

Appropriability and the European Commission's Android Investigation

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Summary

This paper seeks to ascertain whether Google's Android licensing terms, which are currently under scrutiny from the European Commission, could be excused under an innovation defense framework. The paper starts by analyzing Google's business model with regard to its Android OS. It then identifies the Commission's main concerns. It argues that Google is simply pursuing a sensible appropriation strategy. Finally, it puts forward a framework which hinges on the concept of "appropriability", and tentatively applies it to Google's behavior.

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