From: Michael James Langford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:56am
Subject: Simple to impelement remedys.

Dear Sirs,

Microsoft clearly has maintained a monopoly via unlawful means. They do not deserve the public's trust, as they do not have our best interest in mind.

Most behavioral or structural remedies are too hard to effectively enforce on an adaptable company such as Microsoft. So instead affect a policy change for the Federal Government through careful restrictions on Microsoft.

Switch the entire federal government over from MS office and mail products to other companies products like Sun Microsystem's StarOffice products. Use an open file format, such as Rich Text, Html, or Latex as the standard for documents. Word documents can be easily changed over to these types through its SaveAs command, and this process can be automated through simple programs most programmers could write in a couple hours.

This sounds like an expensive switch over. Have Microsoft pay for the manpower to switch over all agencies. Make them split the cost of any new licenses 50%/50%.

To make this switch within the power of the court, you would have to phrase the judgement in a way similar to:

All licenses granted to the federal government of Microsoft Office 95, Office 97, Office 2000, and Office XP are hereby revoked. (The contracts cancelled).

A new 5 year license is given in lieu of the old license of each copy of that software.

Microsoft may not issue new licenses to the government for any Non-Operating System product. Microsoft may not bundle any office productivity software into its Operating Systems. This is in effect for the next 10 years.

Microsoft will pay all labor costs associated with switching to new office products, as well as 50% of the cost of all replacement software.

Any state or municipal governments may also have these same terms if they request it.

This seems to be an easy to enforce and equitable judgement that can be levied against Microsoft as a punishment, and does not cost any party but Microsoft an undue expense, while still being fair to Microsoft.

The only party remaining to be dealt with is the OEM's who have been forced into licensing contracts with Microsoft. To remedy that situation, allow any of them to cancel their contracts with Microsoft at any time in the next 5 years, and enforce a single PUBLISHED price for all OEM software purchases of Microsoft software. Allow compulsory licencing to at that price to any OEM that wants it.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,
Michael Langford