From: Yev Bronshteyn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/16/01 11:02pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

To whom it may concern:

As it stands, I believe the proposed settlement is insufficient. While giving certian limited freedoms to the manufacturers, I believe all parties involved have lost track of those for whom the settlement is necessitated - the consumers.

As a consumer, I am entitled to demanding free choice in buying a product, and to government protection of my choice. In regards to Microsoft settlement, this applies as folows:

* The consumers must be given inalienable right to select any and all of the software he/she purchases with a new computer. This includes both middleware and operating systems.

* The consumer must not pay for any software he/she does not receive as a result of making the decision described above.

* No OEM or retailer should suffer any financial loss for granting a consumer the afore-mentioned fundamental freedoms, and no party should (yes, even Microsoft) should gain from denying these rights to the consumer. Specifically, this translates into:

-No exclusivity contracts with OEMs. Microsoft must not be allowed to enter into contracts that bind the OEM to providing any Operating System and/or middleware on all or any specific fraction of systems sold but that OEM.

-No discounts to OEMs based on their choice of operating system or middleware.

Any settlement that fails to provide for the above rights are included in ironclad, incontravertible language with no "exceptions", falls short of satisfactory to the needs of the consumers.

As a consumer, I thank you for your concern for our interests.

Yev Bronshteyn.