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From: Alex
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 1:41 AM
To: Digital Monitoring
Subject: Web apps on iOS

Hi,

My name is Alex, I'm a web developer at a small company based in ██████████. We work closely with our clients to customise our web app specifically for their needs.

As a small team, we can work with only one technology: the web. We cannot afford to have dedicated iOS/Android developers.

Fortunately, a web app is able to run on the web, on Android, and on iOS.

Unfortunately, iOS is quite late behind the two other platforms. Safari is updated very rarely compared to contemporary modern browsers. Bugs take months to be fixed, if they ever are.

For instance, we have been having a problem with iOS since we started to use IndexedDB within our app. The implementation of IndexedDB in Safari, not only came very late, but is also buggy and causes our app to crash regularly. One of our developers spent days trying to fix this issue, without success.

This situation reminds me of the times of Internet Explorer 6: when we were writing a great website, then had to spend the same amount of time tweaking it to make it work on IE6, often by using non-standard features, and sometimes by exploiting known bugs! So much wasted time.

I believe that web apps are great. They prevent having three teams of developers making the exact same thing on the web, on Android, and on iOS. Web apps allow to have just the web team, focusing on making a great web app, with a great user experience on all three platforms.

Apple is slowing down the development of web technologies, and is slowing down the making of the products of tech companies like mine.

In my opinion, Apple should not be allowed to prevent other web browsers from being installed on the iOS operating system.

I really appreciate that the ACCC is looking at this matter.

Kind regards,
Alex