

Calendar and Readings (July 11)

Lecture 1

I'll be covering policy analysis and policy recommendations. The paper will focus on your proposing a policy, and I hope that the analysis I'll cover in class will help to provide the expectations for your policy paper. We'll spend time with the Dark paper, probably the hardest reading we will cover this quarter. While Dark does not make policy recommendations per se, her coverage of data breach is well done, as is her analysis of (and critique of) the status quo with respect to policy rules and regulations. In fact, had her article been targeting a more policy-focused audience, it would be quite easy to identify reasonable policies that her research suggests.

Lecture 2

I present an overview of the antitrust case against Microsoft, along with a summary of the historical and economic contexts into which such cases fit. I will then turn to the more recent investigation in the European Union that alleges anticompetitive behavior on the part of Google.

Thought question:

- As you look over Judge Jackson's findings, what is your impression of the level of technical understanding displayed by the courts in this case? Are there any aspects of the findings that appear technologically naive?

Reaction paper assignment

The defeat of monopolies generally rests on government actions, and governments are rarely inclined to act against a monopolistic company when that company is based in that country. However, due to the increasing "flatness" of the world, it has become necessary (long term) for a company wishing to become a monopoly to be international. And it is other governments that are more likely to act against a foreign monopolistic company. Does this system work effectively? For example, is the EU moving against Google, or the Chinese blocking Google enough to effectively dissuade Google from behaving as a monopoly? What about Facebook? What about Baidu, or Taobao, were they to become more international?