What's wrong with iPlayer?

The headlines say it all: "The BBC has made it official — they have been corrupted by Microsoft. With the launch of the iPlayer, the BBC Trust has failed in its most basic of duties and handed over to Microsoft sole control of the on-line distribution of BBC programming. You now need to own a Microsoft operating system to view BBC TV shows online." — that was the case in July 2007...

Things have not improved much for the BBC iPlayer. While the BBC was quick to address an alternative for the users of Mac OS X and Windows Vista operating systems, by offering streaming versions of iPlayer shows in the proprietary Flash format, and later circumventing their own DRM to offer shows for the iPhone, the BBC refuses to address the greater problem here — that the British people, subject to a "television tax", are still forced to install proprietary software to watch television shows they have already paid for, and which are already broadcast, digitally, over the airwaves.

We can certainly blame the executives who have misled the Trustees into making this decision, but that really is no excuse for such poor governance.

If the BBC doesn't stand for the public good - and DRM is not in the public good - then what is the BBC really for?

It wasn't always like this. The BBC has a long history of doing the right thing, and for supporting open access. The BBC doesn't need encryption, and it certainly doesn't need Microsoft.

DRM is the problem and it must be eliminated from the BBC.

Imagine a world where you can buy whatever radio or television set you wish and still be able to tune into the BBC. A world where the BBC uses free and open standards for radio and television to reach more people in the world than any other broadcasting corporation. This is the world as we've known it for over thirty years.

DEAR TV TAX PAYER. PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD THIS INFORMATION. THANKS, DBD MANAGEMENT.