

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 June 2022 10:57
To: BrowsersAndCloud
Subject: Supporting the market investigation into browser engines

I'd like to show my support for this investigation.

The lack of browser engine choice on mobile (particularly Apple iOS) has resulted in a stagnant ecosystem for the platform.

Examples of this are lack of Web API support for things such as Progressive Web Apps, and complete lack of interest in shipping features that have been available on Android for over 5 years.

Apple state that Progressive Web Apps are a viable alternative to Apps within their App Store, however this statement is false when they stifle any kind of browser competition due to requiring all browsers to use their Safari engine under the hood. Progressive web apps are a second class citizen on the iOS platform. So in no way a viable alternative to native iOS apps. Android on the other hand has deep integration for Progressive Web Apps, allowing them to appear to customers as indistinguishable from native apps.

Similarities to the 1998 Microsoft Internet Explorer monopoly case, apart from worse, as any other browser installed is just a facade around the same underlying engine.

Apple states this is for security reasons, however there are many occasions where Apple has been the slowest to push out security updates to its engine.

For me as a developer a web experience shipped on iOS is subpar to the likes of Chrome on Android, where Chrome has the ability to ship it's own engine. Therefore the only viable option right now is spending time and money on native iOS app development, and as a result, Apple reciving money as part of the \$99 app store fee (for free apps), and more for paid apps.

Changes would result in all browsers being able to take control of their own apps, ship their own engines (with full integration into the underlying platform). Building and shipping features as fast as they're able to on Android or desktop for example. It would allow me as a developer to ship an acceptable web experience to iOS customers, just as i'm able to on the Android platform.

With only 2 viable mobile platforms on the market it's key they're as open as they can be.

The ask is not unrealistic, it's simply allowing the same rules as desktop operating systems and Android has, allowing healthy competition.

[REDACTED]