
Subject: OT: Microsoft have a nice big fine!
Posted by [abakshi](#) on Sun, 28 Mar 2004 17:56:07 GMT
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Well IMO the key that people are missing is that the main issue is NOT the money. MS, although it would of course not want to pay \$600 million, will not die from it.

The REAL issue is the part where MS must provide part of Windows source code to competitors (RealNetworks, Apple) so they can "better integrate" their products with Windows... Plus the part requiring MS to create a separate version of Windows that does not have WMP built-in. This has massive ramifications for Microsoft as Longhorn (the next version of Windows) is much more feature-rich than XP. For example, it has a much stronger and more advanced firewall, it has built-in virus protection (MS bought an anti-virus company to do this) and a whole bunch of other stuff. This would all be disallowed by the EU if the judgement is held...

This is really pathetic as frankly it also comes down to which is a better product. I much prefer WMP over RealPlayer and QuickTime. IMO RealPlayer is simply a mess - the whole thing is so clunky in comparison with WMP, it plays less types of media files, and is overall less straightforward, not to mention the whole thing with file usage info being sent to RealNetworks. At least WMP doesn't invade your privacy nearly as much as Real. As for QuickTime - yeah it's ok - but I only use it to play MOV's as WMP is more flexible file-wise and I just prefer its whole setup....
