







Posted by: [miglia](#) on October 1, 2003 12:53 AM

I am pleased to see others taking note of what I have been screaming for years. I previously taught public speaking and constantly had to admonish my students because their AIDS had become their only form of communication. I would like to add that "eye contact" is elementary in the communication process and ppt eliminates this.

Posted by: [L.A.Ward](#) on October 9, 2003 12:08 PM

And...

It's not just a tool, it's a medium, man. Only people using the same medium can work together. If you and I are not using the same medium I can give you a read-only version of what I've created, but to create anything together we have to use the same medium.

In and among businesses, individuals, schools, people work together. Working together, people need a common medium. In 1990, PowerPoint was arguably the best medium for slide presentations and along with skillful marketing, people embraced it. We bought it hook, line, and sinker. It was good to have a medium that everyone could work together in.

Things, for whatever reason, deteriorated rapidly. Each upgrade was worse than the last. But everyone had invested in the software, and had invested their time creating things with it which would be unusable if they changed media. Now, more than a decade has gone by. It would be easy to design a better program, but what good would it do? Our intellectual property is trapped in this medium. Switching media is not an option.

Our only hope was government intervention. The government had a fuzzy notion there was something wrong, but missed the opportunity. The browser was the only non-monopolistic product Microsoft had. HTML is a generic medium that anybody can create a program to read and write.

Example 1: If you control gasoline and cars need gasoline to run, car owners must either use your product or not drive. Example 2: If you control Powerpoint and businesses need Powerpoint to communicate to audiences, businesses must either use your product or not communicate to audiences. The monopolist of example one says, "get a horse." The monopolist of example 2 says, "translate to PDF." Standard Oil. Standard software.

I dream of a world in which my children don't have to use Powerpoint.

Posted by: [John](#) on November 6, 2003 04:21 PM