
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2004

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Transition Period From _____ to _____

Commission File Number 0-14278

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

91-1144442
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington
(Address of principal executive office)

98052-6399
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (425) 882-8080

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of October 31, 2004 was 10,871,589,882.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
FORM 10-Q
For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2004
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Part I. Financial Information**Item 1. Financial Statements****MICROSOFT CORPORATION**
INCOME STATEMENTS
(In millions, except earnings per share)(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30	
	2003	2004
Revenue	\$ 8,215	\$ 9,189
Operating expenses:		
Cost of revenue	1,480	1,469
Research and development	1,611	1,548
Sales and marketing	1,505	1,663
General and administrative	471	1,015
Total operating expenses	5,067	5,695
Operating income	3,148	3,494
Investment income and other	753	279
Income before income taxes	3,901	3,773
Provision for income taxes	1,287	1,245
Net income	\$ 2,614	\$ 2,528
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.23
Diluted	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.23
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	10,811	10,873
Diluted	10,885	10,920

See accompanying notes.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
BALANCE SHEETS
(In millions)

	June 30, 2004(1)	September 30, 2004
		(Unaudited)
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$15,982	\$ 11,141
Short-term investments	44,610	53,274
Total cash and short-term investments	60,592	64,415
Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$166 and \$176	5,890	5,106
Inventories	421	608
Deferred income taxes	2,097	1,522
Other	1,566	1,245
Total current assets	70,566	72,896
Property and equipment, net	2,326	2,317
Equity and other investments	12,210	12,185
Goodwill	3,115	3,115
Intangible assets, net	569	534
Deferred income taxes	1,829	1,545
Other long-term assets	1,774	1,676
Total assets	\$92,389	\$ 94,268
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,717	\$ 1,439
Accrued compensation	1,339	918
Income taxes	3,478	3,456
Short-term unearned revenue	6,514	6,149
Other	1,921	3,849
Total current liabilities	14,969	15,811
Long-term unearned revenue	1,663	1,633
Other long-term liabilities	932	878
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock and paid-in capital—shares authorized 24,000; outstanding 10,862 and 10,865	56,396	57,147
Retained earnings, including accumulated other comprehensive income of \$1,119 and \$1,208	18,429	18,799
Total stockholders' equity	74,825	75,946
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$92,389	\$ 94,268

(1) Derived from audited financial statements

See accompanying notes.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
CASH FLOWS STATEMENTS
(In millions)(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30	
	2003	2004
Operations		
Net income	\$ 2,614	\$ 2,528
Depreciation, amortization, and other noncash items	328	183
Stock-based compensation	1,015	745
Net recognized (gains)/losses on investments	(279)	165
Stock option income tax benefits	489	128
Deferred income taxes	6	293
Unearned revenue	2,214	2,599
Recognition of unearned revenue	(2,983)	(3,062)
Accounts receivable	676	861
Other current assets	(314)	(202)
Other long-term assets	(14)	18
Other current liabilities	(276)	(200)
Other long-term liabilities	(52)	(49)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from operations	3,424	4,007
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Financing		
Common stock issued	695	487
Common stock repurchased	(1,045)	(355)
Common stock cash dividend	—	(870)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from financing	(350)	(738)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Investing		
Additions to property and equipment	(167)	(173)
Acquisition of companies, net of cash acquired	(4)	—
Purchases of investments	(24,598)	(29,608)
Maturities of investments	2,650	7,201
Sales of investments	18,371	14,467
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from investing	(3,748)	(8,113)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net change in cash and equivalents	(674)	(4,844)
Effect of exchange rates on cash and equivalents	4	3
Cash and equivalents, beginning of period	6,438	15,982
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and equivalents, end of period	\$ 5,768	\$ 11,141
	<hr/>	<hr/>

See accompanying notes.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY STATEMENTS
(In millions)(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30	
	2003	2004
Common stock and paid-in capital		
Balance, beginning of period	\$49,234	\$56,396
Common stock issued	695	414
Common stock repurchased	(135)	(160)
Stock-based compensation expense	1,015	745
Stock option income tax benefits/(deficiencies)	489	(251)
Other, net	—	3
	<u>51,298</u>	<u>57,147</u>
Retained earnings		
Balance, beginning of period	15,678	18,429
Net income	2,614	2,528
Other comprehensive income:		
Net gains on derivative instruments	17	31
Net unrealized investments gains/(losses)	(136)	44
Translation adjustments and other	(2)	14
	<u>2,493</u>	<u>2,617</u>
Comprehensive income	2,493	2,617
Common stock cash dividend	(1,729)	(1,740)
Common stock repurchased	(1,060)	(507)
	<u>15,382</u>	<u>18,799</u>
Balance, end of period	15,382	18,799
	<u>\$66,680</u>	<u>\$75,946</u>
Total stockholders' equity	<u>\$66,680</u>	<u>\$75,946</u>

See accompanying notes.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

Note 1 – Accounting Policies***Basis of Presentation***

In the opinion of management, the accompanying balance sheets and related interim statements of income, cash flows, and stockholders' equity include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring items, necessary for their fair presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Preparing financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses. Examples include estimates of loss contingencies and product life cycles, and assumptions such as the elements comprising a software arrangement, including the distinction between upgrades/enhancements and new products; when technological feasibility is achieved for our products; the potential outcome of future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our financial statements or tax returns; and determining when investment impairments are other-than-temporary. Actual results and outcomes may differ from management's estimates and assumptions.

Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. The information included in this Form 10-Q should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis and financial statements and notes thereto included in the Microsoft Corporation 2004 Form 10-K.

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior period amounts to conform with current period presentation.

Note 2 – Inventories

The components of inventories were as follows:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>June 30, 2004</u>	<u>September 30, 2004</u>
Finished goods	\$ 271	\$ 487
Raw materials and work in process	150	121
Inventories	\$ 421	\$ 608

Note 3 – Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed on the basis of the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed on the basis of the weighted average number of shares of common stock plus the effect of dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method. Dilutive potential common shares include outstanding stock options, stock awards, and shared performance stock awards.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)
(Unaudited)

The components of basic and diluted earnings per share were as follows:

<u>(In millions, except earnings per share)</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>Three months ended September 30</u>		
Net income available for common shareholders (A)	\$ 2,614	\$ 2,528
Weighted average outstanding shares of common stock (B)	10,811	10,873
Dilutive effect of employee stock options and awards	74	47
Common stock and common stock equivalents (C)	10,885	10,920
Earnings per share:		
Basic (A/B)	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.23
Diluted (A/C)	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.23

For the three months ended September 30, 2003 and 2004, 910 million and 927 million shares attributable to outstanding stock options were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share because the exercise prices of the stock options were greater than or equal to the average price of the common shares, and therefore their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. For the three months ended September 30, 2004, 22.7 million shared performance stock awards have been excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share because the number of shares ultimately issued is contingent on our performance against metrics established for the performance period.

Note 4 – Unearned Revenue

The components of unearned revenue were as follows:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>June 30, 2004</u>	<u>September 30, 2004</u>
Volume licensing programs	\$5,075	\$ 4,805
Undelivered elements	2,358	2,262
Other	744	715
Unearned revenue	\$8,177	\$ 7,782

Unearned revenue by segment is as follows:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>June 30, 2004</u>	<u>September 30, 2004</u>
Client	\$2,822	\$ 2,706
Server and Tools	2,370	2,310
Information Worker	2,586	2,388
Other segments	399	378
Unearned revenue	\$8,177	\$ 7,782

Note 5 – Stockholders' Equity

On July 20, 2004, our Board of Directors approved a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share, or approximately \$870 million which was paid on September 14, 2004, to shareholders of record on August 25, 2004. The board also

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)
(Unaudited)

approved a one-time special dividend of \$3.00 per share, or approximately \$33 billion, subject to shareholder approval of stock plan amendments that will allow certain adjustments to employee equity compensation awards to offset the impact of the special dividend. The special dividend will be payable on December 2, 2004, to shareholders of record on November 17, 2004, conditioned upon shareholder approval of amendments to the employee stock plans at the annual meeting of shareholders scheduled to be held November 9, 2004.

On September 15, 2004, our Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share. The dividend is payable December 2, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on November 17, 2004. The ex-dividend date is November 15, 2004. This dividend of approximately \$870 million was included in other current liabilities on our balance sheet.

During the three months ended September 30, 2004, we repurchased 22.8 million shares of common stock for \$625 million, compared to 43.3 million shares of common stock for \$1.2 billion in the comparable period of the prior year. The repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice. In any period, cash used in financing activities related to common stock repurchased may differ from the comparable change in Stockholders' Equity, reflecting timing differences between the recognition of share repurchase transactions and their settlement for cash.

Note 6 – Investment Income and Other

The components of investment income and other are as follows:

(In millions)

<u>Three months ended September 30</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Dividends and interest	\$484	\$ 411
Net recognized gains on investments	245	53
Net gains/(losses) on derivatives	34	(195)
Income/(losses) from equity investees and other	(10)	10
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Investment income and other	\$753	\$ 279
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Note 7 – Contingencies

European Commission competition law matter. On March 25, 2004, the European Commission announced a decision in its competition law investigation of Microsoft. The Commission concluded that we infringed European competition law by refusing to provide our competitors with licenses to certain protocol technology in the Windows server operating systems and by including streaming media playback functionality in Windows desktop operating systems. The Commission ordered us to make the relevant licenses to our technology available to our competitors and to develop and make available a version of the Windows desktop operating system that does not include specified software relating to media playback. The decision also imposed a fine of €497 million, which resulted in a charge of €497 million (\$605 million). We filed an appeal of the decision to the Court of First Instance on June 6, 2004, and will seek interim measures suspending the operation of certain provisions of the decision. We contest the conclusion that European competition law was infringed and will defend our position vigorously. A hearing on our petition for interim measures was held on September 30 and October 1, 2004. In other ongoing investigations, various foreign governments and several state Attorneys General have requested information from us concerning competition, privacy, and security issues.

