

Justice Department files antitrust lawsuit against Apple over its infamous ‘walled garden’

It’s the latest antitrust lawsuit against the biggest players in the tech industry.

The US Department of Justice and more than a dozen states have filed a lawsuit against Apple in federal court, accusing it of violating antitrust laws by making its hardware and software products largely inaccessible to competitors. Apple’s “walled garden” approach to business, as it’s so often called, makes it difficult for rivals to compete and for customers to switch to other companies’ products. The lawsuit comes on the heels of the European Commission slapping Apple with a €1.8 billion (\$1.95 billion) fine. Apple, the commission concluded, prevented music streaming developers from “informing iOS users about alternative and cheaper music subscription services available” outside the App Store.

“Apple undermines apps, products, and services that would otherwise make users less reliant on the iPhone,” Attorney General Merrick Garland wrote in a press release published by CNN. “Apple exercises its monopoly power to extract more money from consumers, developers, content creators, artists, publishers, small businesses, and merchants, among others.”

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