashcroft, Attorney General
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing today to address the Microsoft antitrust settlement with the Department of Justice. I am in support of the settlement, and I feel that it is a just one. After three years in court we are well past the point where this issue should have been resolved. Now more then ever, we cannot afford to waste valuable resources debating an issue that has an acceptable solution on the table.

When the settlement is finalized, Microsoft will be a changed entity, one allowing more consumer flexibility, and is far less combatively competitive. From this point forward, Microsoft will design Windows-family products to be user-friendlier to installation, un-installation, and configuration of its competitors' peripheral software components. Furthermore, Microsoft will make available to its competitors various internal interfaces of the Windows product line for the purposes of their own software development. Should any of these interfaces fall under intellectual property rights, Microsoft will provide license for their use to the developer in question. I would highlight these aspects of the settlement to those who claim that Microsoft is just being given a free ride. In fact, many of the terms within the current settlement reach above and beyond the issues originally brought to suit against Microsoft three years ago.

At this point I strongly urge all parties involved to agree to the current settlement and wrap this antitrust issue up once and for all.

Sincerely,

Jack Bart