Antitrust, unfair competition, and overcharge class actions. A large number of antitrust and unfair competition class action lawsuits have been filed against us in various state and federal courts. The federal cases

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)
(Unaudited)

have been consolidated in the U.S. District Court for Maryland. These cases allege that we have competed unfairly and unlawfully monopolized alleged markets for operating systems and certain software applications, and they seek to recover alleged overcharges for these products on behalf of variously defined classes of direct and indirect purchasers. To date, courts have dismissed all claims for damages brought against us by indirect purchasers under federal law and in 14 states. Nine of those state court decisions have been affirmed on appeal. Appeals of these state rulings are pending in two states. Claims on behalf of foreign purchasers have also been dismissed by the federal court in Maryland. That ruling is currently on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Courts in eleven states have ruled that indirect purchaser cases may proceed as class actions, while courts in two states have denied class certification. In 2003, we reached an agreement with counsel for the California plaintiffs to settle all claims in 27 consolidated cases in that state. Under the proposed settlement, class members will be able to obtain vouchers that entitle the class members to be reimbursed up to the face value of their vouchers for purchases of a wide variety of platform-neutral computer hardware and software. The total value of vouchers issued will depend on the number of class members who make a claim and are issued vouchers. Two-thirds of the value of vouchers unissued or unredeemed by class members will be made available to certain schools in California in the form of vouchers that also may be redeemed for cash against purchases of a wide variety of platform-neutral computer hardware, software and related services. Since the beginning of 2003, we also reached similar agreements to settle all claims in a number of other states. The proposed settlements in these states are structured similarly to the California settlement, except that, among other differences, one-half of the value of vouchers unissued to class members will be made available to certain schools in the relevant states. The maximum value of vouchers to be issued in these settlements, including the California settlement, is \$1.55 billion. The actual costs of these settlements will be less than that maximum amount, depending on the number of class members and schools who are issued and redeem vouchers. The settlements in California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia have received final approval by the relevant court. The proposed settlements in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Vermont have received preliminary approval by the courts in those states, but still require final approval. We estimate the total cost to resolve all of these cases will range between \$1.1 billion and \$1.4 billion, with the actual cost dependent upon many unknown factors such as the quantity and mix of products for which claims will be made, the number of eligible class members who ultimately use the vouchers, the nature of hardware and software that is acquired using the vouchers, and the cost of administering the claims process. In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 5, Accounting for Contingencies, and FASB Interpretation (FIN) 14, Reasonable Estimation of the Amount of a Loss, at September 30, 2004, we have recorded a contingent liability of approximately \$960 million, net of payments to date for administrative expenses and legal fees.

Other antitrust litigation and claims. On August 27, 2004, the City and County of San Francisco, the City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles, San Mateo, Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties filed a putative class action against Microsoft in San Francisco Superior Court. The action is brought on behalf of all governmental entities, agencies and political subdivisions of the State of California who indirectly purchased Microsoft operating system or word processing and spreadsheet software during the period from February 18, 1995, until the date of trial in the action. The plaintiffs seek treble damages under California's Cartwright Act and the disgorgement of unlawful profits under its Unfair Competition Act resulting from Microsoft's alleged combinations to restrain trade, deny competition and monopolize the world markets for PC operating systems and word processing and spreadsheet applications (and productivity suites including these applications). Microsoft was served with the complaint on August 30 and has removed the case to federal court.

On December 18, 2003, RealNetworks, Inc. filed suit against us alleging violations of federal and state antitrust and unfair competition laws. The alleged violations relate to streaming media features of Windows and related technologies. RealNetworks seeks damages and injunctive relief, including a permanent injunction

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)
(Unaudited)

requiring us to offer a version of Windows products with no streaming media features. We deny the allegations and will vigorously defend the action. RealNetworks filed the case in federal court in San Jose, California. It has been consolidated for pretrial purposes with other cases pending in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

Burst.com, Inc. filed suit against us on June 18, 2002 alleging violations of federal and state antitrust and unfair competition laws, violation of trade secrets, breach of contract, and patent infringement. Burst seeks trebled damages, restitution, punitive damages, injunctive relief, including ceasing to infringe, ceasing to use the trade secrets, discontinuing any practice that “excludes competitors or maintains a monopoly in the relevant markets,” and other relief to restore competitive conditions. We deny the allegations and are vigorously defending the action. This case was filed in federal court in San Francisco, California. It has been consolidated for pretrial purposes with other cases pending in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

In addition, we have been notified of additional antitrust damage claims by several competitors and several licensees of our products, including claims by Novell, Inc. with respect to its ownership of WordPerfect between June 1994 and March 1996.

While we intend to vigorously defend the foregoing antitrust lawsuits and claims, there exists the possibility of adverse outcomes which we estimate could be up to \$750 million in aggregate beyond recorded amounts.

Patent cases. We are the defendant in more than 35 patent infringement cases that we are defending vigorously. In the case of *Eolas Technologies, Inc. and University of California v. Microsoft*, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on February 2, 1999, the plaintiffs alleged infringement by the browser functionality of Windows. On August 11, 2003, the jury awarded the plaintiffs approximately \$520 million in damages for infringement from the date the plaintiffs’ patent was issued through September 2001. The plaintiffs are seeking an equitable accounting for damages from September 2001 to the present. On January 14, 2004, the trial court entered final judgment of \$565 million, including post-trial interest of \$45 million, and entered an injunction against distribution of any new products, but stayed execution of the judgment and the injunction pending our appeal. We filed our notice of appeal on February 12, 2004. On October 30, 2003, the U.S. Patent Office issued a letter stating that it was initiating a Director-ordered re-examination of the Eolas patent. On February 26, 2004, pursuant to this re-examination proceeding, the Patent Office issued an Office Action rejecting the claims of the Eolas patent. We believe the total cost to resolve this case will not be material to our financial position or results of operations. The actual costs are dependent upon many unknown factors such as success on appeal and the events of a retrial of the case should the case be remanded to trial following appeal. In *Research Corporation Technologies, Inc. v. Microsoft*, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, the plaintiff has asserted a family of six patents related to half-toning, which it believes are infringed by certain printing and display functionality allegedly present in different versions of Windows and Office. Plaintiff seeks an as-yet unspecified amount of damages in the form of “reasonable royalties” on various Microsoft products including Windows and Office 2000 and subsequent versions of those products. The case is scheduled for trial in April 2005. In *TVI v. Microsoft*, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the plaintiff alleges infringement by the Autoplay feature of Windows. Trial is expected to be reset for early calendar year 2005. In *Arendi USA, Inc. and Arendi Holding Limited v. Microsoft*, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, the plaintiffs alleged infringement of one patent by certain Smart Tags features in Microsoft Office XP and Office 2003. Following trial in September 2004 the jury returned a verdict for Microsoft, finding that we did not infringe the patents. The plaintiffs may appeal. Adverse outcomes in some or all of the pending patent cases may result in significant monetary damages or injunctive relief against us, adversely affecting distribution of our operating system or application products. The risks associated with an adverse decision may result in material settlements.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)
(Unaudited)

Other. We are also subject to a variety of other claims and suits that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. While management currently believes that resolving all of the matters discussed in this Note 7, individually or in aggregate, will not have a material adverse impact on our financial position or our results of operations, the litigation and other claims noted above are subject to inherent uncertainties and management's view of these matters may change in the future. Were an unfavorable final outcome to occur, there exists the possibility of a material adverse impact on our financial position and on the results of operations for the period in which the effect becomes reasonably estimable.

Note 8 – Segment Information

SFAS 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information, requires segmentation based on our internal organization and reporting of revenue and operating income based upon internal accounting methods. Our financial reporting systems present various data for management to run the business, including internal profit and loss statements prepared on a basis not consistent with U.S. GAAP.

Segment revenue and operating income/(loss) is as follows (1):

(In millions)

Three months ended September 30	2003	2004
Revenue		
Client	\$ 2,667	\$ 2,865
Server and Tools	1,806	2,024
Information Worker	2,402	2,590
Microsoft Business Solutions	155	160
MSN	605	563
Mobile and Embedded Devices	51	69
Home and Entertainment	628	601
Reconciling amounts	(99)	317
Consolidated	\$ 8,215	\$ 9,189
Operating income/(loss)		
Client	\$ 2,182	\$ 2,342
Server and Tools	532	663
Information Worker	1,801	1,999
Microsoft Business Solutions	(10)	(20)
MSN	95	99
Mobile and Embedded Devices	(16)	(4)
Home and Entertainment	(181)	(126)
Reconciling amounts	(1,255)	(1,459)
Consolidated	\$ 3,148	\$ 3,494

- (1) The segment information reflects our realignment of the Small and Mid-Market Solutions & Partners (SMS&P) organization from the Information Worker segment to the Microsoft Business Solutions segment. Additionally, Professional product support services have been reorganized from Information Worker segment into Server and Tools segment. The three months ended September 30, 2003 information has been restated for the above mentioned reorganizations, other internal reorganizations and changes to certain internal accounting methods to conform to the current period presentation.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)
(Unaudited)

Operating costs included in one segment may benefit other segments, and therefore these segments are not designed to measure operating income or loss directly related to the products included in each segment. Inter-segment cost commissions are estimated by management and used to compensate or charge each segment for such shared costs and to incent shared efforts.

