

From: Steve Fenton [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2022 11:29
To: Mobile Ecosystems
Subject: Mobile Ecosystem Consultation

Categories: [SharePoint] This message was saved in 'Mobile Ecosystems > Documents > Parties > Individuals and Public > Steve Fenton'

Good morning,

My name is Steve Fenton and I am a UK resident. I am a software developer and author of technical books.

I have participated in both the WHATWG and W3C groups in respect of HTML.

One of the key harms caused by lack of competition in web browsers is an underinvestment in the browser technology. We saw this when Internet Explorer was the dominant browser, and the engine held back The Web for a number of years, stifling innovation and requiring additional investment in "backwards compatibility".

In 2022 we are allowing the same thing to happen once again, where a dominant browser is falling behind as there is no competition to push the maintainer to invest in the technology.

There is a cost to business of having to provide backwards compatibility for a browser that is not properly maintained and a cost for users when critical issues are not resolved quickly, for example:

https://www.theregister.com/2022/01/21/apple_safari_webkit_indexeddb/

Mobile operating systems benefit from The Web. Imagine a vendor offering a version that did not have access to The Web; it simply wouldn't be of use to their users. It is not morally acceptable to accumulate the benefits of embedding The Web on these devices while simultaneously acting against The Web by preventing users from accessing a suitable Web Browser.

We stepped in before we Internet Explorer and we must again every time browser choice is removed from users.

I am responding personally, as a software development professional with decades of experience in Web Development. I am happy for this response to be published under my name.

Kind regards,

Steve Fenton
<https://www.stevefenton.co.uk/>

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