

Digital platform services inquiry 2020-2025 submission 25 June 2021 by [REDACTED] Martin
-practices of suppliers in digital platform services markets which may result in consumer
harm

Dear ACCC inquiry,

Digital platform services contribute to the download of highly invasive malware that may result in consumer harm.

For example, malware purporting to be antivirus software is widely advertised on digital platform services. This malware is advertised to Australians on the major digital platforms and appears on Australian media websites and Australian websites generally.

When the malware advertising appears on an Australian media website the malware is legitimised. Based on the amount of advertising occurring it is likely very successful in getting "customers" to download the malware and sign up for a monthly subscription to the malware.

The lines are blurred for the consumer when legitimate products are advertised on the same newspaper webpage as malware. The impact is that consumers who utilise the malware are by default not protected by the malware and are worse off than simply not being protected because they would think they are protected.

At the same time as the malware company is benefitting from subscription fees, the digital platform and media partners are benefitting from the advertising revenue.

There is currently no mechanism for Australians to report false advertising of malware.

Digital platform services should not only be removing fake news but also false advertising of malware. There needs to be a mechanism for removal of false advertising from Australian digital platforms by both reporting and self-policing.

references:

<https://www.imore.com/removing-mackeeper-your-mac>

[REDACTED] Martin