Reconciling amounts include adjustments to conform significant internal accounting policies with U.S. GAAP and corporate level activity not specifically attributed to a segment. Certain revenue and expenses are excluded from segments or included in corporate-level activity, including certain legal settlements and legal contingent liabilities.

Significant reconciling items to arrive at operating income are as follows:

(In millions)			
Three months ended September 30		2003	2004
Summary of reconciling amounts:			
Corporate level activity		(785)	(1,364)
Stock-based compensation expense		(604)	(368)
Revenue reconciling amounts		(28)	316
Other		162	(43)
Total		\$(1,255)	\$(1,459)

Note 9 – Subsequent Events

Subsequent to September 30, 2004, we resolved certain lawsuits and claims that were pending at quarter end. These matters included an agreement to pay Novell, Inc. \$536 million and certain other immaterial matters, which have been accrued in other current liabilities. In the settlement with Novell, Novell agreed not to pursue certain claims against us related to Novell's businesses (including Netware), agreed to withdraw from participation in the European Commission's case with Microsoft, and agreed to discontinue participating as an intervener on behalf of the European Commission in Microsoft's appeal of the Commission's March 25 ruling described in Note 7. Novell retains the right to pursue claims related to its ownership of WordPerfect between June 1994 and March 1996.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Stockholders
Microsoft Corporation
Redmond, Washington

We have reviewed the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of Microsoft Corporation and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of September 30, 2004, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the three-month periods ended September 30, 2004 and 2003. These interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our reviews in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to such consolidated interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have previously audited, in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of Microsoft Corporation and subsidiaries as of June 30, 2004, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated August 24, 2004, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2004 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Seattle, Washington
November 8, 2004

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) contains statements that are forward-looking. These statements are based on current expectations and assumptions that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially because of factors discussed in "Issues and Uncertainties" and elsewhere in this report.

OVERVIEW

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") is intended to help the reader understand Microsoft Corporation. MD&A is provided as a supplement to, and should be read in conjunction with, our financial statements and the accompanying notes ("Notes").

We generate revenue, income, and cash flows by developing, manufacturing, licensing, and supporting a wide range of software products for many computing devices. Our software products include operating systems for servers, personal computers (PCs), and intelligent devices; server applications for distributed computing environments; information worker productivity applications; business solutions applications; and software development tools. We provide consulting and product support services, and we train and certify system integrators and developers. We sell the Xbox video game console and games, PC games, and peripherals. Online communication services and information services are delivered through our MSN portals and channels around the world.

Our revenues historically have fluctuated quarterly and have been highest in the second quarter of our fiscal year, generally due to the holiday season spending by consumers and corporate calendar year end spending trends in our major markets. Our Home and Entertainment segment is particularly subject to seasonality due to the nature of its products. We have historically experienced that approximately 40% to 50% of Home and Entertainment revenues have been generated in the second fiscal quarter. We believe that the seasonality of revenues is likely to continue. Our historical seasonality could be impacted by future spending patterns.

We work to sustain the long-term growth of our businesses through technological innovation, engineering excellence, and a commitment to delivering high-quality experiences to customers and partners. Recognizing that one of our primary challenges is to help accelerate worldwide PC adoption and software upgrades, we continue to advance the functionality, security and affordability of Windows operating systems, including versions for new devices such as Tablet PCs, Media Center PCs, Portable Media Centers, and mobile SmartPhones. We also develop innovative software applications and solutions to enhance the productivity of information workers, improve communication and collaboration in work groups, and streamline processes for small and mid-sized businesses. To sustain the growth of our Server and Tools business amid competition from other vendors of both proprietary and open source software, our goal is to deliver products that provide the best platform for network computing—the most advanced, easiest to deploy and manage, most secure, and with the lowest total cost of acquisition and ownership. To take advantage of emerging market opportunities, we continue to invest in research and development of existing and new lines of business, such as online music and search services, that we believe can contribute significantly to our long-term growth.

Summary

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$8,215	\$9,189	12%
Operating income	\$3,148	\$3,494	11%

Our revenue increase for the three months ended September 30, 2004 was primarily driven by growth in licensing of Windows Server operating systems and other server applications, Information Worker products and

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Windows Client operating systems through OEMs, as a result of growth in PC and server hardware shipments and overall improvements in IT spending. We believe that small and mid-market customers led the improvements in IT spending.

We estimate growth in PC shipments was 10% during the first quarter of fiscal 2005 compared to the same period in fiscal 2004. We estimate that total server hardware shipments grew 16%, with Windows Server shipments growing faster than the overall sector at 18% in the first quarter of fiscal 2005. The net impact of foreign exchange rates on revenue was positive in the three months ended September 30, 2004, primarily due to relative strengthening of most foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar. Had the rates from prior year been in effect in first quarter fiscal 2005, translated international revenue earned in local currencies would have been approximately \$221 million lower. We hedge a portion of our international currency exposures, thereby reducing our overall translation exposure.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, the operating income increase of \$346 million was primarily driven by an increase in revenue in Client and Information Worker, which have higher gross margins as compared with other segments. Increased legal expenses, primarily related to the \$536 million in litigation expenses as described in Note 9 of the Notes to Financial Statements, and marketing spending increases partially offset the revenue increase and a decrease in headcount-related costs. Headcount-related costs decreased primarily due to a \$270 million decline in stock-based compensation expense.

Due to the nature and timing of the Novell and certain other immaterial settlements as described in Note 9 of the Notes to Financial Statements, the results for the three months ended September 30, 2004 that were previously released on October 21, 2004 have been updated to include the impact of these settlements. Net income and earnings per share for the quarter were \$2.53 billion and \$0.23 respectively, including \$373 million (\$557 million pre-tax) relating to these matters.

We expect general economic conditions to remain stable and estimate PC shipments will grow from 8% to 10% and Server unit shipments will grow from 13% to 15% in fiscal 2005 compared to fiscal 2004. These lower growth rates may cause slower revenue growth in fiscal 2005 compared to fiscal 2004. We expect our operating income growth in fiscal 2005 to exceed our revenue growth. Operating income is expected to reflect lower operating expenses due to the absence of certain legal settlements that occurred in fiscal 2004, lower stock-based compensation costs, and benefits achieved through continued progress in our cost efficacy initiative.

SEGMENT PRODUCT REVENUE/OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)

Our seven segments are: Client; Server and Tools; Information Worker; Microsoft Business Solutions; MSN; Mobile and Embedded Devices; and Home and Entertainment.

The revenue and operating income/(loss) amounts in this section are presented on a basis consistent with U.S. GAAP applied at the segment level. Fiscal 2004 segment information has been restated for certain internal reorganization and changes to certain internal accounting methods to conform to the current period presentation. Certain corporate level expenses have been excluded. Those expenses primarily include corporate operations related to sales and marketing, product support services, human resources, legal, finance, IT, corporate development and procurement activities, research and development and other costs, and accrued legal contingencies. Corporate expenses were \$785 million, and \$1.36 billion in the three months ended September 30, 2003 and 2004 respectively. The increase in corporate expenses was due to an increase in litigation expenses, primarily associated with the \$536 million in litigation expenses related to the Novell settlement described in Note 9 of the Notes to Financial Statements.

Corporate expenses and the operating loss for Microsoft Business Solutions for the three months ended September 30, 2003 presented herein differ by an offsetting amount of \$14 million from our previously released results in exhibit 99.1 on our Form 8-K furnished on October 21, 2004 in conjunction with our quarterly earnings release. These results for the three months ended September 30, 2003 differ due to an internal reorganization that was not processed until subsequent to the earnings release. This error did not impact consolidated results of operations or earnings per share.

Client

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$2,809	\$2,993	7%
Operating income	\$2,252	\$2,392	6%

Client includes revenue from Windows XP Professional and Home, Windows 2000 Professional, and other standard Windows operating systems. The Client revenue growth is largely correlated with the growth of purchases of PCs from OEMs that pre-install versions of Windows operating systems.

Client revenue increase was driven by a 10% growth in OEM licenses and 6% growth in OEM revenue from increased PC unit shipments. The difference between OEM unit growth and revenue growth was driven partially by the continuing impact of the fiscal 2003 revision in the deferral rates and product lives on undelivered elements of unearned revenue. The mix of Windows operating systems licensed during the quarter with premium edition operating systems as a percentage of total Client operating systems licensed during the quarter decreased by 2 percentage points to 60% of total Client operating system as compared to the first quarter of the prior fiscal year because of a decline in commercial and retail licensing of premium Client operating systems.

Client operating income for the quarter increased from the prior year due to growth in Client OEM revenue and a decrease in headcount-related costs primarily associated with a \$29 million decline in stock-based compensation. These impacts were partially offset by an increase in operating expenses associated with the continued development of the Windows Client next generation operating system (Longhorn) and completion and delivery of revisions addressing security vulnerabilities and program fixes including Windows Service Pack 2. The operating income for the first quarter of fiscal 2004 has been restated due to the reclassification of the Windows Security group within Client from Server and Tools.

We plan to continue our efforts to increase premium product mix and anticipate that continued PC market growth will result in revenue growth for the remainder of fiscal 2005. We expect these impacts to be partially offset by the decrease in revenue earned from Upgrade Advantage licensing agreements. We expect that our Enterprise Agreement (EA) contracts that expire in fiscal 2005 will be partially offset by renewals and new EA contracts. The Client commercial and retail licensing revenue is expected to continue to lag behind overall Client revenue growth.

