

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [BrowsersAndCloud](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Publication of issues statement - mobile browsers and cloud gaming  
**Date:** 16 January 2023 11:42:24  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks. We are very happy to see the following points; as numbered and in italics. We have a few comments on these:

*13 Browsers are primarily monetised through search: in return for setting a particular search engine as default, browsers receive a share of the advertising revenue generated by their users' searches.*

*and*

*26. We also propose to investigate certain agreements between Apple and Google, in relation to browser search revenue sharing.*

Yes, your investigation and remedies although on browsers, can have a profound effect on the search market, which is monopolised by Google. Google's agreement with Apple should be examined in detail. This agreement more than anything makes it extremely difficult for search competitors, as Google dominate search through a combination of Android/Chrome and iOS/Safari, which both have Google search as default.

*27 (f) whether search revenue sharing agreements between Apple and Google reduce their incentives to compete in browsers and browser engines on iOS.*

Since "Browsers are primarily monetised through search" this is surely true. When Google search has default placement on Android/Chrome and iOS/Safari the search market is monopolised, and there is no incentive for either to compete; the only issue for Apple would be whether they happy with the amount of revenue share they get.

*45 We will investigate whether Apple and Google may use choice architecture to hinder competition on mobile operating systems and to reinforce the position of their own browsers and browser engines.*

Good. Emerging competitors like us in search in practice have to effectively focus for placement in small market share browsers like Firefox and Vivaldi. So anything that helps people access these smaller browsers makes the browser and thus search market more competitive.

*48 We will investigate the effects of search revenue sharing agreements on competition between browsers on iOS. In doing so, we will prioritise contractual or revenue sharing agreements whose primary purpose and/or effect appears to be to limit the ability or incentives for browser vendors to compete with one another.*

We hope you would also investigate the revenue sharing agreement not only between Apple and Google, but that between Apple and Microsoft; noting that in most countries the only other search choices in Safari are for the Microsoft Bing search engine and Bing proxies (so benefit Microsoft too) - Yahoo, DuckDuckGo, Ecosia.

*66 (b) requiring Apple and Google to open up access to specific operating system functionality, other than the functionality they make available to their own browser and native apps.*

We would like to stress that this is a very important area and we have points to make:

1. We note that Apple on iOS practice what we consider is exclusionary conduct when searches are done at the OS level ([with the search bar](#)). Web searches in your default

browser are not done with the user search engine choice of that browser, but instead are always done with the search choice in Safari, which is of course by default Google.

2. To illustrate: if I set up Mojeek (or Ecosia or anything else) as my search engine on a different browser which is set as default (say Firefox or Chrome), then the searches done from the search bar, open up in Firefox but are done with Google search, or whatever is the search choice made in Safari (and not that made in my default browser)
3. It's not relevant to your study but Microsoft do the same thing on Windows with Bing; ignoring what search choices are made in browsers.
4. Exactly what Google practice here with Android but merits detailed investigation.
5. Anyway, requiring Apple and Google to open up access to operating system search functionality to search and/or mobile browsers providers, can go a long way to circumvent this practice. One might even suggest that Apple and Google are moving the battleground to operating systems, whilst the spotlight is on mobile browsers. It would also promote competition and innovation, since searching does not necessarily need to go through a mobile browser. Multiple voice/assistant search applications might then be accessed; again promoting innovation and competition. It would also prevent Apple and Google from trying to enforce iOS/Siri and Android/Google search respectively on users. Both parties are in effect practising exclusionary conduct in our opinion, when it comes to searches done at the OS level.

Points 1 to 4 above were included in our July consultation submission (attached for convenience) but I thought it important to emphasise these particular points again. The recent rise of chatbot services, and popularity of notably ChatGPT, will further move the battleground for search from the browser level to the OS level.



Thanks for the reminder to respond. If you need any clarification I shall be happy to provide that.

Best regards,

Colin Hayhurst, CEO at Mojeek

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