FORM 4

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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# Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

|   |                       |       | or Section 30(n) of the investment Company Act of 1940              |   |   |                       |               |  |  |
|---|-----------------------|-------|---|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|
|   | ss of Reporting Perso | n*    | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol MICROSOFT CORP [ MSFT ] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)   |   |                       |               |  |  |
| GATES WIL                                 | LIAM H III            |       | [   | X   | Director                                | X                     | 10% Owner     |  |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) ONE MICROSOFT WAY |                       |       | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/10/2004         | X   | Officer (give title below)  Chairman of | Other (specify below) |               |  |  |
| (Street) REDMOND                          | WA                    | 98052 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)            | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)     X Form filed by One Reporting Person     Form filed by More than One Reporting |   |                       |               |  |  |
| (City)                                    | (State)               | (Zip) |   |   | Person                                  | uiaii C               | The Reporting |  |  |

| Та                              | ıble I - Non-Derivative                    | Securities Ac   | quire                                   | d, Di | sposed of  | , or Be       | neficiall | y Owned  |   |  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|-------|--|---------------|-----------|--|---|--|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |       | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 an |               |           | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially Owned<br>Following Reported | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownershi |
|                                 |  |   | Code                                    | v     | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D) | Price     | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)                                     |   | (Instr. 4)   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 2,120  | D             | \$26.03   | 1,124,497,216  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 16,604   | D             | \$26.02   | 1,124,480,612  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 6,300  | D             | \$26.01   | 1,124,474,312  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 47,880   | D             | \$26      | 1,124,426,432  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 7,067  | D             | \$25.99   | 1,124,419,365  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 176,863  | D             | \$25.98   | 1,124,242,502  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 13,008   | D             | \$25.97   | 1,124,229,494  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 88,358   | D             | \$25.94   | 1,124,141,136  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 29,107   | D             | \$25.93   | 1,124,112,029  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 26,495   | D             | \$25.91   | 1,124,085,534  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 156,040  | D             | \$25.9    | 1,123,929,494  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 34,834   | D             | \$25.88   | 1,123,894,660  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 64,945   | D             | \$25.87   | 1,123,829,715  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 192,066  | D             | \$25.86   | 1,123,637,649  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 133,155  | D             | \$25.85   | 1,123,504,494  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 139,458  | D             | \$25.84   | 1,123,365,036  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 97,173   | D             | \$25.83   | 1,123,267,863  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 192,334  | D             | \$25.82   | 1,123,075,529  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 133,808  | D             | \$25.81   | 1,122,941,721  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 50,804   | D             | \$25.8    | 1,122,890,917  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 67,385   | D             | \$25.79   | 1,122,823,532  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 50,000   | D             | \$25.77   | 1,122,773,532  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 74,196   | D             | \$25.76   | 1,122,699,336  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 5,626  | D             | \$25.73   | 1,122,693,710  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 20,428   | D             | \$25.72   | 1,122,673,282  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 78,100   | D             | \$25.71   | 1,122,595,182  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 45,846   | D             | \$25.7    | 1,122,549,336  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 25,000   | D             | \$25.69   | 1,122,524,336  | D   |  |
| Common Stock                    | 05/10/2004                                 |   | S                                       |       | 25,000   | D             | \$25.64   | 1,122,499,336(1)   | D   |  |

|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |      |   |     |     |   |                    |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|------|---|-----|-----|---|--------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security  | ision cise (Month/Day/Year)  Date (Month/Day/Year)  Date (Month/Day/Year)  Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)  (Month/Day/Year)  Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)  Code (Instr. 8)  Sec (A)  Dis  of (Instr. 9) |  |      | Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)  rosed ) r. 3, 4 |     |     | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr. 3<br>and 4) |                    | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |  |
|   |  |   |  | Code | v   | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable   | Expiration<br>Date | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares   |  |  |  |  |

### Explanation of Responses:

1. In addition, there are 428,520 shares owned by reporting person's spouse. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purpose of Section 16 or for any other purposes.

#### Remarks:

Michael Larson, on behalf of William H. Gates III. Authorized under power of attorney dated 3/14/2001 by William H. Gates III, filed on 3/19/2001 with Cascade Investment's Schedule 13D, SEC File No. 005-52919.

05/12/2004

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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