Server and Tools

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$1,880	\$2,235	19%
Operating income	\$ 381	\$ 701	84%

Server and Tools consists of server software licenses and client access licenses (CALs) for Windows Server, SQL Server, Exchange Server, and other servers. It also includes developer tools, training, certification, Microsoft Press, Premier and Professional product support services, and Microsoft consulting services. The segment concentrates on licensing products, applications, tools, content, and services that make information technology professionals and developers more productive and efficient. The segment uses multiple channels for licensing including pre-installed OEM versions, licenses through partners, and licenses directly to end customers. The licenses are sold both as one-time licenses and as multi-year volume licenses depending upon the needs of different customer segments. The segment uses product innovation and partnerships with information technology

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professionals to drive the adoption and sales growth of its products. Server and Tools growth is driven by performance of the overall market for information technology, both hardware and software. The results for the first quarter of fiscal 2004 have been restated due to the reclassification of Professional product support services from Information Worker into Server and Tools.

We estimate that overall server hardware shipments grew 16% in the first three months of fiscal 2005 compared to the prior year. The Server and Tools revenue increase was driven by an estimated 18% increase in Windows-based server shipments resulting in 19% growth in new Windows Server license units as well as growth in SQL Server, Exchange Server and Core CAL revenue. Server and Server applications revenue, including CAL revenue, grew \$288 million or 20% in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 as compared with the corresponding period in fiscal 2004. Consulting and Premier and Professional product support services revenue increased \$64 million or 23% compared to the prior year primarily due to increased consultant utilization and new Premier customers. Foreign exchange rate changes provided approximately \$71 million or 4 percentage points of total Server and Tools revenue growth.

Server and Tools operating income growth was primarily due to a 19% increase in revenue and a 2% growth in operating expenses. Lower headcount costs, driven primarily by a \$94 million decline in stock-based compensation partially offset by an increase in research and development costs associated with product development for upcoming products such as SQL Server 2005 and Visual Studio 2005, contributed to the relatively low growth in operating expenses. The operating income for the first quarter of fiscal 2004 has been restated due to the reclassification of Windows Security group within Client from Server and Tools.

We expect overall server hardware shipments to grow from 13% to 15% in fiscal 2005, which is in line with our expectations at the end of fiscal 2004. New Windows-based Server shipments during the first three months of fiscal 2005 grew faster than the overall market and we expect this trend to continue in fiscal 2005. However, we face strong competition from Linux-based, Unix, and other server operating systems. In addition, Server and Tools net revenue for fiscal 2005 will be unfavorably affected by the absence of revenue earned from our Upgrade Advantage program, which we expect will be partially offset by an increase in other multi-year volume licensing business. We expect operating expenses to increase during the remainder of fiscal 2005 due to expected investment in headcount and new marketing initiatives.

Information Worker

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$2,254	\$2,560	14%
Operating income	\$1,604	\$1,891	18%

Information Worker consists of the Microsoft Office System of programs, servers, services, and solutions designed to increase personal, team, and organization productivity. Information Worker includes Microsoft Office, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Visio, SharePoint Portal Server CALs, and other information worker products including Microsoft LiveMeeting and OneNote. Most revenue from this segment comes from licensing our Office System products. Revenue growth depends on the ability to add value to the core Office product set and expand our product offerings in other information worker areas such as document lifecycle and collaboration. As announced in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, the Small and Mid-Market Solutions & Partners (SMS&P) organization, which was historically part of the Information Worker segment, was aligned in the Microsoft Business Solutions segment. As a result of this re-alignment, Information Worker segment information has been restated to reflect the transfer of the SMS&P organization to Microsoft Business Solutions. The results for the first quarter of fiscal 2004 have also been restated due to the reclassification of product support services from Information Worker into Server and Tools.

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The increase in Information Worker revenue was primarily attributable to 13% or \$261 million in volume licensing and retail packaged product growth driven by the continued strength of Office 2003 and a favorable comparison to the first quarter of fiscal 2004 due to \$137 million of revenue deferred for Office 2003 product upgrade rights provided to customers who purchased Office in the first quarter of fiscal 2004. Additionally, foreign exchange rate changes provided approximately \$97 million or 4 percentage points of revenue growth compared to the first quarter of the prior year. Continued strength of Office 2003 also resulted in OEM licensing revenue growth of 15% or \$45 million in the first quarter fiscal 2005 as compared with the corresponding period in fiscal 2004.

Information Worker operating income in the three months ended September 30, 2004 increased from the prior year primarily due to growth in revenue and a reduction in operating expense associated with headcount-related costs primarily from a \$32 million decline in stock-based compensation in the quarter.

We will likely experience favorable exchange rate impacts in the second quarter of fiscal 2005 due to strong foreign currencies compared to the US dollar a year ago. We expect the continued reduction in Upgrade Advantage earned revenue to be partially offset by sustained momentum in our OEM and multi-year licensing offerings and increased purchasing of Office System 2003 as enterprises complete their product evaluations.

Microsoft Business Solutions

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$ 147	\$ 160	9%
Operating loss	\$ (54)	\$ (41)	24%

Microsoft Business Solutions develops and markets business applications and related services designed to help small and mid-market businesses as well as divisions of large enterprises efficiently use, manage, and analyze business resources. Our products consist of Microsoft Great Plains, Microsoft Navision, Microsoft Axapta, Microsoft Solomon, Microsoft CRM, MBN/Retail Manager, other business applications, and the Microsoft Partner Program. Microsoft Business Solutions revenues are affected by the general economic environment and enterprise information technology spending in particular. As announced in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, Microsoft Business Solutions now includes the SMS&P organization, which previously had been included in Information Worker. Microsoft Business Solution results have been restated to reflect the inclusion of SMS&P for all periods presented. Also as a result of the reorganization, Microsoft Partner Program became a component of Microsoft Business Solutions.

The increase in Microsoft Business Solutions revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2004 was driven by continued growth from Microsoft CRM and Microsoft Axapta products, together with a 26% increase in Microsoft Partner Program revenue.

The operating loss for the three months ended September 30, 2004 declined from the comparable period in fiscal 2004 due to higher Microsoft Business Solutions product revenue, reduced acquisition amortization costs, and lower headcount—related costs primarily associated with a \$16 million decline in stock-based compensation in the first quarter of fiscal 2005.

Microsoft Business Solutions is committed to further developing its product offerings, with recently released product versions including Great Plains 8.0 and Solomon 6.0, and the upcoming release of Navision 4.0 in the second quarter of the current fiscal year. In fiscal 2005, we expect continued growth for Microsoft Business Solutions through CRM, Axapta, Navision, and Great Plains product lines with increased sales and marketing focus from the SMS&P organization.

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MSN

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$491	\$ 540	10%
Operating income	\$ 57	\$ 77	35%

MSN includes personal communications services, such as e-mail and instant messaging, and information services, such as MSN Search and the MSN portals and channels around the World. MSN also provides a variety of paid services resulting in revenue for the segment including MSN Internet Access, and MSN Premium Web Services. Revenue is principally generated from advertisers on MSN, from consumers through subscriptions and transactions generated from MSN Premium Web Services and from subscribers to MSN Narrowband Internet Access.

In the first quarter of 2005, MSN advertising revenue increased \$56 million or 23% from the prior year. The increase was partially offset by a decline of \$28 million or 12% in Internet Access revenue, primarily from the migration of Internet Access subscribers to broadband or other competitively priced Internet service providers. Revenue from subscriptions and transactions services other than Internet Access increased \$21 million in the first quarter of 2005 to \$38 million. At the end of the first quarter of fiscal 2005, MSN had 3.8 million Internet Access subscribers compared to 5.6 million at the end of the same quarter last year, and 9.1 million total subscribers compared to 8.0 million at the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2004. In addition, MSN has over 350 million unique users monthly, 187 million active Hotmail accounts, and 146 million active Messenger accounts.

MSN operating income improvement was attributable to an increase in revenue from advertising in both display and paid search, a decline in customer acquisition costs and other expenses related to the Internet Access business, and a reduction in headcount-related costs primarily associated with a \$19 million decline in stock-based compensation. The increase in operating income was partially offset by a tax benefit of \$48 million recorded in the first quarter of fiscal 2004.

MSN expects advertising revenue and revenue from subscriptions and transactions for Premium Web services to continue to grow for the remainder of fiscal 2005. Advertising revenue should benefit from expected increases in Internet spending and additions to the advertising platform including the music download service, communications innovations, and an improved search engine. We expect revenue from narrowband Internet access to continue declining in fiscal 2005 as narrowband subscribers continue to migrate to broadband Internet access. In the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 we announced an increase to the amount of storage we will provide for select MSN and Hotmail email accounts which will increase operating costs and may impact the revenue from our premium email customers. However, we expect the segment to continue increasing its profitability.

Mobile and Embedded Devices

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$ 53	\$ 69	30%
Operating loss	\$(34)	\$(20)	41%

Mobile and Embedded Devices includes Windows Mobile software, Windows Embedded device operating systems, MapPoint, and Windows Automotive. These products extend the advantages of the Windows platform to mobile phones and Pocket PCs. The segment is also responsible for managing sales and customer relations

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with device manufacturers and with network service providers, including telecommunication, cable and wireless companies, and host and network equipment providers. The embedded operating system market is highly fragmented with many competitive offerings and relatively short product life cycles that affect our continuing revenue streams.

