WP3 – Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Application programming interface (API)	A way for two or more computer programs to communicate with each other. A software interface, offering a service to other pieces of software. Often a written specification describes how to implement the connection exposed by the API. In this way, one set of software is said to *expose* its API to another.
App developers	App providers/owners/publishers, even if strictly speaking some app providers/owners/publishers outsource the coding of their apps to third party developers.
Apple	Apple Inc. and its group companies including Apple (UK) Limited and Apple Europe Limited.
Blink	Google's browser engine.
Browser	Applications which enable users of devices to access the world wide web, view web pages and navigate by hyperlink.
Browser engine	The underlying technology which applications (including browsers) on devices use to transform web page source code into content with which users can engage.
Browser vendors	Entities who provide browsers.
Choice architecture	The environment in which users make decisions. This is impacted by how choices are presented to them and influences their final decision.
Chromium	Open-source software initially developed by Google, which gives developers key components and architecture that can be used to create and customise distinct web browsers.

Default browser	The browser launched by the operating system when a user clicks on a web link.
Google	Alphabet Inc and all the subsidiaries and businesses within the Alphabet group.
In-app Browser	The function by which users access web pages in apps which are not a dedicated browser.
iOS	Refers both to iOS and iPadOS.
iOS Devices	Refers to all mobile devices which use iOS and iPadOS.
JavaScript	The main dynamic client-side programming language of the web that most browser engines support. Examples of markup languages that may be used in conjunction with JavaScript include HTML and CSS.
Just In Time Compiler / JIT	JIT is a way of executing computer code where compilation (ie the process of accessing the source code written by the programmer and performing a check to ensure nothing is ambiguous to the computer) is done in real time during execution (unlike compiled languages where execution is done ahead of time). For browsers, JIT improves their performance but may expose them to vulnerabilities.
MEMS or Market Study	The CMA's Mobile Ecosystems Market Study.
Mobile devices	Electronic devices that can be held easily in the hand and have been designed with portability in mind. Our definition of 'mobile device' includes smartphones and tablets but excludes devices with larger display formats such as personal computers (PCs), both laptop and desktop, and wearable devices such as smart watches. The term in this context also excludes devices such as gaming consoles and e-readers.
Mobile Operating System or mobile OS	The pre-installed system software powering mobile devices which may be periodically updated.
Mozilla	The Mozilla Foundation and its subsidiaries.

Native app	Applications written to run on a specific operating system and, as such, interact directly with elements of the operating systems in order to provide relevant features and functionality.
Open-source code	Code that is designed to be publicly accessible and not proprietary. Can be taken/forked by any company to built their own version, or companies can build off the main branch.
Open Web Advocacy (OWA)	A group of software engineers working for different companies who have come together to assist regulators and policy makers with understanding the industry and any issues within it.
Pre-installed app	An app that comes together with a given mobile device.
Progressive Web App (PWA)	Particular versions of web apps which aim to create an experience even more comparable to a native app compared to a normal web app.
RFI	Request for information.
Safari	The web browser developed by Apple, which is the default browser on iOS devices.
Sandbox	A testing environment that isolates untested code changes from the production environment exposed to users. In the context of browsers, a sandbox serves as security feature which keeps applications in different processes. This means that a malicious website would need to exploit the browser and escape the sandbox to access data from other applications.
Security Bugs and Issues	Software vulnerabilities within your browser engine which could be exploited.
Self-preferencing	Term used to refer to a company favouring itself compared to competitors (eg in granting access to certain important inputs). In the context of this paper, it refers to a browser engine favouring its own browser in terms of access to features and functionality.
UK	United Kingdom.
Web app	Applications built based on open standards and accessible through a browser on the open web. Differently from native

	apps, web apps are designed to be agnostic to the operating system in use.
WebKit	Apple's browser engine.
Web Compatibility	The extent to which consumers can visit any webpage/use any web application from any operating system and any browser.
WebView	An embedded in-app browser to view any web content within a native app.