

Why Interoperability is Key for Software Freedom

07.11.2025 · SFSCon

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Agenda

Interoperability and Free Software

Protecting interoperability from monopolistic control

Are you a developer? Your opinion matter for us!

The power of interoperability

- Connects the past and future
- Saves resources, provides alternatives
- As society grows in complexity, interoperability becomes essential



The paradox

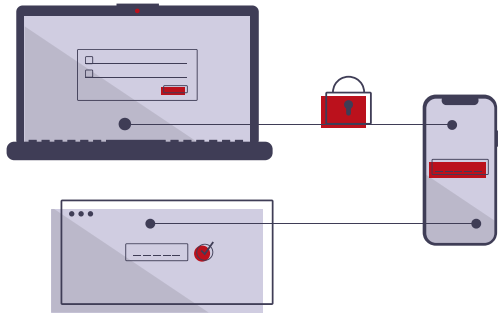
Companies benefit from interoperability but step back when their products / services become too important to be subject of interoperability regulation.



Apple
Vs
Interoperability

Apple's control over mobile devices

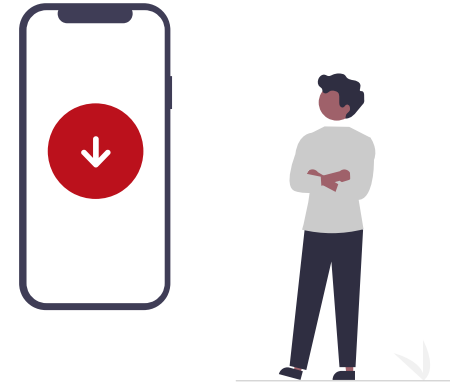
No alternative app stores



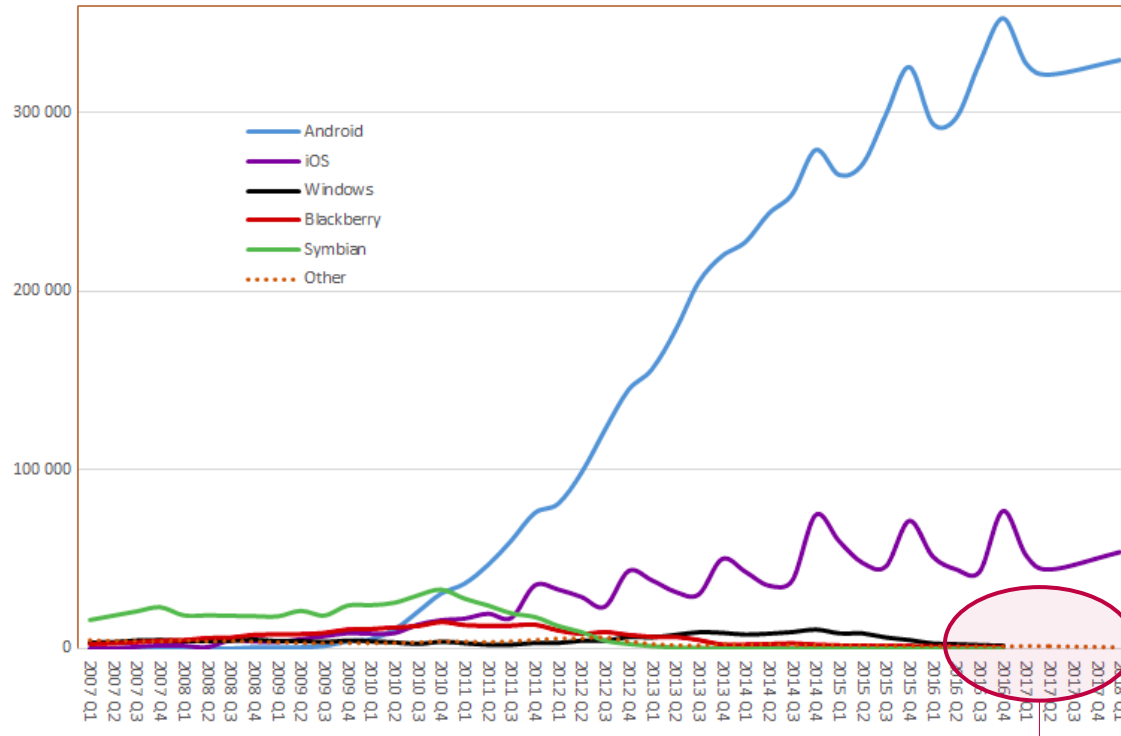
No alternative operating system



No direct installation (sideloading)



World-Wide Smartphone Sales (Thousands of Units)



smartmo, CC-BY-SA 3.0

Android (Google) e iOS (Apple) dominate 99% of the world market for mobile OS.

Free Software mobile operating systems

Software industry in the EU

Big Tech vs Small Tech

Free Software is contained in 96% of all code base (Synopsys, 2023).

94% of software development in the EU is done by SMEs with less than 9 employees (EC, 2022) .

Free Software and Interoperability are key for the European software industry!



1: EC (2022) Commission Staff Working Document. Impact Assessment Report. Annexes to the Impact Assessment Report Accompanying the document Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020. COM(2022) 454 final, SEC(2022) 321 final, SWD (2022) 283 final. Part 2/3. <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/89546>, p. 29

Synopsys (2023). 2023 OSSRA: A deep dive into open source trends. Accessed May 1, 2023.
Source : <https://www.synopsys.com/blogs/software-security/open-source-trends-ossra-report/>

Interoperability vs Human Rights?

Apple

Art. 6(7) DMA is inconsistent with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights

DMA should not apply to iOS, Apple Store and iMessage

FSFE

Interoperability does not necessary involves IPRs

As society grows in complexity, interoperability becomes essential. Apple is being regulated for the public interest

Art. 6(7) DMA

The gatekeeper shall allow providers of services and providers of hardware, **free of charge, effective interoperability** with, and access for the purposes of interoperability to, the **same hardware and software features accessed or controlled via the operating system** or virtual assistant listed in the designation decision pursuant to Article 3(9) as are available to services or hardware provided **by the gatekeeper**.

The gatekeeper shall not be prevented from taking strictly necessary and proportionate measures to ensure that interoperability does not compromise the integrity of the operating system, virtual assistant, hardware or software features provided by the gatekeeper, provided that such measures are duly justified by the gatekeeper.

Study

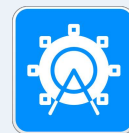
Apple's interoperability and Free Software



<https://kgi.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Lucas-Lasota.pdf>

Disclaimer:

- This list is not exhaustive. This study was enriched by the contribution of other individual developers and experts.
- The mentioned projects are not associated with the FSFE and our research does not necessarily reflect their opinions.



App Fair Project

Alternative
app stores



F-Droid



Alternative
payment
system



Alternative
browser



iSH

Emulator /
virtual machine

DMA Interoperability Survey



Are you an Android or iOS developer?

- Whether your request was accepted, denied, delayed, or ignored - we want to hear from you!
- Your insights will help us:
- Identify common obstacles for Free Software and patterns of non-compliance.
- Report issues to the European Commission.
- Advocate for enforcement that supports Free Software and small developers.

<https://fsfe.org/activities/deviceneutrality/interop-survey.en.html>

How you can help

Take part in our survey!

Help us with a donation to make sure that we have the resources to defend Software Freedom!



<https://fsfe.org/donate>