Mobile and Embedded Devices segment revenue growth was primarily driven by unit volume increases in all product lines, especially embedded products and MapPoint. The growth was driven by embedded products due to increased shipments in existing channels and an expansion of the distribution channel, increasing market share for Pocket PCs, and the introduction of new MapPoint products. The growth was hampered by delayed introduction of new SmartPhone devices. MapPoint revenue benefited from Street & Trips 2005 and Street & Trips GPS bundle that were launched in August 2004.

The operating loss for Mobile and Embedded Devices for the three months ended September 30, 2004 decreased compared to the corresponding period in fiscal 2004 primarily due to an increase in revenue and a reduction in headcount-related costs primarily associated with a \$9 million decline in stock-based compensation.

We expect demand for Mobile and Embedded Devices based on Windows Mobile software to continue to be driven by an overall increase in customer demand for connectivity as well as an increase in the number of new Windows Mobile based devices being offered by OEMs and mobile operators.

Home and Entertainment

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Revenue	\$ 581	\$ 632	9%
Operating loss	\$(273)	\$(142)	48%

Home and Entertainment includes the Microsoft Xbox video game console system, PC games, the Home Products Division (HPD), and TV platform products for the interactive television industry. The relative success of competing video game consoles is determined by console functionality, the portfolio of video game content for the console, and the relative market share of the console. We are a relatively new entrant in the video game console business with our first release in fiscal 2002, and have already established ourselves as one of the leaders. Revenue and unit volumes have grown quickly since 2002, but revenue growth moderated in fiscal 2004 due to price reductions typical at this later stage in the console lifecycle. We believe our competitive position and revenue is bolstered by our increasing software game attach rates, providing higher margins to offset the decreasing price trend on consoles sold. Currently, Xbox consoles have negative gross margins.

In the three months ended September 30, 2004, Xbox revenue increased \$71 million or 23% with \$129 million related to higher Xbox software and console volumes as compared with the first quarter of the prior fiscal year. This was partially offset by a \$58 million decline related to price reductions of Xbox consoles and software. Xbox console volumes increased 4% in the three months ended September 30, 2004 compared to fiscal 2004. The Xbox life-to-date U.S. games attach rate increased to 7.3 games per console according to industry analyst NPD as of September 30, 2004. Revenue from consumer hardware and software, PC games and TV platforms declined \$20 million or 7% compared to fiscal 2004 due to lower PC games software sales.

The decrease in operating loss in the three months ended September 30, 2004 was primarily due to an increase in Xbox software volumes and a reduction in headcount related costs, primarily associated with a \$19 million decline in stock-based compensation. This was partially offset by an increase in costs associated with the next generation console development efforts. Operating expenses continue to be driven by investment in the next generation Xbox platform design, sales and marketing efforts directed towards holiday season promotions, and headcount-related costs.

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We continue to expect annual Xbox console unit volumes and revenue to decrease from fiscal 2004 consistent with this stage of the Xbox console lifecycle, offset by increased software unit volumes primarily driven by the launch of software titles such as Halo2, which is expected to be launched on November 9. In fiscal 2005 we expect PC games revenue to decrease from fiscal 2004 as a result of fewer new game titles. In fiscal 2005, we expect operating margins to improve from fiscal 2004 driven by increased sales of high margin software.

Cost of revenue

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Cost of Revenue	\$1,480	\$1,469	(1)%
As a percent of revenue	18.0%	16.0%	(2.0)pp

Cost of revenue includes manufacturing and distribution costs for products and programs sold, operation costs related to product support service centers and product distribution centers, costs incurred to support and maintain Internet-based products and services, and costs associated with the delivery of consulting services. The decrease in the three months ended September 30, 2004 was primarily driven by a reduction in costs associated with MSN Internet Access and a reduction in headcount-related costs primarily associated with a \$40 million decline in stock-based compensation. This was partially offset by increased costs in product support and consulting services.

Research and development

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Research and development	\$1,611	\$1,548	(4)%
As a percent of revenue	19.6%	16.8%	(2.8)pp

Research and development expenses include payroll, employee benefits, stock-based compensation and other headcount-related costs associated with product development. Research and development expenses also include third-party development and programming costs, localization costs incurred to translate software for international markets, and the amortization of purchased software code and services content. Research and development expenses in the first quarter of fiscal 2004 decreased due to a \$136 million decline in stock-based compensation costs. This was partially offset by an increase in product development costs associated with upcoming products, primarily the next generation of Xbox console, SQL Server 2005—code named “Yukon” and other server products.

Sales and marketing

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
Sales and marketing	\$1,505	\$1,663	10%
As a percent of revenue	18.3%	18.1%	(0.2)pp

Sales and marketing expenses include payroll, employee benefits, stock-based compensation, and other headcount-related costs associated with sales and marketing personnel and advertising, promotions, tradeshows, seminars, and other programs. Sales and marketing expenses increased in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 due to a

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net 4% increase in sales expenses related to headcount additions, principally in the Enterprise and Small/ Medium business sales forces, partially offset by a \$63 million decline in headcount-related stock-based compensation. The increase in sales and marketing expenses was also attributable to an 8% increase in marketing expense primarily related to global marketing programs and Home and Entertainment.

General and administrative

(In millions, except percentages)	Three months ended September 30		Percentage Change
	2003	2004	
General and administrative	\$471	\$1,015	115%
As a percent of revenue	5.7%	11.0%	5.3pp

General and administrative costs include payroll, employee benefits, stock-based compensation, and other headcount-related costs associated with finance, legal, facilities, certain human resources, other administrative headcount, and legal and other administrative fees. General and administrative costs increased in the three months ended September 30, 2004 due to higher litigation expenses primarily associated with the \$536 million in expenses related to the Novell settlement as described in Note 9 of the Notes to Financial Statements partially offset by a decrease in stock-based compensation costs. The reduction in stock-based compensation expense was partially offset by costs associated with an increase in headcount.

INVESTMENT INCOME, INCOME TAXES, AND OTHER

Investment Income and Other

The components of investment income and other are as follows:

(In millions)	Three months ended September 30	
	2003	2004
Dividends and interest	\$484	\$ 411
Net gains on investments	245	53
Net gains (losses) on derivatives	34	(195)
Net income (losses) from equity investees and other	(10)	10
Investment income and other	\$753	\$ 279

Dividends and interest income declined \$73 million to \$411 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 as compared to the corresponding quarter in fiscal 2004 due to a higher allocation of funds to lower yielding, more liquid asset classes. Net realized gains on investments declined to \$53 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 compared to \$245 million in the first quarter of the prior year resulting from fewer sales of investments. Net realized gains on investments includes other-than-temporary impairments of \$23 million in the three months ended September 30, 2004 compared to \$18 million in comparable period in fiscal 2004. Net derivative losses were \$195 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 compared to net gains of \$34 million in the comparable quarter of the prior year resulting primarily from interest rate and foreign currency related instruments. Derivative instruments are used to manage exposures to interest rates, equity prices, and foreign currency markets. During the first quarter of fiscal 2005, losses related to interest rate derivatives used to economically hedge against a rise in interest rates were \$75 million resulting from a decline in longer-term interest rates. These losses were offset by unrealized gains related to an increase in the market value of fixed income securities included as a component of other comprehensive income. Also during the first quarter of 2005, losses related to foreign currency contracts were \$105 million, related in part to hedging anticipated foreign currency revenues while the dollar generally declined against most currencies (except the yen), as well as economically hedging foreign currency based investment exposures. Losses related to hedging foreign currency based investment exposures were offset by unrealized gains in the underlying assets. In the first quarter of fiscal 2004, losses related to foreign currency and interest rate sensitive contracts were not significant. Net losses on equity investees and other for the prior period were reclassified into investment income and other to conform to the current period presentation.

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Income Taxes

Our effective tax rate for the first quarter in both fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2005 was 33%.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

Cash and short-term investments totaled \$64.42 billion as of September 30, 2004 compared to \$60.59 billion as of June 30, 2004. Equity and other investments were \$12.19 billion as of September 30, 2004 compared to \$12.21 billion as of June 30, 2004. The portfolio consists primarily of fixed-income securities, diversified among industries and individual issuers. Our investments are generally liquid and investment grade. The portfolio is invested predominantly in U.S. dollar denominated securities, but also includes foreign currency positions in order to diversify financial risk. The portfolio is primarily invested in short-term securities to minimize interest rate risk and facilitate rapid deployment for immediate cash needs.

Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue from volume licensing programs represents customer billings, paid either upfront or annually at the beginning of each billing coverage period, that are accounted for as subscriptions with revenue recognized ratably over the billing coverage period. For certain other licensing arrangements revenue attributable to undelivered elements, including free post-delivery telephone support and the right to receive unspecified upgrades/enhancements of Microsoft Internet Explorer on a when-and-if-available basis, is based on the sales price of those elements when sold separately and is recognized ratably on a straight-line basis over the related product's life cycle.

Unearned revenue as of September 30, 2004 decreased \$395 million from June 30, 2004, reflecting recognition of unearned revenue from multi-year licensing that has outpaced additions by \$270 million, and a \$96 million decline in revenue deferred for undelivered elements. We earned approximately \$379 million and \$37 million from the Upgrade Advantage programs for the three months ended September 30, 2003 and 2004, respectively, and do not expect to earn a meaningful amount of revenue in the future.

