From: Mike Pritchard
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 11:32am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In my opinion... the DOJ should back off a little.

I think the DOJ investigation is being driven by competitors of Microsoft. I also think Microsoft's competitors are jealous because they have been unable to duplicate Microsoft's success.

Do you remember what it was like to work with computers in the 70's and 80's??? Proprietary computers running proprietary software. Hardware and software costs were outrageous and maintenance cost weren't much better. Software programs were not standardized and they didn't always play nice with each other. The philosophy of big computer companies seemed to be, "Do it our way or don't do it". Trying to get different computer to work together was very frustrating (if not impossible).

Microsoft could have played by the same rules as everybody else (in the computer industry). Instead, today we have standards and tightly integrated tools for developing and running software.

I do not think Microsoft is a Monopoly. They do not own the hardware and software (unlike Apple and IBM), and there are many operating systems to choose from. You can run several types of UNIX, Macintosh, OS2, etc... Most people choose MSWindows. It is quite nice to have many tools integrated into the MS operating system.

Because of its size it may be a good idea to keep an eye on Microsoft, but in my opinion they should get a commendation for what they have accomplished. Microsoft has made my job easier and more productive.

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