Software Pie

With appreciation and apologies to Don McLean . . .

A long, long time ago
I can still remember how that PC used to make me smile
And I knew if we got a chance
We could make those pixels dance
And maybe we'd be happy for a while
But February made me shiver
With every program he'd deliver
Bad news on the Altair
It just didn't seem fair
I can't remember if I sighed
When I read about his legal slide
But something touched me deep inside
The day the software died
So … {Refrain}

Refrain
Bye-bye, Mr. Microsoft Guy
Got his product preloaded
And I still don't know why
And them Redmond boys were eating ham on rye
Singin' Bill is just a regular guy
He even stuck his face in a pie

Did he write BASIC stuff
And did he have faith in DOS enough
If Allen told him so
Do you believe in point 'n click
Can GUI save your carpal tick
And can you teach me how to surf real slow
Well, I know that you're in love with DOS
'Cause I saw you sell it to the boss
He had no clue to choose
Man, I dig those IBM blues
He was a lonely teenage techno-geek
With a gift for fancy market speak
But I knew it was tongue-in-cheek
The day the software died
I started singing … {Refrain}
Now for 10 years we've been on PCs
Still DOS grows fat on our CDs
But that's not how it used to be
When Gates brawled with the Apple King
In a coat worn since he was 13
And cash that came from you and me
Oh, and while the King was looking down
Gates stole his thorny crown
The courtroom was adjourned
No software was returned
And while Netscape geared up on the Net
The Redmond boys began to sweat
Their next move would set their debt
The day the software died
We were singing … {Refrain}
I met a girl who runs Outlook
And I asked her to fix my address book
But she just smiled and turned away
I went down to the sacred store
Where I'd run Outlook once before
But the man there said the program wouldn't run
And in the streets the users screamed
The managers cried, and the hackers dreamed
The servers were all chokin'
The firewall had been broken
And the two men who had the most,
Bill the kid and Paul the ghost
They built their mansions on the coast
The day the software died
And they were singing …
Bye-bye, Mr. Microsoft Guy
Got his product preloaded
And I still don't know why
And them Redmond boys and their long hippie hair
Singin' this will be the day that we cry

—Gary Petersen, Shim Enterprises

Got an idea for *BackTalk?* Send an e-mail to backtalk@stsc1.hill.af.mil