The following table outlines the expected recognition of \$7.78 billion of unearned revenue at September 30, 2004:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>Recognition of Unearned Revenue</u>
Three months ended:	
December 31, 2004	\$ 2,501
March 31, 2005	1,828
June 30, 2005	1,243
September 30, 2005	577
December 31, 2005 and thereafter	1,633
Unearned revenue	<u>\$ 7,782</u>

See Note 4 – Unearned Revenue of the Notes to Financial Statements

Cash Flows

Cash flow from operations for the three months ended September 30, 2004 increased \$583 million from the first quarter of fiscal 2004 to \$4.01 billion, due to a \$306 million decrease in impact of deferred revenue and other changes in working capital. Cash used for financing was \$738 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005, an increase of \$388 million from the corresponding period in fiscal 2004. The increase reflects the \$870 million cash dividend paid in the first quarter of fiscal 2005. The increase was partially offset by the impact of cash used

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for common stock repurchases of \$355 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 compared to \$1.05 billion in the first quarter of fiscal 2004. Cash used for investing was \$8.11 billion in the first quarter of fiscal 2005, an increase of \$4.37 billion from the first quarter of fiscal 2004, due to a \$4.36 billion increase in combined investment purchases, sales and maturities combined with the effect of purchasing more highly liquid securities considered cash equivalents during the prior quarter.

We have no material long-term debt. Stockholders' equity at September 30, 2004 was \$75.95 billion. We will continue to invest in sales, marketing, product support infrastructure, and existing and advanced areas of technology. Additions to property and equipment will continue, including new facilities and computer systems for research and development, sales and marketing, support, and administrative staff. We have operating leases for most U.S. and international sales and support offices. We have issued residual value guarantees in connection with various operating leases. These guarantees provide that if we do not purchase the leased property from the lessor at the end of the lease term, then we are liable to the lessor for an amount equal to the shortage (if any) between the proceeds from the sale of the property and an agreed value. As of September 30, 2004, the maximum amount of the residual value guarantees was approximately \$271 million. We believe that proceeds from the sale of properties under operating leases would exceed the payment obligation and therefore no liability currently exists. We have not engaged in any related party transactions or arrangements with unconsolidated entities or other persons that are reasonably likely to materially affect liquidity or the availability of requirements for capital resources.

On July 20, 2004, our board of directors approved a one-time special dividend of \$3.00 per share, or approximately \$33 billion, subject to shareholder approval of stock plan amendments that will allow certain adjustments to employee stock-based compensation awards to offset the impact of the special dividend. The special dividend will be payable on December 2, 2004, to shareholders of record on November 17, 2004, conditioned upon shareholder approval of amendments to the employee stock plans at the annual meeting of shareholders scheduled to be held November 9, 2004. The board also approved a plan to buy back up to \$30 billion in Microsoft common stock over the next four years. The specific timing and amount of repurchases will vary based on market conditions, securities law limitations, and other factors. The repurchases will be made using our cash resources. During the first quarter of fiscal 2005, we repurchased 22.8 million shares for \$625 million under this announced plan. The repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

On September 15, 2004, our Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share. The dividend is payable December 2, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on November 17, 2004. The ex-dividend date is November 15, 2004.

We believe existing cash and short-term investments, together with funds generated from operations should be sufficient to meet operating requirements and our special dividend as well as regular quarterly dividends. Our philosophy regarding the maintenance of a balance sheet with a large component of cash and short-term investments, as well as equity and other investments, reflects our views on potential future capital requirements relating to research and development, creation and expansion of sales distribution channels, investments and acquisitions, share dilution management, legal risks, and challenges to our business model. We continuously assess our investment management approach in view of our current and potential future needs.

Off-balance sheet arrangements

We have unconditionally guaranteed the repayment of certain Japanese yen denominated bank loans and related interest and fees of Jupiter Telecommunication, Ltd., a Japanese cable company (Jupiter). These guarantees arose on February 1, 2003 in conjunction with the expiration of prior financing arrangements, including previous guarantees by us. The financing arrangements were entered into by Jupiter as part of financing its operations. As part of Jupiter's new financing agreement, we agreed to guarantee repayment by Jupiter of the loans of approximately \$51 million. The estimated fair value and the carrying value of the guarantees was \$11 million and

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did not result in a charge to operations. The guarantees are in effect until the earlier of either repayment of the loans, including accrued interest and fees, or February 1, 2009. The maximum amount of the guarantees is limited to the sum of the total due and unpaid principal amounts, accrued and unpaid interest, and any other related expenses. Additionally, the maximum amount of the guarantees, denominated in Japanese yen, will vary based on fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. If we were required to make payments under the guarantees, we might recover all or a portion of those payments upon liquidation of Jupiter's assets. The proceeds from an asset liquidation cannot be accurately estimated due to the many factors that would affect the valuation and realization of the proceeds.

We provide indemnifications of varying scope and amount to certain customers against claims of intellectual property infringement made by third parties arising from the use of our products. We evaluate estimated losses for such indemnifications under SFAS 5, Accounting for Contingencies, as interpreted by FIN 45. We consider factors such as the degree of probability of an unfavorable outcome and the ability to make a reasonable estimate of the amount of loss. To date, we have not encountered material costs as a result of such obligations and have not accrued any liabilities related to such indemnifications in our financial statements.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In September 2004, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) Issue 03-1-1, Effective Date of Paragraphs 10–20 of EITF Issue No. 03-1, "The Meaning of Other-Than-Temporary Impairment and Its Application to Certain Investments", which delays the effective date for the recognition and measurement guidance in EITF Issue No. 03-1. In addition, the FASB has issued a proposed FSP to consider whether further application guidance is necessary for securities analyzed for impairment under EITF Issue No. 03-1. We continue to assess the potential impact that the adoption of the proposed FSP could have on our financial statements.

In July 2004, the FASB ratified EITF consensus on Issue No. 02-14, "Whether an Investor Should Apply the Equity Method of Accounting to Investments Other Than Common Stock", which provides guidance regarding application of the equity method of accounting to investments other than common stock. EITF Issue No. 02-14 will be effective beginning with our second quarter of fiscal 2005. We do not believe the adoption of EITF Issue No. 02-14 will have a material impact on our financial statements.

APPLICATION OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Our financial statements and accompanying notes are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Preparing financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses. These estimates and assumptions are affected by management's application of accounting policies. Critical accounting policies for us include revenue recognition, impairment of investment securities, impairment of goodwill, accounting for research and development costs, accounting for legal contingencies, and accounting for income taxes.

We account for the licensing of software in accordance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) 97-2, Software Revenue Recognition. The application of SOP 97-2 requires judgment, including whether a software arrangement includes multiple elements, and if so, whether vendor-specific objective evidence (VSOE) of fair value exists for those elements. Customers receive certain elements of our products over a period of time. These elements include free post-delivery telephone support and the right to receive unspecified upgrades/enhancements of Microsoft Internet Explorer on a when-and-if-available basis, the fair value of which is recognized over the product's estimated life cycle. Changes to the elements in a software arrangement, the ability to identify VSOE for those elements, the fair value of the respective elements, and changes to a product's estimated life cycle could materially impact the amount of earned and unearned revenue. Judgment is also required to assess whether future releases of certain software represent new products or upgrades and enhancements to existing products.

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SFAS 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities, and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) 59, Accounting for Noncurrent Marketable Equity Securities, provide guidance on determining when an investment is other-than-temporarily impaired. Investments are reviewed quarterly for indicators of other-than-temporary impairment. This determination requires significant judgment. In making this judgment, we evaluate, among other factors, the duration and extent to which the fair value of an investment is less than its cost; the financial health of and near-term business outlook for the investee, including factors such as industry and sector performance, changes in technology, and operational and financing cash flow; and our intent and ability to hold the investment. Investments with an indicator are further evaluated to determine the likelihood of a significant adverse affect on the fair value and amount of the impairment as necessary. If market, industry and/or investee conditions deteriorate, we may incur future impairments.

SFAS 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, requires that goodwill be tested for impairment at the reporting unit level (operating segment or one level below an operating segment) on an annual basis (July 1 for us) and between annual tests if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying value. These events or circumstances could include a significant change in the business climate, legal factors, operating performance indicators, competition, sale or disposition of a significant portion of a reporting unit. Application of the goodwill impairment test requires judgment, including the identification of reporting units, assignment of assets and liabilities to reporting units, assignment of goodwill to reporting units, and determination of the fair value of each reporting unit. The fair value of each reporting unit is estimated using a discounted cash flow methodology. This requires significant judgments including estimation of future cash flows, which is dependent on internal forecasts, estimation of the long-term rate of growth for our business, the useful life over which cash flows will occur, and determination of our weighted average cost of capital. Changes in these estimates and assumptions could materially affect the determination of fair value and/or goodwill impairment for each reporting unit.

We account for research and development costs in accordance with several accounting pronouncements, including SFAS 2, Accounting for Research and Development Costs, and SFAS 86, Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software to be Sold, Leased, or Otherwise Marketed. SFAS 86 specifies that costs incurred internally in researching and developing a computer software product should be charged to expense until technological feasibility has been established for the product. Once technological feasibility is established, all software costs should be capitalized until the product is available for general release to customers. Judgment is required in determining when technological feasibility of a product is established. We have determined that technological feasibility for our software products is reached shortly before the products are released to manufacturing. Costs incurred after technological feasibility is established are not material, and accordingly, we expense all research and development costs when incurred.

The outcomes of legal proceedings and claims brought against us are subject to significant uncertainty. SFAS 5, Accounting for Contingencies, requires that an estimated loss from a loss contingency such as a legal proceeding or claim should be accrued by a charge to income if it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Disclosure of a contingency is required if there is at least a reasonable possibility that a loss has been incurred. In determining whether a loss should be accrued we evaluate, among other factors, the degree of probability of an unfavorable outcome and the ability to make a reasonable estimate of the amount of loss. Changes in these factors could materially impact our financial position or our results of operations.

