

From: Glen W. Mabey
Date: 1/23/02 1:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I would like to comment on the Proposed Final Judgement in the United States vs. Microsoft case.

My concern relates to the absence of requirements for Microsoft to disclose file formats used by its programs. This issue has been established as a part of the Applications Barrier to Entry in Findings of Fact paragraphs 20 and 39.

The pervasive use of Microsoft Office products has rendered their respective file formats as the de facto standard for normal office document interchange. However, since the format of these documents is unpublished, there is no reason to believe that this monopolistic situation will change any time in the near future.

Only a legally mandated disclosure of these file formats can hope to restore a competitive nature to this aspect of computing. Furthermore, I believe that given previous behavior by Microsoft, the following stipulation is also necessary: that any inaccuracy in the published specification for these file formats result in a punishment which is

- *) severe,
- *) automatic, and
- *) that the consequences for doing so be also stipulated in the Final Judgement.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Mabey

Glen W. Mabey
Glen.Mabey@usu.edu
<http://www.ssl.usu.edu/~glen/>
