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October 5, 2000

OCT 5 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
12th Street Lobby
Counter TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Applications Of America Online, Inc., and Time Warner Inc.
for Transfers of Control (CS Docket No. 00-30)
Ex Parte Communication

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is to inform the Commission that on October 4, 2000, Ross Bagully from CMGI, Johnny Scarborough, Jr. from iCAST, Marilyn Cade from AT&T, Rick Beckner from Sidley & Austin, and the undersigned as counsel to Microsoft, met with Deborah Lathen, Sherille Ismail and Darryl Cooper with the Cable Services Bureau, Gerald Faulhaber, chief economist, Office of Plans and Policy, and David Farber, chief technologist, Office of Engineering and Technology, and Messrs. Bagully, Scarborough and Waldron met with Jay Friedman, legal adviser to Commissioner Tristani and Karen Onyeije, legal advisor to Chairman Kennard, to discuss Instant Messaging ("IM") in the context of the above-captioned merger. Specifically, we discussed the nature of the applications that depend on IM as a platform, the jurisdictional basis for Commission action, including the public interest requirement, the nature of competition in the IM market and how AOL's dominant position will not be altered unless interoperability is achieved, and evidence from web sites, such as www.zdnet.com (representative copies of which are attached) showing that a number of persons on their own have found ICQ and AIM interoperable.

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If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerard J. Waldron".

Gerard J. Waldron

GJW/cad

cc: Ms. Karen Onyeije
Mr. Jay Friedman
Ms. Deborah Lathen
Ms. Royce Dickens
Ms. Linda Senecal
Mr. Darryl Cooper
Ms. Sherille Ismail
Mr. Gerald Faulhaber
Mr. David Farber

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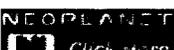
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TALKBACK

Name: Kirth Gersen
 Email: gersen@netzero.net
 Location: USA
 Occupation: network engineer

I logged in to AIM successfully using my UIN from ICQ as a username and my ICQ password. It works! Of course, ya have to import your buddy list and tell your friends to add your UIN screenname...

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TALKBACK

Name: Max O'Drive
 Email: maxman69@hotmail.com
 Location: Ga
 Occupation: IT Guy

Instructions.... Log onto AOL-IM using your ICQ number and password. Add a buddy via the ICQ number. Voila.. Now, go rename everything..

Interesting...

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TALKBACK

Name: Bryan
 Location: Ohio
 Occupation:

138 Million too high. Quite a few AIM people have ICQ. Nearly all of the AOL drones I know use ICQ to chat with there non-AOL buddies, and AIM for there AOL friends. The number is more like 80 Million, quite a few of those registered don't use it, or have multiple numbers(forgot there old when or changed computers).

The latest ICQ, available last week, offers Cell phone messaging and digital p;aging support. What's a little overhead for AIM?

Also, you will note that with ICQ, it's ALWAYS been a "Free Beta". Remember that in the future. Sometime down the road, AIM and ICQ will merge, then there will be a fee. The Fee is what will keep Pow-Wow and MSN Messenger out of the networks. It will keep them out, but alienate most users. AOL will recant eventually, just wait. It's too big a revenue stream to ignore. Just a few dollars.....around \$10 and it's an easy Billion dollars for something that already is in place.....ponder that.

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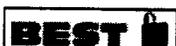
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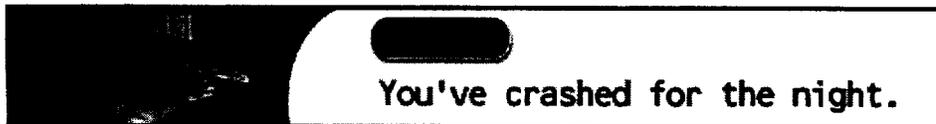
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TALKBACK

Name: J.C.
 Email: JCPayne1@Hotmail12345.com
 Location: Boston, MA
 Occupation: Student

This is the SAME company who told the FCC that any inter-operabilty between IMs was "A year away???" AOL lied again to the FCC folks! I don't think a company that goes on the lying-fritz every few months should be able to merge and lock the american media, internet, and now messaging industries. I say open IM protocols now...

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TALKBACK

Name: Brandon Watkins
 Email: brandonw@netscape.net
 Location: Michigan
 Occupation: photographer

Having used every IM out there, I can say that AIM and ICQ (two I currently still use) each have significant merits. AOL wouldn't be able to merge the two if they wanted to. However, by demonstrating that they can make ICQ and AIM interoperable, they are taking a step towards interoperability among all IM's. This is good and should be applauded. If integration were so easy, the rest of the industry would have figured it out 6 months ago.

Note on Odigo: it's impressive, in it's combination of buddy lists, though I have so much trouble connecting to Yahoo! Messenger service with it I gave up. (Any assistance on that would be appreciated!).

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TALKBACK

Name: Mike Pulsifer
 Email:
 Location: Martinsburg, WV
 Occupation: webmaster -
www.freewebmag.com

For you AOL lackeys, explain why it is good that I have to run AIM, ICQ, MSN Messenger, and Yahoo Messenger (yes, all of them), just to stay in contact with my friends? AIM and ICQ add A LOT of overhead, more overhead than should be required by an instant messenger. But then, you lackeys think that's good...

...give me a friggin' break (and a standard IM protocol so I can stick with just yahoo messenger.

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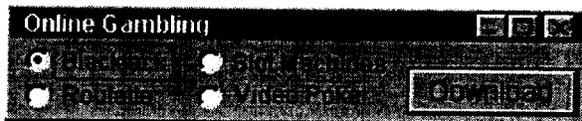
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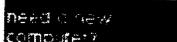
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TALKBACK

Name: Andrew Goodman
 Email: zdpost@page-zero.com
 Location: Toronto
 Occupation: Editor, Traffick.com

This makes eminent sense for the end user. The next logical step is to link MSN Messenger, AOL IM, ICQ, and Yahoo! Messenger all together. Then everyone will be happy.

Doesn't it just make sense? Isn't email an open standard? Browsing the web (more or less)?

AOL, that's a small concession for being cleared to create such a gigantic media monopoly. It's time to give in on this one...

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TALKBACK

Name: Rick Langdon
 Location: Florida
 Occupation: Retired / Personal WebMaster

ICQ/AIM - Read all about it

at

<http://members.tripod.com/~RickinBham/RLicqList3.htm>

I put this page together as AOL was in process of buying out Mirabilis/ICQ. It appears that most of the misgivings that I had about the buyout by AOL are or have come true.

SO FAR - ICQ has not been "dumbed down" or "corrupted" to any great extent EXCEPT in the area of security (read email address security & SPAM). As stated on this page, I have kept track of SPAM received pre and post aquisition

"After leaving AOL in September '96, and signing on with AT&T Worldnet, I have tracked and stored all unsolicited

(SPAM) email that I've received. Fortunately it has not been "to" extensive - "0" from 10-96 thru 06-97 - and 76

pieces between 06-29-97 and 06-01-98."

Currently, now two years after AOL's aquisition of all user data registered with ICQ ... my SPAM load ranges between 30 and 40 pieces per day!!

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So much for AOL's "concern" for user security! This is why I left AOL in the first place and may be the reason (although I don't want to ... we have "a TON of time invested in our ICQ USERS List) for leaving ICQ

Hello Tribal Voice / PowWow ... maybe?

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