

From: BillMeelater
To: DOJ
Date: 12/10/01 6:52pm
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

Dear DOJ,

It pleases me that the DOJ and Microsoft Corp have come to a settlement finally. Briefly, my opinion as a consumer and citizen of this great country is as follows:

1. I never felt cheated or hurt as a consumer of any Microsoft product. Nor do I understand how consumers have been hurt by the Microsoft company. Certainly I've had many frustrating moments over the years because their software occasionally failed to function properly (and many consumers have shared this feeling). But I personally feel that the gains I've made in productivity over the years, due to the advances in computing as a result of the Microsoft company, have been worth the trouble. Considering the efficiency their products bring to me, they are cheap. Let's not complain about an \$80 operating system.
2. Our economy has benefitted from the standardization of operating systems due to Microsoft's dominance. I'm sure many a legal brief prepared by the DOJ was done on Microsoft software. What would it be like to share information in a world of computers that wouldn't talk to each other? A third world experience, I'm sure. Example: How frustrating is it now to make a long distance phone call from a phone you don't own. A strong case, in my opinion, for standardization. As Alan Greenspan has stated many times - the growth we had from mid to late -90's was very much a result of technical innovation by Microsoft and companies like it.
3. In our country today, we can't afford to struggle internally anymore. It would be different if Microsoft dominated the software industry AND put out lousy product. I don't think that's the case. The DOJ has gone after this company with such vengeance. I don't think it's warranted. I'm sure they've gotten the message. Now let it go and let them, and companies like them continue to innovate. It benefits us all.

Sincerely,

Bill Braun
Colorado