From: Terrence
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 9:43am
Subject: Microsoft settlement comments

Date: 11/22/01

Subject: Comments on Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I strongly oppose the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case.

Microsoft has been proven before the law to have abused its monopoly powers and needs to be punished for that and effective rules must be put in place to restore competition in the marketplace. The recently publicized settlement does neither.

Healty competition, innovation, and consumer choice are ESSENTIAL to the high-tech economy. The way I interpret the settlement it is full of holes and will not stop Microsoft from steamrolling the competition with unfair business practices and does nothing to prevent Microsoft from gauging consumers for years to come.

In particular:

- Microsoft must be prohibited from engaging in excluse and semi-exclusive agreements with any parties for any time period.

- Microsoft must not be allowed to provide financial or other incentives to other parties for favoring Microsofts products over a competitors product.

- Microsoft must not be allowed to bundle or cross-license its products in any way.

- Microsoft must make public the programming interfaces to all of its major products to allow competitors to implement meaningful interoperability with Microsoft's products. Also, Microsoft must notify all interested parties well in advance before it decides to change any such interfaces and must make these changes available.

- Microsoft must be prohibited from breaking public technology standards by adding proprietary and incompatible features to such standards and then bundling this proprietary technology into hundreds of millions of Windows platforms, thus creating a de-facto standard that overrides the existing public standard.

No exemptions or loopholes can be allowed for the above rules if meaningful relief is to be achieved.

I urge the court to understand the impact Microsoft's past behavior has had on the high-tech marketplace. If Microsoft's ruthless business practices continue unchecked the American economy will pay an enormous penalty in the long run.

Microsoft should compete as much as it wants, but it must stop doing so in an unfair manner. The proposed settlement does not guarantee this in any way.

Sincerely,

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