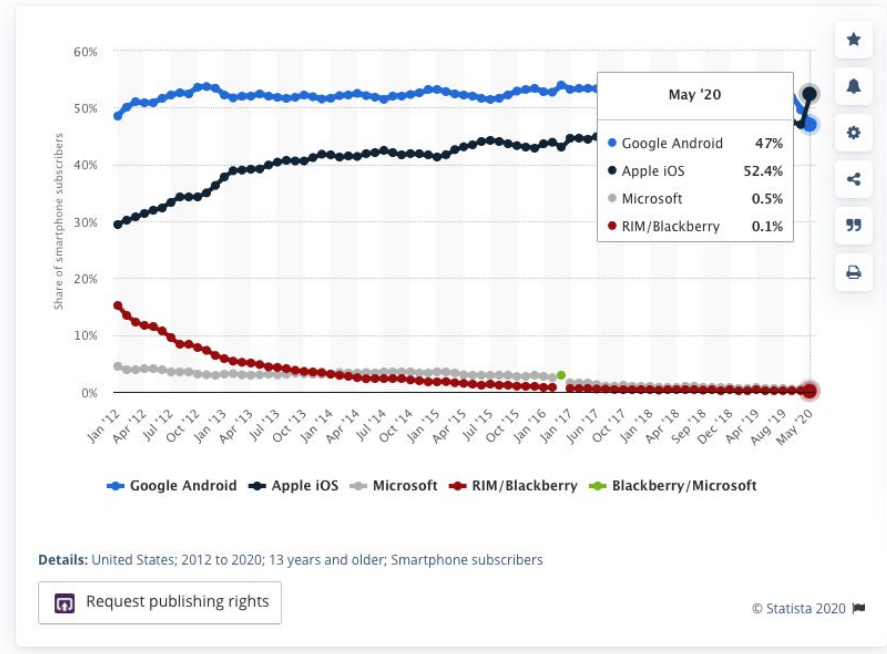


# Big Tech

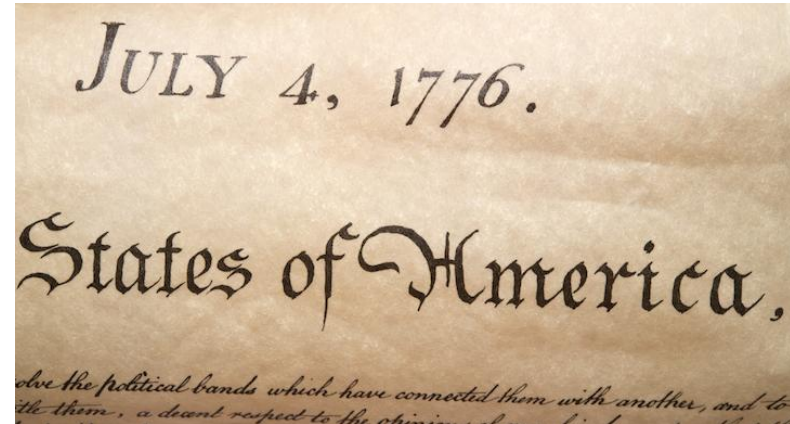
- 99.4% of mobile phones in the US are made by either Apple or Google [1]
- Google receives 83% of all search engine queries across all platforms, browsers and devices [2]
- Twitter is known for being the center for public discourse

Google



## Human Rights

- Freedom from discrimination, the right to own property, the right to no cruel or unusual punishment...
- Socrates died for exercising his right to freedom of speech
- The US is the only place in the world that protects its citizens with the right to free speech



## Cultural Issues

- Public discourse has made a shift from face-to-face dialogue, to the world wide web, of the internet
  - 3.6 billion worldwide users on social media in 2020
  - Predict that 4.41 billion by 2025
- United State law protects all forms of speech, no matter how controversial, without punishable consequences
  - Cannot advocate violence
  - Cannot make threats which incite great bodily harm or death
  - Obscenities; child pornography
- Hate speech is a protected form of speech ruled by the United States supreme court
  - Includes racial slurs
  - Other distasteful language
- Freedom of association
  - Terms and conditions that extend further restrictions that what is legally protected
  - Joe Rogan podcast with Jack Dorsey, Vijaya Gadde & Tim Pool on the enforcement of company policy

## Ethical Issues

- If social media platforms are considered the 'town square' form of public discourse of our time, is it ethical for these companies to remove citizens from exercising their human rights to free speech?
- Robert Epstein, a San Diego-based psychologist, reported to the New York Times that Google search manipulation resulted in the mass numbers of converted voters
- Tim Pool, on the JRE podcast, claimed Twitter is making a protected class by silencing speech that they oppose.
- If speech is a human right and technology is the most popular form to express that right, then there must be a need for ethics in CS
  - Who is responsible for regulating speech
- 3 possible solutions
  - Allow all speech
  - Allow US protected free speech
  - Enforce restrictions that reflect beliefs

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