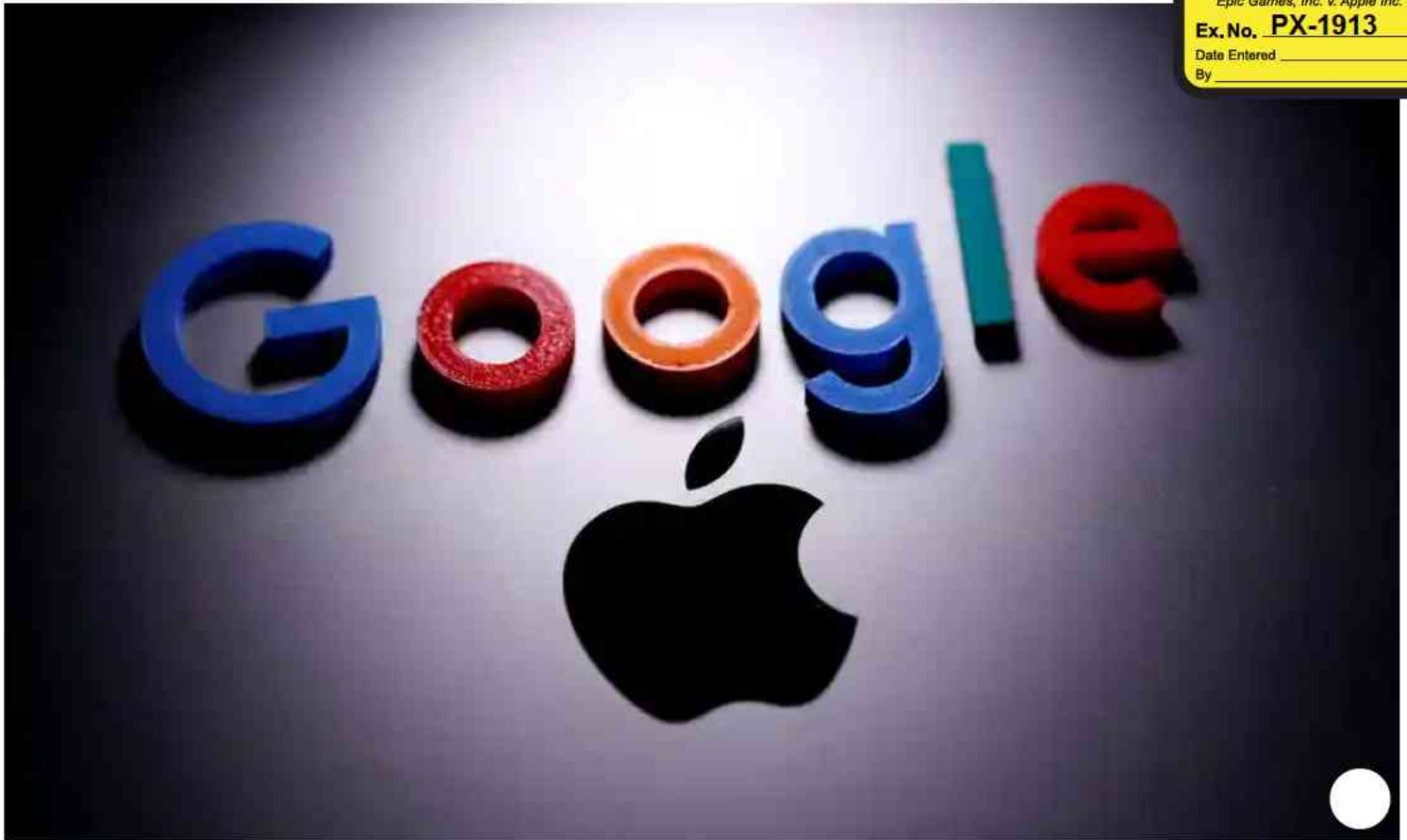


[News](#) [Opinion](#) [Sport](#) [Culture](#) [Lifestyle](#)**PLAINTIFF**  
U.S. District Court - NDCAL  
**4:20-cv-05640-YGR-TSH**  
Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple Inc.  
**Ex. No. PX-1913**  
Date Entered \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

## Australian media

🕒 This article is more than **7 months old**

# Google and Apple app stores investigated by Australia's competition watchdog

**Josh Taylor**

🐦 @joshgnosis

Tue 8 Sep 2020 04.51 EDT

Australia's competition watchdog has launched an inquiry into how [Google](#) and Apple run their app stores for Android and iOS devices.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, in its latest action targeting digital platforms, on Tuesday announced it would be examining the app stores with a focus on how data is used and shared.

