From: Cleburne Medlock
To: DOJvsMS
Date: 12/14/01 12:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Sirs:

First, allow me to introduce myself briefly. I, C. W. Medlock, have worked in the "Software" field in a professional capacity for more than 47 years. (My first course in "programming" was taken in 1950 at Purdue University.) I have worked at such stalwarts of this industry as IBM (1960-1966), NCR (1975-1977), etc. At IBM, I was one of the six Architects of IBM's Operating System 360 ("OS/360"), one of the world's first true Operating Systems (1963-64). Also at IBM (1963), I was one of the six members of the joint IBM/SHARE (a users group) team that developed the advanced Programming Language One (PL/I) Although the latter language has fallen into disuse due to more modern advances in such "standard", non?-proprietary languages a COBOL, PL/I indeed was a most powerful language (for both scientific and business computing) that I believe set the stage for the more modern versions of COBOL and other more modern scientific computing languages.

I, from 1982 to 1999, was proprietor of my own software "home-business" Pro/Am Software, where I developed and marketed worldwide several software "tools" for use by the programmer. It was here, as a "lone survivor" of a great group of Information Age professionals, that I first encountered the threats laid down by Microsoft's failure to disclose much-needed facts that would allow entrepreneurs such as myself to develop tools that would directly or indirectly interface with their "Windows" Operating System. (This does NOT mean that I necessarily would have required the source code of Windows, but only a FULL disclosure of Microsoft's file formats, OS interfaces, details of invoking OS functions, etc. This should include such disclosure of these interfaces for all of Microsoft's other products which interface with Windows, as competitors and other users have a need for this information just as well.) A case might easily be made by Microsoft that they should have the full protection of their intellectual property such as source code, where distribution of same would allow many other (foreign?) businesses to easily make copies of same, and, via suitable modifications, each apply their own "Trademarks", "Copyright" notifications, etc. However, I cannot imagine a case in any court where it could be argued that it would be harmful to a legitimate, non-monopolistic business for them to disclose FULLY the interfaces needed by ALL users (developers and ordinary users alike) to fully use and expand all features of Windows and all of it's associated Microsoft Products! (I can quote more than a few examples of where I and other developers were not able to obtain needed information about files and other data formats that were needed to allow us to develop products which would enlarge the capabilities of the Windows operating system, thereby seemingly even strengthening its place in the market.) Such a relatively "open architecture" has indeed been the norm with such stalwart

operating-system providers as IBM, etc. (After all, the original IBM Personal Computer had even it's Hardware and Software totally in the public domain. Microsoft should at the very least provide the "circuit diagram" of their software, so that it could even be repaired more easily, including making expansions and improvements thereto!)

The provisions in any Settlement with Microsoft should NOT be limited to the interfaces with their Windows operating system, but should indeed include ALL interfaces (direct or indirect) with ANY Microsoft product. This is much needed by developers and many consumers, as well!

I would like to help put Microsoft in its proper place in the Software World, and see that the DOJ indeed does not "sell out" to MS!

Most sincerely,

C. W.. Medlock