SFAS 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, establishes financial accounting and reporting standards for the effect of income taxes. The objectives of accounting for income taxes are to recognize the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year and deferred tax liabilities and assets for the future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in an entity's financial statements or tax returns. Judgment is required in assessing the future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our financial statements or tax returns. Variations in the actual outcome of these future tax consequences could materially impact our financial position or our results of operations.

ISSUES AND UNCERTAINTIES

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains statements that are forward-looking. These statements are based on current expectations and assumptions that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially because of issues and uncertainties such as those listed below and elsewhere in this report, which, among others, should be considered in evaluating our future financial performance.

Challenges to our Business Model. Since our inception, our business model has been based upon customers agreeing to pay a fee to license software developed and distributed by us. Under this commercial software model, software developers bear the costs of converting original ideas into software products through investments in research and development, offsetting these costs with the revenue received from the distribution of their products. We believe the commercial software model has had substantial benefits for users of software, allowing them to rely on our expertise and the expertise of other software developers that have powerful incentives to develop innovative software that is useful, reliable, and compatible with other software and hardware. In recent years, there has been a growing challenge to the commercial software model. Under the non-commercial software model, open source software produced by loosely associated groups of unpaid programmers and made available for license to end users without charge is distributed by firms at nominal cost that earn revenue on complementary services and products, without having to bear the full costs of research and development for the open source software. The most notable example of open source software is the Linux operating system. While we believe our products provide customers with significant advantages in security and productivity, and generally have a lower total cost of ownership than open source software, the popularization of the non-commercial software model continues to pose a significant challenge to our business model, including recent efforts by proponents of open source software to convince governments worldwide to mandate the use of open source software in their purchase and deployment of software products. To the extent open source software gains increasing market acceptance, sales of our products may decline, we may have to reduce the prices we charge for our products, and revenue and operating margins may consequently decline.

Intellectual Property Rights. We defend our intellectual property rights, but unlicensed copying and use of software and intellectual property rights represents a loss of revenue to us. While this adversely affects U.S. revenue, the impact on revenue from outside the United States is more significant, particularly in countries where laws are less protective of intellectual property rights. Throughout the world, we actively educate consumers about the benefits of licensing genuine products and educate lawmakers about the advantages of a business climate where intellectual property rights are protected. However, continued educational and enforcement efforts may not affect revenue positively, and revenue could be adversely affected by further deterioration in compliance with existing legal protections or reductions in the legal protection for intellectual property rights of software developers.

From time to time we receive notices from others claiming we infringe their intellectual property rights. The number of these claims may grow. Responding to these claims may require us to enter into royalty and licensing agreements on unfavorable terms, require us to stop selling or to redesign affected products, or to pay damages or to satisfy indemnification commitments with our customers. If we are required to enter into such agreements or take such actions, our operating margins may decline as a result.

We have made and expect to continue making significant expenditures to acquire the use of technology and intellectual property rights, including via cross-licenses of broad patent portfolios.

Unauthorized Disclosure of Source Code. Source code, the detailed program commands for our operating systems and software programs, is the most significant asset we own. While we license certain portions of our source code for various software programs and operating systems to a number of licensees, we take significant measures to protect the secrecy of large portions of our source code. If an unauthorized disclosure of a significant portion of our source code occurs, we could potentially lose future trade secret protection for that source code. The loss of future trade secret protection could make it easier for third parties to compete with our products by copying functionality, which could adversely affect our revenue and operating margins. Unauthorized disclosure of source code could also increase certain risks described below under “Security”.

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New Products and Services. We have made significant investments in research, development and marketing for new products, services, and technologies, including Longhorn, Microsoft .NET, Xbox, business applications, MSN, and mobile and wireless technologies. Significant revenue from new product and service investments may not be achieved for a number of years, if at all. Moreover, these products and services may not be profitable, and even if they are profitable, operating margins for these businesses may not be as high as the margins we have experienced historically.

Litigation. We are subject to a variety of claims and lawsuits. Adverse outcomes in some or all of the claims pending against us may result in significant monetary damages or injunctive relief against us that could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business. While management currently believes that resolving all of these matters, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse impact on our financial position or results of operations, the litigation and other claims noted above are subject to inherent uncertainties and management's view of these matters may change in the future. There exists the possibility of a material adverse impact on our financial position and the results of operations for the period in which the effect of an unfavorable final outcome becomes probable and reasonably estimable.

Security. Maintaining the security of computers and computer networks is an issue of critical importance for us and our customers. There are malicious hackers who develop and deploy viruses, worms, and other malicious software programs that attack our products. While this is an industry-wide phenomenon that affects computers across all platforms, our customers in particular have been victims of such attacks and will likely continue to be so. We are devoting significant resources to addressing these critical issues. We are focusing our efforts on engineering more secure products, optimizing security and reliability options and settings when we deliver products, and providing guidance to help our customers make the best use of our products and services to protect against computer viruses and other attacks on their computing environment. In addition, we are working to improve the deployment of software updates to address security vulnerabilities discovered after our products are released. We are also investing in mitigation technologies that help to secure customers from attacks even when such software updates are not deployed. We are also advising customers on how to help protect themselves from security threats through the use of our online automated security tools, our published security guidance, and the deployment of security software such as firewalls, antivirus, and other security software. These steps could adversely affect our operating margins. Despite these efforts, actual or perceived security vulnerabilities in our products could lead some customers to seek to return products, to reduce or delay future purchases, or to purchase competitive products. Customers may also increase their expenditures on protecting their computer systems from attack, which could delay adoption of new technologies. Any of these actions by customers could adversely affect our revenue.

Declines in Demand for Software. If overall market demand for PCs, servers, and other computing devices declines significantly, or consumer or corporate spending for such products declines, our revenue will be adversely affected. Additionally, our revenue would be unfavorably impacted if customers reduce their purchases of new software products or upgrades to existing products because new product offerings are not perceived as adding significant new functionality or other value to prospective purchasers. A significant number of customers purchased license agreements providing upgrade rights to specific licensed products prior to the transition to Licensing 6.0 in July 2002. These agreements generally expired throughout fiscal 2004 and largely expired at the end of the first quarter in fiscal 2005. The rate at which such customers renew these contracts could adversely affect future revenue. We are making significant investments in the next release of the Windows operating system, code-named Longhorn. If this system is not perceived as offering significant new functionality or value to prospective purchasers, our revenue and operating margins could be adversely affected.

Product Development Schedule. The development of software products is a complex and time-consuming process. New products and enhancements to existing products can require long development and testing periods. Significant delays in new product releases or significant problems in creating new products, particularly any delays in the Longhorn operating system, could adversely affect our revenue.

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General Economic and Geo-Political Risks. Softness in corporate information technology spending or other changes in general economic conditions that affect demand for computer hardware or software could adversely affect our revenue. Terrorist activity and armed conflict pose the additional risk of general economic disruption and could require changes in our operations and security arrangements, thus increasing our operating costs. These conditions lend additional uncertainty to the timing and budget for technology investment decisions by our customers.

Competition. We continue to experience intensive competition across all markets for our products and services. These competitive pressures may result in decreased sales volumes, price reductions, and/or increased operating costs, such as for marketing and sales incentives, resulting in lower revenue, gross margins, and operating income.

Taxation of Extraterritorial Income (ETI). On October 22, 2004 the President signed into law H.R. 4520, the American Jobs Creation Act. The law repeals ETI for transactions after December 31, 2004 and provides a two-year phase-out equivalent to 80% of calculated ETI benefits for calendar 2005 and 60% for calendar 2006. The law creates a production activity deduction beginning at 3% of qualifying production profits (including software) for our fiscal 2006 and increasing to 9% over a six year period. Based on our current understanding of the legislation, we believe that the financial impact on the Company from losing ETI benefit will not be significant.

Other Potential Tax Liabilities. We are subject to income taxes in both the United States and numerous foreign jurisdictions. Significant judgment is required in determining our worldwide provision for income taxes. In the ordinary course of our business, there are many transactions and calculations where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. We are regularly under audit by tax authorities. Although we believe our tax estimates are reasonable, the final determination of tax audits and any related litigation could be materially different than that which is reflected in historical income tax provisions and accruals. Should additional taxes be assessed as a result of an audit or litigation, a material effect on our income tax provision and net income in the period or periods for which that determination is made could result.

Insurance Programs. In addition to conventional third-party insurance arrangements, we have entered into captive insurance arrangements for the purpose of protecting against possible catastrophic and other risks not covered by traditional insurance markets. As of September 30, 2004, the face value of captive insurance arrangements was \$2.0 billion. Actual value at any particular time will vary due to deductibles, exclusions, other restrictions, and claims. While we believe these arrangements are an effective way to insure against such risks, the potential liabilities associated with certain of the issues and uncertainties discussed in this document or other events could exceed the coverage provided by such arrangements.

Business Disruptions in the Event of a Catastrophic Event. We are a highly automated business and a disruption or failure of our systems in the event of a major earthquake, cyber-attack, terrorist attack, or other catastrophic event could cause delays in completing sales and providing services. Our corporate headquarters, a significant portion of our research and development activities, and certain other critical business operations are located in the Seattle, Washington area, and we have other business operations in the Silicon Valley area of California, both of which are near major earthquake faults. A catastrophic event that results in the destruction or disruption of any of our critical business or information technology systems could severely affect our ability to conduct normal business operations and, as a result, our future operating results could be adversely affected.

