From: Doug Schafer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am strongly opposed to the proposed settlement. It does not take into account Microsoft's past avoidance of the intent of the consent decree. It should be assumed Microsoft will act in bad faith as they have in the past. If this assumption is made, the proposed settlement easily allows Microsoft to continue monopolistic practices that will cause long-term damage to this country.

To allow free-market forces to reign, Microsoft cannot be allowed to turn what is currently a public resource (the internet) into its private tool. This would be akin to a company subtly modifying all the on and off ramps of the federal highway system so that only company-approved vehicles could use them. Competitors must be able to interoperate with, and replace components of, Microsoft operating systems. This requires that the government prevent Microft from blocking this access via legal or tecnical means. The proposed final jugdement falls far short of this.

Sincerely,

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