

WP7 - Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Android	Google's operating system for mobile devices.
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.
App stores	Marketplaces for users to discover and download native apps on their mobile devices— they provide a platform that connects consumers with apps, and app developers with consumers.
Apple	Apple Inc. and its group companies including Apple (UK) Limited and Apple Europe Limited.
Apple App Store or App Store	Apple's app store through which native apps can be distributed to iOS devices.
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 <i>expose</i> its API to another.
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 engine steward	The entity that determines which changes to the open- source code of a browser engine are ultimately accepted/merged into the codebase, and that is therefore in control of the open-source project. The stewards of the

	three main browser engines are Apple, Google, and Mozilla.
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.
Cloud Gaming Services	Consumer-facing services which allow video game content to be streamed over the internet from powerful hardware in a data centre, displayed on a user's choice of supported device.
Cloud Gaming Service Provider (CGSP)	Providers of Cloud Gaming Services.
Cross-app functionality	A method for apps to use functionality directly provided by other third-party apps.
Custom Tabs	A feature for in-app browsing on Android that can call on external dedicated browsers to display webpages within a native app.
Default home screen	The primary navigation screen on a mobile device that shows immediately upon device start or when the user unlocks the device.
DMA	The European Union's Digital Markets Act, which came into force in 2022.
DMCC	The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 (the DMCC Act).
Embedded Browser Engine Entitlement (EBEE)	Apple's proposal under the DMA for use of a bundled engine IAB in native apps that are not dedicated browser apps.
EEA	The European Economic Area.
Fork	Another version/copy of an open-source browser engine that has separated from the main branch of code. Typically this is done by a browser vendor when they want unrestricted ability to make changes to the code and

	therefore maintain their own customised version built on top of the open-source browser engine. More generally, any repository of code (such as browser engine code, but also beyond this) can be 'forked'.
Friction in the user journey to change default browser	The number and/or complexity of the steps involved in changing the default settings.
Google	Alphabet Inc and all the subsidiaries and businesses within the Alphabet group.
Google Play Store or Play Store	Google's app store through which apps can be distributed to Android devices.
Google Play's billing system (GPB)	Google Play's billing system ('GPB') is Google's in-app system for Google Play users to purchase digital content or services from app developers including, for example, one-time only purchases and subscriptions. Google charges a service fee for these transactions, before passing on the developer's portion to app developers.
Hotseat or Application Dock	Specific area on the default home screen where certain applications and browsers are positioned. This area is centrally located in the row of apps at the bottom of the home screen and remains visible even when the user navigates away from the default home screen to other screens.
IAB	An in-app browser (see definition below).
In-app Browser (IAB)	The function by which users access web pages in apps which are not a dedicated browser.
In-game transactions	Transactions that occur within a game where users can purchase additional content, functionality, or features (eg in-game currencies, extra levels or upgraded tools).
iOS	Apple's operating system for mobile devices. 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.
Managed entitlement	The method by which Apple enables access to some APIs, whereby developers must request permission from Apple to use them.
Memory-safe language	Memory-safe programming languages help prevent programmers from introducing certain types of bugs related to how memory is used.
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 build 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.

Original Equipment Manufacturers or OEMs	Manufacturers (of mobile devices).
Placement	Positioning of a browser app on the device home screen (eg prominent placement).
Placement Agreements or PAs	Agreements between Google and Android OEMs as part of which Google provides per-device 'activation payments' for each device on which manufacturers pre-install the Google Search or Google Search and Chrome apps and satisfy certain placement obligations for either Google Search or both.
Pointer Authentication Code (PAC)	WebKit security feature designed to resist memory disclosure attacks, which makes exploitation more difficult.
Pre-installed app	An application that is preloaded with a given mobile device. Includes pre-installed browser apps.
Private APIs	APIs that have not been documented or knowingly made available to third parties.
Prompts and push notifications to switch or change default browser	Screens encountered by users (for example, on launching a Browser app) that request the user to perform an action (eg to change the default browser setting).
Public APIs	APIs publicly available to third-party developers. For Apple this includes those APIs made available through entitlements.
Public entitlement	A method of accessing some Apple APIs, whereby developers must actively declare that they are using the entitlement in their code.
Revenue Sharing Agreements or RSA	Refers to agreements between Google and Android device manufacturers as part of which Google shares a proportion of net advertising revenue from specific search access points on manufacturers' devices in return for meeting a number of placement and promotion requirements relating to Google's apps.

RFI	Request for information.
Safari	The web browser developed by Apple, which is the default browser on iOS devices.
Search app	Refers to mobile applications whose primary purpose is to provide a search engine for gathering and reporting information available online.
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 market investigation, it refers to a browser engine favouring its own browser in terms of access to features and functionality.
SFSafariViewController	An integrated in-app browser on iOS. SFSafariViewController is used by app developers to enable users to view web content without leaving the native app.
Steward (of a browser engine)	See 'Browser engine steward'.
UK	United Kingdom.
Uninstalling an app	Removing or deleting an app from a device.
User Interface (UI)	The point of user-to-browser interaction in a mobile device. UI is responsible for user-facing functionality such as synchronisation, remembering passwords and payment details, as well as the general appearance of features such as tabs and menus. The UI sits on top of the browser engine.
Web Browser Engine Entitlement (WBEE)	Apple's proposal under the DMA for use of alternative browser engines in the EU.
Web app	Applications built based on open standards and accessible through a browser on the open web. Different from native apps, web apps are designed to be agnostic to the operating system in use.

WebAPK	A technology that enables web apps to be installed on Android devices as native applications. The process enabling installation is called 'WebAPK minting'.
WebKit	Apple's browser engine.
Webview	A highly customisable, embedded in-app browser implementation, built on a 'packaged' browser engine that can view web content within a native app.
Webview IAB	An embedded in-app browser that displays web content within a native app.
WKWebView	The system webview on iOS, based on the WebKit browser engine. This is pre-installed on iOS devices, and it is the option for app developers looking to implement inapp browsing using a webview on Android.