Other. Other issues and uncertainties may include:

- warranty and other claims for hardware products such as Xbox;
- sales channel disruption, such as the bankruptcy of a major distributor;

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- the effects of the Consent Decree in *U.S. v. Microsoft* and Final Judgment in *State of New York v. Microsoft* on the Windows operating system and server business, including those associated with protocol and other disclosures required by the Decree and Final Judgment and the ability of PC manufacturers to hide end-user access to certain new Windows features;
- currency fluctuations;
- our ability to implement operating cost structures that align with revenue growth;
- the continued availability of third-party distribution channels for MSN service and other online services;
- factors associated with our international operations; and
- financial market volatility or other changes affecting the value of our investments, such as the Comcast Corporation securities held by us, that may result in a reduction in carrying value and recognition of losses including impairment charges.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We are exposed to foreign currency, interest rate, and fixed income and equity price risks. A portion of these risks is hedged, but fluctuations could impact our results of operations and financial position. We hedge a portion of anticipated revenue and accounts receivable exposure to foreign currency fluctuations, primarily with option contracts. We monitor our foreign currency exposures daily to maximize the overall effectiveness of our foreign currency hedge positions. Principal currencies hedged include the Euro, Japanese yen, British pound, and Canadian dollar. Fixed income securities are subject to interest rate risk. The portfolio is diversified and structured to minimize credit risk. Securities held in our equity and other investments portfolio are subject to price risk, and are generally not hedged. However, we use options to hedge our price risk on certain equity securities that are held primarily for strategic purposes.

We use a value-at-risk (VAR) model to estimate and quantify our market risks. VAR is the expected loss, for a given confidence level, in fair value of our portfolio due to adverse market movements over a defined time horizon. The VAR model is not intended to represent actual losses in fair value, but is used as a risk estimation and management tool. The model used for currencies and equities is geometric Brownian motion, which allows incorporation of optionality with regard to these risk exposures. For interest rate risk, the mean reverting geometric Brownian motion is used to reflect the principle that fixed-income securities prices revert to maturity value over time.

Value-at-risk is calculated by, first, simulating 10,000 market price paths over 20 days for equities, interest rates and foreign exchange rates, taking into account historical correlations among the different rates and prices. Each resulting unique set of equities prices, interest rates, and foreign exchange rates is then applied to substantially all individual holdings to re-price each holding. The 250th worst performance (out of 10,000) represents the value-at-risk over 20 days at the 97.5 percentile confidence level. Several risk factors are not captured in the model, including liquidity risk, operational risk, credit risk, and legal risk.

Certain securities in our equity portfolio are held for strategic purposes. We hedge the value of a portion of these securities through the use of derivative contracts such as put-call collars. In these arrangements, we hedge a security's equity price risk below the purchased put strike and forgo most or all of the benefits of the security's appreciation above the sold call strike, in exchange for premium received for the sold call. We also hold equity securities for general investment return purposes. We have incurred material impairment charges related to these securities in prior periods. The VAR amounts disclosed below are used as a risk management tool and reflect an estimate of potential reductions in fair value of our portfolio. Losses in fair value over a 20-day holding period can exceed the reported VAR by significant amounts and can also accumulate over a longer time horizon than the 20-day holding period used in the VAR analysis. VAR amounts are not necessarily reflective of potential accounting losses, including determinations of other-than-temporary losses in fair value in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

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The VAR numbers are shown separately for interest rate, currency, and equity risks. These VAR numbers include the underlying portfolio positions and related hedges. We use historical data to estimate VAR. Given the reliance on historical data, VAR is most effective in estimating risk exposures in markets in which there are no fundamental changes or shifts in market conditions. An inherent limitation in VAR is that the distribution of past changes in market risk factors may not produce accurate predictions of future market risk.

The following table sets forth the VAR calculations for substantially all of our positions:

(In millions) Risk Categories	June 30, 2004	September 30, 2004	Three months ended September 30, 2004		
			Average	High	Low
Interest rates	\$ 298	\$ 258	\$ 273	\$ 366	\$ 237
Currency rates	207	107	119	209	54
Equity prices	773	706	715	784	671

The total VAR for the combined risk categories is \$766 million at Sept. 30, 2004 and \$835 million at June 30, 2004. The total VAR is 28% less at Sept. 30, 2004 and 35% less at June, 30 2004 than the sum of the separate risk categories for each of those years in the above table, due to the diversification benefit of the combination of risks. The decline in VAR is mainly attributed to asset allocation shifts to more liquid, shorter duration assets and a decrease in the currency VAR.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as required by Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(b) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures are effective. There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2004 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Part II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

See notes to financial statements.

As reported in our Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2004, we are the defendant in *U.S. v. Microsoft* and *New York v. Microsoft*, companion lawsuits filed by the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and a group of eighteen state Attorneys General alleging violations of the Sherman Act and various state antitrust laws. On June 28, 2001, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit substantially narrowed the bases of liability found by the District Court after a trial, but affirmed some of the District Court's conclusions that we had violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act. We entered into a settlement with the United States on November 2, 2001. Nine states (New York, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin) agreed to settle on substantially the same terms on November 6, 2001. Following a review under the Tunney Act, the trial court approved the *U.S. v. Microsoft* settlement and entered a substantially similar remedy in *New York v. Microsoft*. Two trade groups, CCIA and SIIA, intervened and appealed the Tunney Act approval, and two states appealed the remedy in *New York v. Microsoft*. On June 30, 2004, the Court of Appeals affirmed the *U.S. v. Microsoft* settlement and affirmed the trial court's remedy in *New York v. Microsoft*. The trial court's remedy in *New York v. Microsoft* is now final. On October 27, 2004, we reached an agreement with CCIA pursuant to which, among other things, CCIA agreed not to pursue an appeal, and we paid CCIA an immaterial amount. SIIA did not file a petition for a writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court by the October 28, 2004 deadline. Accordingly, the settlement in *U.S. v. Microsoft* is now also final.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Items 2(a) and (b) are inapplicable.

(c) STOCK REPURCHASES

Period	(a) Total number of shares purchased	(b) Average price paid per share	(c) Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs	(d) Maximum number of shares (or approximate dollar value) of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs
July 1, 2004 - July 31, 2004	—	\$ —	—	\$ 30.00 billion
August 1, 2004 - August 31, 2004	—	\$ —	—	30.00 billion
September 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004	22.8 million	\$ 27.38	22.8 million	29.38 billion
	<u>22.8 million</u>		<u>22.8 million</u>	

On July 20, 2004, the board of directors approved a plan to buy back up to \$30 billion in Microsoft common stock over the next four years. The specific timing and amount of repurchases will vary based on market conditions, securities law limitations, and other factors. The repurchases will be made using our cash resources. During the first quarter of fiscal 2005, we repurchased 22.8 million shares for \$625 million under this announced plan. The transactions occurred in open market purchases and pursuant to a trading plan under Rule 10b5-1. A portion of these purchases settled after the end of the fiscal quarter. The repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

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Item 6. Exhibits

(A) EXHIBITS

- 15. Letter re unaudited interim financial information
- 31.1 Certifications of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 31.2 Certifications of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32 Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Items 3, 4, and 5 are not applicable and have been omitted.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Microsoft Corporation

Date: November 8, 2004

By: _____ /s/ JOHN G. CONNORS

John G. Connors
Senior Vice President; Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer
and Duly Authorized Officer)

November 8, 2004

Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington

We have made a review, in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), of the unaudited interim financial information of Microsoft Corporation and subsidiaries for the three-month periods ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, as indicated in our report dated November 8, 2004; because we did not perform an audit, we expressed no opinion on that information.

We are aware that our report referred to above, which is included in your Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004, is incorporated by reference in Registration Statement Nos. 333-109185 (Microsoft Caribbean 1165(e) Retirement Plan & Microsoft Puerto Rico, Inc. 1165(e) Savings Plan), 333-06928 (Microsoft Corporation 1991 Stock Option Plan), 333-16665 (Microsoft Corporation 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan), 333-118764 (Microsoft Corporation Savings Plus 401 (k) Plan), 333-91755 (Microsoft Corporation 1999 Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors), 333-52852 (Microsoft Corporation 2001 Stock Plan), 333-102240 (Microsoft Corporation 2003 Employee Stock Purchase Plan), 33-36498 (Microsoft Corporation Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors) and 33-45617 (Microsoft Corporation Stock Option Plan for Consultants and Advisors) of Microsoft Corporation on Forms S-8 and 333-43449, 333-110107 and 333-108843 of Microsoft Corporation on Forms S-3.

We also are aware that the aforementioned reports, pursuant to Rule 436(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, are not considered a part of the Registration Statement prepared or certified by an accountant or a report prepared or certified by an accountant within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of that Act.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Seattle, Washington

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Steven A. Ballmer, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Microsoft Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - c) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

November 8, 2004

/s/ Steven A. Ballmer

Steven A. Ballmer
Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATIONS

I, John G. Connors, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Microsoft Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - c) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

November 8, 2004

/s/ John G. Connors

John G. Connors
Chief Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002
(18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350)**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Microsoft Corporation, a Washington corporation (the "Company"), on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Report"), Steven A. Ballmer, Chief Executive Officer of the Company and John G. Connors, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, respectively, do each hereby certify, pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. § 1350), that to his knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Company.

/s/ Steven A. Ballmer

Steven A. Ballmer
Chief Executive Officer
November 8, 2004

/s/ John G. Connors

John G. Connors
Chief Financial Officer
November 8, 2004

[A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to Microsoft Corporation and will be retained by Microsoft Corporation and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.]