

VII. Through its predatory and anticompetitive conduct, Microsoft has maintained its operating system monopoly, dangerously threatened monopolization of the browser market, and inflicted substantial and far-reaching consumer harm

357. Microsoft has achieved its anticompetitive objectives and, in doing so, has inflicted, and likely will continue to inflict, substantial and enduring harm on competition and consumers.

357.1. By gaining a substantial share of the browser market and weakening rivals, Microsoft has blunted the browser threat to the applications barrier to entry and thereby maintained its operating system monopoly. See infra Part VII.A; ¶¶ 358-387.

357.2. Microsoft's course of conduct also dangerously threatened monopolization of the browser market. See infra Part VII.B; ¶¶ 376-384.

357.3. AOL's acquisition of Netscape will not undo the harm to competition wrought by Microsoft. In the wake of Microsoft's predatory and anticompetitive campaign, AOL will neither resurrect the browser threat nor seek to erode the applications barrier to entry in other ways. See infra Part VII.C; ¶¶ 393-396.

357.4. Microsoft further entrenched its operating system monopoly by enhancing its control over standards, in particular network-based standards, and by gaining a reputation as a predator, which is likely to deter other threats to the applications barrier to entry. See infra Part VII.D; ¶¶ 397-403.

357.5. Microsoft's campaign to maintain and extend its operating system monopoly has caused, and will continue to cause, substantial and far-reaching consumer harm. See infra Part VII.E; ¶¶ 404-410.

357.5.1. Consumers have been deprived of the benefits increased competition in operating system might bring and have been directly harmed by the strategies

Microsoft employed in its scheme to eliminate potential rivals.

357.5.2. Most important, Microsoft will continue to have the power and incentive to distort the pace and direction of innovation in ways that protect its monopoly power rather than serving the interests of consumers.