

The Future of Connectivity, Open Internet and Human Rights

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Agenda

- **End-user control over devices**
- **Digital Rights are Human Rights**
- **Future of Open Internet and digital devices**



**Devices are a
reality of life**

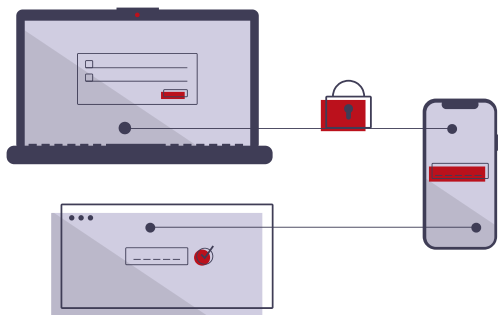




**Do we have
control over
devices?**

Maybe not...

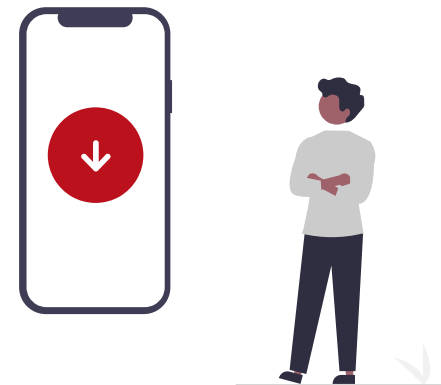
Imposed online accounts



No access to third-party repos and apps stores



No software freedom



Digital Rights are Human rights

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Net Neutrality Regulation (EU) 2015/2120

Art. 3(1)

End-users shall have the right to access and distribute information and content, use and provide applications and services, and use **terminal equipment of their choice**, irrespective of the end-user's or provider's location or the location, origin or destination of the information, content, application or service, via their internet access service.

Declaration of European Digital Rights and Principles, 2023



PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

Digital technologies should **protect people's rights, support democracy, and ensure that all digital players act responsibly and safely.** The EU promotes these values across the world.



SOLIDARITY AND INCLUSION

Technology should **unite, not divide, people.** Everyone should have access to the internet, to digital skills, to digital public services, and to fair working conditions.



FREEDOM OF CHOICE

People should benefit from a **fair online environment, be safe from illegal and harmful content,** and be empowered when they interact with new and evolving technologies like artificial intelligence.



PARTICIPATION

Citizens should be able to **engage in the democratic process** at all levels, and have **control over their own data.**



SAFETY AND SECURITY

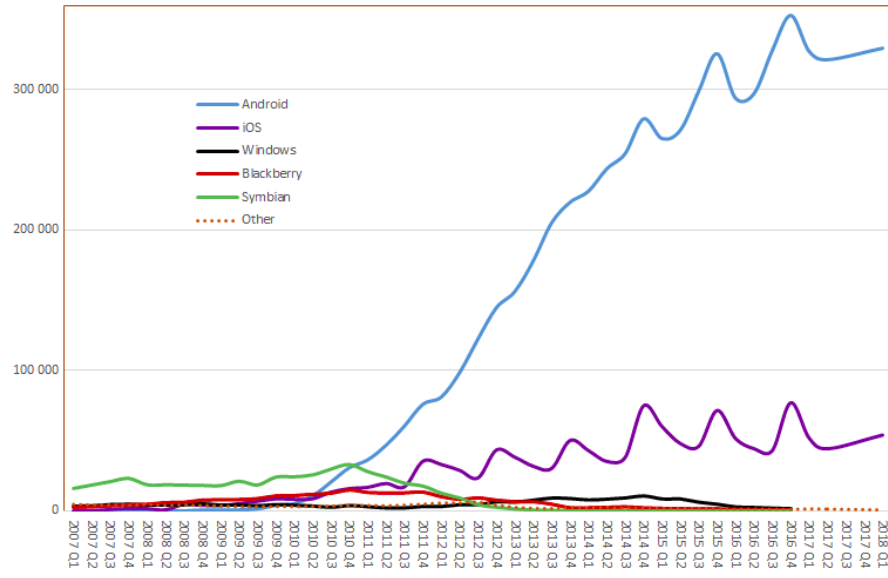
The digital environment should be **safe and secure.** All users, from childhood to old age, should be empowered and protected.



SUSTAINABILITY

Digital devices should **support sustainability and the green transition.** People need to know about the environmental impact and energy consumption of their devices.

World-Wide Smartphone Sales (Thousands of Units)



