

Google says Apple rejected Voice app for iPhone

September 18 2009

(AP) -- Google Inc. said Apple Inc.'s top marketing executive personally told the company that its Google Voice application had been rejected because it duplicates the telephone dialer on the iPhone and could be used as a replacement.

The newly disclosed discussion, revealed in a regulatory filing made fully public Friday, contrasts with Apple's own denial that it rejected the program. Apple said Friday that the two Silicon Valley companies are still discussing the application.

The Federal Communications Commission is looking at Apple's block on the Google Voice app as part of a bigger investigation into how wireless industry practices affect consumers. In August, Apple, Google and Dallas-based AT&T Inc., the only wireless carrier to offer the iPhone in the U.S., sent the commission letters responding to its questions.

The specifics of the talks between Apple and Google were redacted from Google's original letter. The Mountain View, Calif.-based company allowed the FCC to post an unredacted version Friday "in the interest of transparency," according to a blog post.

Google Voice lets people pick a new phone number, then route incoming calls to cell, office or home phones. It also lets users place calls, including international calls at low rates, from within the application. iPhone owners can still use a Web browser version of Google Voice, but

its features are limited.

In a section of its letter that had originally been redacted, Google said Phil Schiller of Apple told Google's Alan Eustace, a senior vice president, during a July 7 phone call that Apple was rejecting the program.

Google also made public Friday some details related to Apple's rejection of the Google Latitude iPhone app, a map application that lets people share their location with friends.

Google said Apple rejected that program because it had the potential to replace Apple's own maps program or "create user confusion" over the two companies' programs. Schiller and Eustace met in person in April, Google said, at which point Schiller laid out the reasons for the rejection.

One-time allies Apple and Google now find themselves competing on a growing number of fronts. Google has its own mobile phone software, Android, that powers phones that compete with the iPhone. It recently announced plans for a computer operating system that could challenge Apple's Macs. Google CEO Eric Schmidt resigned from Apple's board in early August, after regulators from the Federal Trade Commission questioned his dual role's effect on competition in the industry.

Shares of Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple gained \$1.12 to \$185.67 in afternoon trading. Google's stock added \$2.79 to \$494.51.

On the Net:

Google's unredacted letter: <http://tinyurl.com/myzeny>

©2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Google says Apple rejected Voice app for iPhone (2009, September 18) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2009-09-google-apple-voice-app-iphone.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.