

# M\$ to Release Windows Source Code?

By *srlinuxx*

Created 25/01/2006 - 8:28pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Wednesday 25th of January 2006 08:28:08 PM Filed under [Microsoft](#) [1]

Microsoft on Wednesday announced it will license all of its Windows Server source code as a way of coming into compliance with the European Commission's ruling of March 2004, the Associated Press reports.

The company has made the decision voluntarily as a way of addressing all of the issues raised by the Commission's Statement of Objections made in December 2005, according to Brad Smith, Microsoft's senior vice president and general counsel.

[Information Week](#) [2]

Under threat of daily fines by European Union, antitrust regulators, Microsoft Corp. agreed Wednesday to let competitors examine some of the blueprints to its flagship Windows operating system.

Microsoft said it would offer commercial rivals access to a "pretty significant" chunk of the source code governing communications between servers. The code is from its Windows workgroup server and its desktop operating systems.

[AP at Yahoo](#) [3].

In a bid to quell growing criticism from regulators on both sides of the Atlantic, Microsoft said today that it would disclose some of the innermost workings of Windows, its flagship operating system, to other companies.

Brad Smith, Microsoft's general counsel, called the decision to license parts of the source code for Windows "a bold stroke" that should put to rest charges that the company is holding back clear and timely information from competitors. Mr. Smith also signaled a shift in the Microsoft business model, calling the decision "quite a substantial step, quite a significant change, from the steps we have made in the past."

Speaking at a news conference in Brussels, Mr. Smith said the move should enable the company to avoid daily fines of up to 2 million euros, or nearly \$2.5 million, that the European Union threatened to impose.

He said Microsoft's disclosure of parts of the source code "addresses in a single stroke any lingering question anyone may have about whether developers will have access to the most accurate and complete technical information they need."

[New York Times](#) [4]

[Microsoft](#)

---

**Source URL:** <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/4697>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/62>

[2] <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=177103833>

[3]

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060125/ap\\_on\\_hi\\_te/eu\\_microsoft;\\_ylt=AqxVQ4Qfptx0k8mjBs1DSgUjtBAF;\\_ylu=X3oDM](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060125/ap_on_hi_te/eu_microsoft;_ylt=AqxVQ4Qfptx0k8mjBs1DSgUjtBAF;_ylu=X3oDM)

[4] <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/25/technology/25cnd-soft.html>