From: Bruce L. Friedman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 11:11am
Subject: DOJ-MS Settlement Agreement Opinion

I am told this is the forum for sending in public opinion for the proposed settlement.

I am a computer professional, familiar with MS Windows (3.1, 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000, and XP) as well as with Linux from various distributions (RedHat, Slackware, etc.) and Sun Solaris operating systems. I have been working professionally in the field for 16 years and hold undergraduate and graduate degrees in computer science.

My feeling from reading the press reports on the settlement is that Microsoft having been found guilty of monopolistic practices is being penalized by having to donate software to schools. This doesn't make sense. If the penalty's purpose is to prevent them from practicing as a monopoly in the future, I don't see how that would do it.

I think the only penalty that should matter should be financial. The real question should be - how much, and who is the beneficiary?

I think education is an excellent choice for the recipient. As for how much, I can't say. However, it should be based upon the assets and income of the corporation. I would think that something on the order of half of the corporate assests would not be overly punishing given the impact they have had on the marketplace in the personal computer business.

Sincerely,
Bruce Friedman
bruce_friedman@yahoo.com