

## **Google offers solutions to avoid more EU Android fines**

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The European Commission accused Google of using the Android system's dominance of smartphones and tablets to promote the use of its own Google search engine and shut out rivals

Google formally offered its solutions to avoid more EU mega-fines



Wednesday, after Brussels accused the US tech giant of illegally abusing the dominance of its Android operating system for mobile devices.

The European Commission in July hit Google with its biggest ever fine, imposing a 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) penalty, giving the US tech giant 90 days to change its practices.

Brussels accused Google of using the Android system's dominance of smartphones and tablets to promote the use of its own Google search engine and shut out rivals.

Google has appealed the decision, arguing that the EU's accusations were unfounded, but on Wednesday said it would comply with the decision in order to avoid further fines.

"We have confirmed to the European Commission how we will comply with its recent decision on Android," said Al Verney, a spokesperson for Google in Brussels.

In a blogpost detailing the solution, Google said it would change existing practice and allow smartphone and tablet makers—such as Samsung or Huawei—to create non-Android compliant phones in parallel to compliant ones.

In addition, device manufacturers will now pay an unspecified license fee to have access to Google applications—such as Gmail or Youtube—that will come separately to the super dominant Google Search App or the Chrome browser.

Google refused to specify the amount of the license fee or whether manufacturers would pass it along to customers.

Last week, Google appealed the EU's biggest ever anti-trust fine, saying



that Android had "created more choice, not less."

But if Google had failed to ensure compliance with the Commission <u>decision</u>, it would be liable to fines of up to 5 percent of the average daily worldwide turnover of Alphabet, Google's parent company.

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