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Bill Gates

Microsoft

From: Bill Gates
Sent: Friday, June 09, 1995 9:45 AM
To: Carl Stork (carls); Paul Maritz (paulma)
Subject: FW: NSP comments

We need to make a constructive proposal and have a meeting with them.

We should make it clear on what the goals are we share and what the problems are. Craig won't be much help on this but hopefully Andy will get someone technical and objective to look into it.

From: Andy Grove [SMTP:Andy.Grove@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 1995 6:16 PM
To: billg
Subject: Re: NSP comments

Text Item:

Bill,

yes, I met with Compaq (in fact, we had a very good meeting. I think we are on our way toward a much more productive relationship). I explained the significance of NSP - the concept - and that I thought it was key to the growth of the PC industry. I said I felt that Microsoft supported it (the concept), and that while we had differences of opinion on the detailed approach, we would resolve these differences. And I said I had great confidence in Paul Maritz's ability to help us do that.

Do you have any problem with what I said?

Regarding the rest of your message, I would like to make a comment. Excuse me if it sounds a bit philosophical. I think Microsoft and Intel have special responsibilities toward the PC industry. If we don't work double time to insure that we remove the technical obstacles that may impede its growth in the future, we are not stepping up to what the industry expects from us. This involves undertaking high risk technical initiatives, it involves fixing those when they go wrong, and it involves working with each other, engaging in give and take, swallowing engineering pride when necessary.

I don't think Intel is perfect against these expectations. We do some of it well some of the time but not all of it and certainly not all of the time. I doubt that you believe Microsoft is perfect either. When one of us errs, the other should come in to help correct the situation.

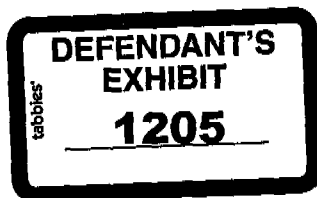
I would like to ask you to do exactly that. If you believe that what we are trying to do is good for the industry, please help us (plural us: Intel and Microsoft and whoever else needs to participate) achieve it. Merely being critical of what we have undertaken is not helpful. Telling us to go away is

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not helpful; nor is it practical: we (and I) genuinely believe that the end results of the NSP initiative are vital to our long term success, so we have to persevere.

Please put your brain to work on this problem and the brains of your people. I have an immense respect for you (both singular and plural) and I will make sure we will meet you halfway.

On a slightly different subject, you mention NT. I have a growing appreciation for NT and its role and I am very excited in the potential power of the P6 (which is doing fantastically well!) and NT. I would like us to explore how we can work even closer together as we near our launch -- and as NT is becoming more important on the commercial desk top (at least I surmise that it is).

Regards,

andy

This NSP situation continues to get worse.

The most recent episode is that Compaq says that you personally assured them we are supportive of NSP specifically saying that Paul Maritz supported it.

NSP includes pieces that conflict with Windows95. NSP is not well tested. Paul Maritz does not support it.

Ron seems mainly interested in getting us to be quiet about the problems with NSP or figuring out how to allow Windows95 to ship without a major problem.

The whole idea of just now handing us a pile of low level software and suggesting that somehow it can be fit in with Windows 95 when we froze the product many months ago just doesn't make sense.

Take for example interfaces like 3DR or DCI or the sound elements. The strategy we have taken with Windows95 - directsound, directvideo, relayty labs cover all of these areas. If the goal is to help Intel as a company then ISVs shouldn't be sent in 2 directions on these things.

Ron seems to think if he perseveres enough we will say its great to not work with Windows NT and its great to confuse ISVs and somehow we will embrace code that doesn't work with Windows95. There doesn't seem to be a dialog about the real problems.

I am curious whether you discussed NSP with Compaq.

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Date: Thu, 08 Jun 95 08:56:00 PDT
Subject: NSP comments
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From: billg@microsoft.com
Message-Id: <9506081636.AA12337@hgmms>
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