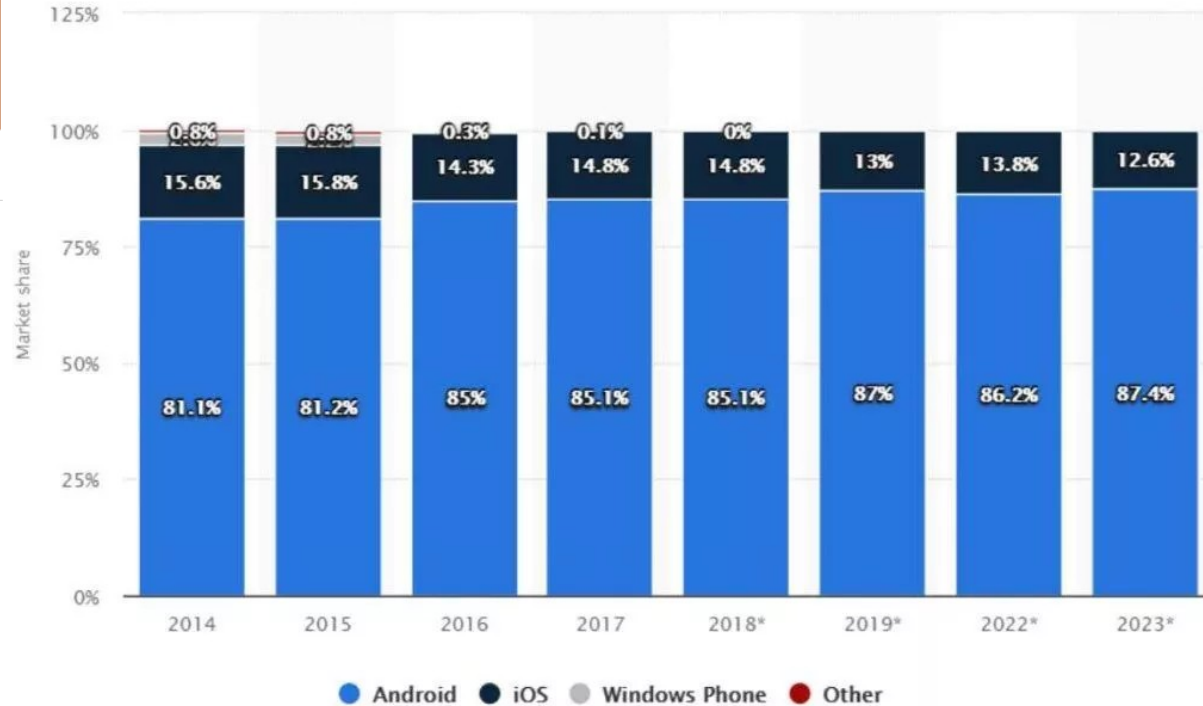
smartmo, CC-BY-SA 3.0

In 2020, Android dominated 71.93% of world market for OS, while iOS had 27.47%.

Android vs iOS Market Share 2020: Stats and Facts Mobileapps.com, 2021

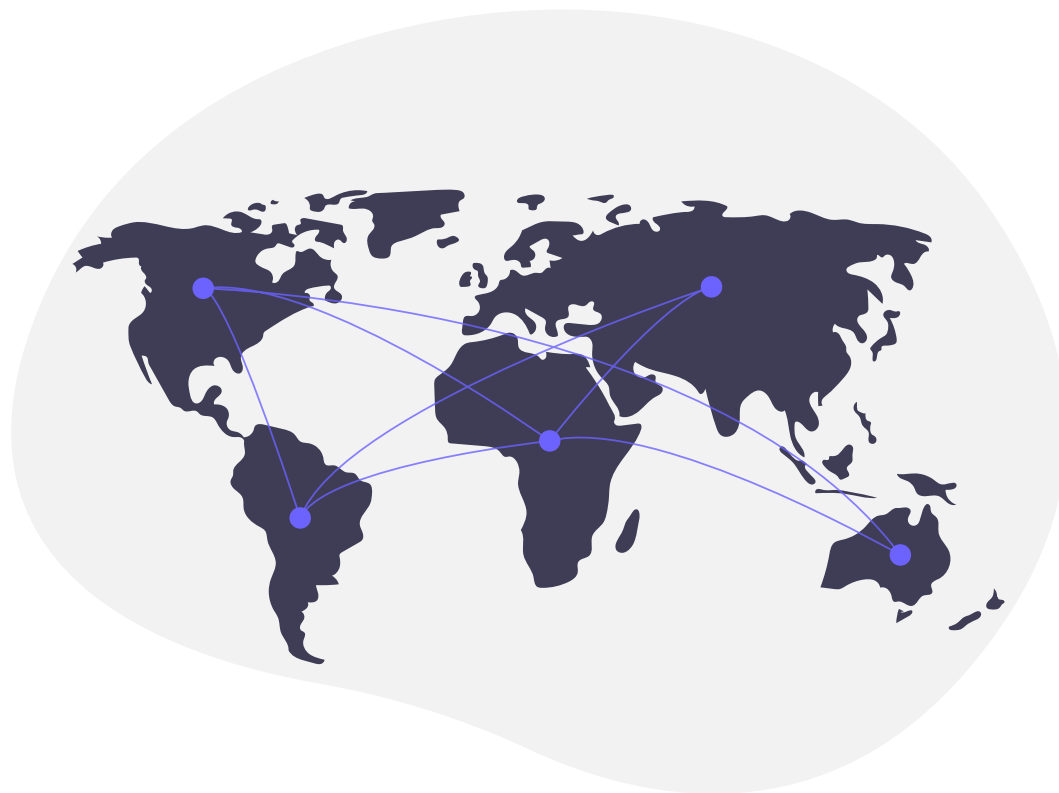
Android (Google) and iOS (Apple) have together 99% of world market for OS.

Android vs iOS Market Share 2020: Stats and Facts Mobileapps.com, 2021



Internet devices as the weak link to achieve Open Internet?

- Devices ecosystems are **mostly proprietary (closed)**. Content and service providers compete for consumers' attention in a unfair, discriminatory and non-transparent way.
- Internet gatekeepers, due to monopolistic power over **termination bottlenecks**, control key aspects of devices, such as operating systems, browsers and app-stores.



Device Neutrality



Software Freedom

No lock-in

End-user control over data

The future of Open Internet and devices

Telecom law: fiber, satellite and 5G networks, OTT, ...

Competition and internet law: upgrade of Open Internet regulation(?)

Sustainability of devices: rules on right to repair, reusability of software and hardware, standardization.

Device Neutrality: expanding neutrality rules beyond gatekeepers(?)



Donald Giannatti on Unsplash

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