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Apple uses a walled garden for their apps. What does it mean and why does apple implement this?

“Walled garden” refers to Apple’s tightly controlled and integrated ecosystem of hardware, software, and services, which basically means you cannot “sideload” apps from other sources unless they are signed and notarized by apple but if they aren’t (even though they are trusted) you are out of luck. The walled-garden approach gives Apple more control over its devices and software, and they arguably tend to function better. The iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple Watch all run on proprietary operating systems (iOS, macOS, etc.) that Apple alone controls. This is why in some cases when people upload pictures or videos on Facebook or Instagram, the quality is better because of the incredible optimization and smooth performance Apple developed over the years. iOS and macOS are by Apple only, while with Android, it has many different versions of OS, which makes it hard for Facebook and Instagram to keep up for better optimization.

In my opinion, I’m quite against this because as a person who sideloads apps (Droid-ify and GitHub repositories), this is really important for me to be able to use what I want to use on my phone because, first of all, I own the phone; therefore, I should be able to do anything with my phone. I hate the idea of a company controlling what I can download even though it is for “security” reasons because there is still a chance for unaware users to get malware on their phones regardless of security. A company controlling overall security and letting the user rely on that is honestly bad practice because the user themselves must be aware of what they download and research what they want to download rather than letting a system do that for them. There are many ways to get a seamless connection with other devices; it just requires research and a little bit of dedication to be able to achieve it, rather than letting an ecosystem do that for you.

References:

1. <https://dieselhaus.com/blog/apples-walled-garden-ecosystem-a-seamless-integration-of-products-services-and-user-experiences/#:~:text=Apple's%20proprietary%20operating%20systems%2C%20iOS,Apple%20Arcade%2C%20and%20Apple%20Pay> Links to an external site..

2. <https://www.fool.com/terms/a/apples-walled-garden/> Links to an external site.