

Microsoftists, Agnostics and *a*-Microsoftists

Once upon a time, the planet was dominated by humans who held one of three different philosophies of life, metaphysics and personal computers.

There were the Microsoftists who believed that the personal computers they were using had some kind of an operating system which must have been designed and they found some ancient records telling of an entity known as "Microsoft" in a far away place called Redmond which had designed this operating system for the use of humans as they utilized their personal computers. Because they themselves had written computer instructions that they called software, and because they knew that they were also designers of some sort, then to them it followed that the ancient records had told them the truth — Microsoft existed and was indeed the designer in the far away place called Redmond.

Those holding the exact opposite philosophical position — the *a*-Microsoftists — rejected belief in an entity called Microsoft and believed that the so-called operating system of the personal computers had arisen quite by chance and that because computers had been around a long time the seeming design was only an illusion and that the operating system actually evolved as the best fit for the job of operating the electronics of the personal computer. They further pointed out some other facts to support their belief. Many "hackers" had discovered much of the ways the operating system worked and had shown that it didn't stay the same over time with new entries in the registry and different configurations in evidence. They also said that given enough time the hackers would completely take apart the operating system and explain fully how it worked and that this would show no need for belief in any design entity — Microsoft or whatever.

In between were the Agnostics. These humans claimed to take the humble high road of admitting that they not only could not take a position regarding Microsoft's existence but that no one else should ever think an answer could be found. They seemed, however, to be friendlier with the *a*-Microsoftists.

The *a*-Microsoftists eventually comprised the largest fraction of humankind, and used their numerical superiority to ridicule and virtually silence the Microsoftists. From their ranks certain humans arose who became the loudest voices of ridicule and who were zealots for making major reductions in the number of adherents to belief in Microsoft. For example, one of them lived across the sea by the name of Hitchard Christophins and wrote several books, such as [The Microsoft Delusion](#) and [Operating Up the Slopes of Mount PC Improbable](#). He and his associates accused the Microsoftists of simply holding on to their belief because the hackers had not finished their hacking and that this faulty reasoning constituted a "Microsoft-of-the-Gaps" argument which held no credibility.

Some say the *a*-Microsoftists were predisposed to believe the way they did because they resented any thought of a grand designer such as a Microsoft which might be superior to them. They considered themselves to be at the apex of all designers to ever exist. They prided themselves as independents. The Microsoftists, however, were quite happy to acknowledge the superior design work of this unseen Microsoft and hoped someday to see Microsoft in the land of Redmond and to express their unending gratitude for what was bequeathed to them for their personal computers.