From: bray
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 10:32am
Subject: microsoft settlement

The proposed settlement below is unacceptable as a solution to past monopolistic practices by Microsoft.

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"Not long after the DOJ settlement, Microsoft announced it had agreed to another settlement regarding a separate class-action suit brought against the company by numerous parties that alleged overpricing of Microsoft products.
The settlement forces Microsoft to donate software, hardware, and services to America's poorest schools. "
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This type of settlement would simply introduce Microsoft to a market where they could further extend their monopoly. A better solution would be for Microsoft to pay a specific amout of money to each of these poor school districts to be used for non-microsoft products only, such as computer hardware. Then a company such as RedHat or Apple could donate software for these systems or part of the Microsoft fine could be used to purchase this software.

Allowing Microsoft or any company to donate their own product as part of a fine or punishment is akin to the drug dealer giving away the first few highs to get his clients hooked!!