The ACCC will examine how Google and [Apple](#) link their own products in their app stores, what effect this has on competition, the competition between the stores, fees

PX-1913.1

charged to businesses on the app stores, the transparency surrounding how apps are ranked and whether processes are in place to protect people from harmful apps.

The commission highlighted in an issues paper various complaints regarding app stores globally, including that Google and Apple take between 15% and 30% of each in-app purchase and that Apple - as the gatekeeper of its store - allegedly preferenced its own apps over competitors' apps in search results.

The paper also references the recent fight between Epic Games, the developer of the incredibly popular video game Fortnite, and Google and Apple.

Fortnite was **removed from both app stores** after Epic Games sought to circumvent the in-app purchasing systems in both stores to prevent Google and Apple taking a large percentage of sales. Epic Games is now taking legal action against both companies.

The ACCC deputy chair Delia Rickard said apps are becoming increasingly important for businesses to grow.

“We want to know more about the market for mobile apps in Australia, including how transparent and effective the market is, for consumers as well as those operating in the market,” she said.

“For app developers and suppliers, gaining a spot in one of the major app stores can result in significant sales, while failing to gain access can be a major setback. We are keen to provide greater transparency on how this process works.”

A Google spokesman said the company would engage constructively with the ACCC as it has done since the **digital platforms inquiry** started.

“In the interest of transparency, we’ve been open to dozens of meetings on request and provided thousands of documents to assist in the process,” he said.

Guardian Australia has sought comment from Apple.

Consumers and developers have been asked to provide submissions to the inquiry by 2 October and a report will be released in March 2021.

It comes as the ACCC is also finalising **a mandatory code** that would require Google and Facebook to pay news media companies for using their content. Google has launched a **public advertising campaign** against the code while Facebook has **threatened to remove all news** from Australian feeds.



The prime minister, Scott Morrison, has said he would **not respond well** to threats from tech companies.

---

**You've read 5 articles in the last year**

... we have a small favour to ask. Across the US and around the world, millions rely on the Guardian for independent journalism that stands for truth and integrity. The Guardian has no shareholders or billionaire owner to please, and we invest every penny we earn back into our journalism. Readers chose to support us financially more than 1.5 million times in 2020, joining existing supporters in 180 countries.

With your help, we will continue to provide high-impact reporting that can counter misinformation and offer an authoritative, trustworthy source of news for everyone. With no shareholders or billionaire owner, we set our own agenda and provide truth-seeking journalism that's free from commercial and political influence. When it's never mattered more, we can investigate and challenge without fear or favour.

Unlike many others, we have maintained our choice: to keep Guardian journalism open for all readers, regardless of where they live or what they can afford to pay. We do this because we believe in information equality, where everyone deserves to read accurate news and thoughtful analysis. Greater numbers of people are staying well-informed on world events, and being inspired to take meaningful action.

We aim to offer readers a comprehensive, international perspective on critical events shaping our world - from the Black Lives Matter movement, to the new American administration, Brexit, and the world's slow emergence from a global pandemic. We are committed to upholding our reputation for urgent, powerful reporting on the climate emergency, and made the decision to reject advertising from fossil fuel companies, divest from the oil and gas industries, and set a course to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.

If there were ever a time to join us, it is now. Every contribution, however big or small, powers our journalism and helps sustain our future. **Support the Guardian from as little as \$1 - and it only takes a minute. Thank you.**

**Support the Guardian**



**Remind me in June**

VISA



AMERICAN EXPRESS

PayPal