From:	████████████████████████████████
Sent:	25 August 2022 10:29
To:	BrowsersAndCloud
Cc:	████████████
Subject:	The Apple Browser (engine) Ban hurt our business.

Hi,

I worked for what was the leading tour guide device manufacturer and we produced a Progressive Web App that could be easily installed on mobile devices.

The Apple ban on browsers meant that some key features that were standard on other platforms were not available on iOS. Of particular note is the Push Notifications, AKA the 'Push API'[1]. The reason that Apple can get away without implementing standard features is because they don't allow competition on their browser engines, and also control access to the platform features needed to support the Push API and its ilk. This resulted us having to ship an app with poorer user experience to Apple users, which was a significant share of our customers (primarily museum visitors).

From my point of view, the reason Apple do this is clear - to prevent people writing applications that don't need to be in their App Store - from which they gain enormous revenue.

If there were competing browser engines on iOS - so, for example, Chrome-on-iOS would use the chromium engine rather than the webkit one shipped by Apple - then there would be a competitive pressure for Apple to follow standards.

The other aspect that hits us web developers is that the webkit engine is only updated when iOS itself is updated. The alternative is that the engine can be updated independently of the OS, which is how it is done on other platforms. When we are impacted by bugs, we have to wait a significant amount of time until a fix is available, and it is often more than one iOS-update cycle. If the bugs aren't on alternative browser engines, then it becomes more obvious to the user, and they have the choice to switch, thereby putting competitive pressure on Apple to fix their implementation.

Please consider putting pressure on Apple to allow competitive browser engines so that competitors to Mobile Safari can produce real competition on the iOS platform.

Regards,

Basil.

[1] https://caniuse.com/push-api