

[REDACTED]

From: Michaela Merz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 2:56 AM
To: Digital Monitoring
Subject: Apple And Third Party Browsers

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michaela Merz. I work as the lead developer for the Packfrog project. It is a web based environment that allows safe and secure, end-to-end encrypted communications and data transfers with just a web browser.

While our browser based software ("webApp") works perfectly on Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge and a number of other browsers, we have serious difficulties and reliability issues with Apple's Safari, especially on iOS. This is amplified by the fact that we can not debug iOS Problems without actually having MacOS computers and iPhones. Imagine a world where web sites and software could only be developed if one uses the exact hardware platform for each and every targeted operating system.

That is most certainly not the principle idea behind the world wide web.

But back to iOS and Safari. There are a number of APIs that most other browsers have implemented to make it possible to use the web as a serious communications platform without having to download and install an app.

As an example, browsers like Mozilla or Microsoft Edge allow us to send push notifications whenever something important happens. New Messages, stock- or weather alerts, we can notify our users via push. Not on Safari unfortunately. Other browsers allow us to access the Bluetooth API, have more flexible file input and file output interfaces, directly access the file system (which is important if one up- or downloads large files) and much more. The web has grown up and can deliver results that rival normal apps and programs. This is a very important development because it opens up the mobile environments for growth and more competition. Artificial barriers (like certain "developer memberships and fees", appStores, special programming language knowledge) are being removed and the stage is set for a new era of new, flexible and useful web-based apps on mobile devices.

It is only Apple who tries to keep the free and open web under their control.

webApps don't need app stores. Apple does.

Thank you. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Michaela Merz