

Google faces antitrust scrutiny, this time over Android

BY DIANE BARTZ
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has opened a preliminary investigation into whether Google Inc. uses its Android operating system to dominate competitors as more consumers go mobile, two sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

The Android mobile platform is a key element in Google's strategy to maintain revenue from online advertising as people switch from Web browser searches to smartphone apps. The FTC had previously investigated Google for allegedly breaking antitrust law in a separate case but that probe ended in a settlement.

Reuters reported in April that some technology companies had complained to the U.S. Department of Justice about Google's anti-competitive practices and urged the regulator to investigate allegations that Google unfairly uses its Android system to hurt rivals.

The FTC and the Justice Department conferred, and decided that the FTC would take the case, one source said. The probe is in its very early stages, according to sources.

Both Google and the FTC declined comment. In a blog post in April, a top Google executive defended the way the company handles Android, saying other firms could use Android without Google but that working with Google benefits consumers by giving them a better experience with their phone.

The FTC probe focuses on Google's requirements that its search, maps and other products be given a prominent place on handsets. The demands make it impractical for handset makers to put Google rivals on their smartphone's home screen.

Android is the top smartphone platform with 51.6 percent U.S. market share, according to an August report from analytics from comScore. Apple is in second place with 44.1 percent.

Fairsearch, a technology trade group, said it welcomed the FTC probe, adding that Google "has used a range of anticompetitive tactics."

"The stakes are extremely high, because Google's behavior impacts the entire mobile ecosystem, including map and location services, and app developers," the group said in a statement.

App makers offering alterna-

tives to Google's popular products, such as HERE for maps or Microsoft for search, would benefit if the Mountain View tech giant's hold on Android is weakened, though a slow legal process means they likely will not see relief anytime soon, said analyst Bob O'Donnell of TECHanalysis Research.

"If they said, as of tomorrow, 'Google, you cannot bundle all these services,' it would be a huge deal," he said. "But that's not what going to happen — it's going to drag on."

Google shares closed down 2.3 percent at \$640.15 on Friday.

The investigation was first reported by Bloomberg.

Google previously tangled with the FTC over Web search allegations and reached a settlement in 2013 that required the company to stop "scraping" reviews and other data from rival websites for its own products. The FTC also required Google to allow advertisers to export data to evaluate advertising campaigns independently.

After that settlement, the FTC was embarrassed by the inadvertent release of documents that showed key staff members argued that Google broke antitrust law. Google dropped some of the worst practices



FRANCOIS LENOIR | REUTERS

European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager addresses a news conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels in April. Google Inc. said on Wednesday it strongly disagreed with the European Commission which accused the U.S. company of distorting Internet searches in its favor and launched an antitrust probe into its mobile operating system Android.

and commissioners opted to settle.

The European Union has accused Google of distorting Web search results to favor its own shopping service as well, and is now probing the Android mobile operating system.

To go after Google, the FTC

Apple's new iPhones hit store shelves

3D Touch feature, cameras drive latest model release

BY TROY WOLVERTON
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, California — The new iPhones hit store shelves Friday morning.

Consumers were able to buy the latest models of Apple's smartphone, the iPhone 6s and the jump-sized iPhone 6s Plus, at the company's retail stores. They were also able to find them at the stores of the major wireless carriers and some other major electronics retailers.

The key feature of the new models, which share the same size and shape as last year's versions, is something Apple calls 3D Touch. The feature can recognize how hard users are pressing on the devices' screens and display different kinds of information for different presses.

The new phones also feature more powerful cameras and a faster processor than last year's models. The rear camera in the iPhone 6s and 6s Plus has a 12-megapixel resolution, up from 8 megapixels previously.

The iPhone 6s starts at \$650 without a contract. The iPhone 6s Plus starts at \$750 without a contract.

Last year's models were the first-ever large screen iPhones and sold in record numbers. Financial analysts who follow the company generally expect the growth in the Apple's iPhones sales to fall from its recent torrid pace.

Neuman

BY JOSEPH CIOLLI AND LU WANG
BLOOMBERG

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NEW YORK — The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed little changed, with the benchmark declining for a second straight week, as a selloff in biotechnology stocks thwarted a rally led by Nike Inc.

A rebound in U.S. stocks, fueled by reassuring statements from Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and Nike's better-than-expected earnings, was eventually undermined Friday by a snowballing drop in biotech. The Nasdaq Biotechnology Index fell into a bear market amid its worst weekly decline in four years. Banks, meanwhile, had their best day in more than two weeks, rising along with bond yields.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell less than 0.1 percent to 1,931.34, after erasing an earlier 1.1 percent climb. The Nasdaq composite index lost 1 percent, wiping out a 1.1 percent advance. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 113.35 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,314.67, supported by gains in Nike and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

"Health-care was kind of the stalwart and we're starting to see cracks in leaders," said Channing Smith, a managing director at Capital Advisors in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Equities were initially boosted after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said in a speech following the close of markets Thursday that the central bank is on course to raise interest rates this year. Yellen's remarks bolstered confidence the economy is sturdy enough to handle higher borrowing costs. She acknowledged that economic "surprises" could lead policy makers to change that plan.

Wages

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Rabinowitz said in a phone interview that the case at Pockets shows that workers should give a close look at employers before taking a job, too.

Caris was convicted in 2011 for collecting and keeping \$35,860 in taxes at the Old Orchard Beach motel and inn The Caris Landings By the Sea. The attorney general's office reported he also was convicted of a felony in 1991 for writing bad checks.

Caris did not respond to multiple attempts to contact him.

Former employee Madeline Gillespie, 18, said she learned of Caris' felony convictions after other red flags prompted her to do

more research into his history.

"I definitely would not have stayed there if I knew that sooner," Gillespie said.

Rabinowitz said doing a Google search or basic background on an employee — whether for a career move or a summer job at a hot dog stand — can help avoid bad work situations from the start.

Rabinowitz said that a complaint to the state's wage and hour division should come first. If pay isn't on the way, looking for another job should come second.

"Employees need to make sure they're not in a position where they are jeopardizing their own pay," Rabinowitz said. "The first thing is to is call the state and start looking for another job."

Rabinowitz said staff at the DOL's Career Centers can help and an employee could ask to speak with them

immediately after speaking with the wage and hour division.

Drew Christopher Joy, executive director of the Southern Maine Workers' Center, said policymakers and employees in the city should understand that not all jobs are good jobs.

"A business like Pockets actually hurts this city," Joy said.

While several employees quit previous jobs to work at Pockets, which promised higher pay, Rabinowitz said workers should not be afraid of quitting a bad job only for how it might affect their future job prospects.

"It's OK to quit your job if you're not being treated well," Rabinowitz said, adding that bad employers "should have a hard time to find employees and that should force them to change their culture or go out of business."

Marketreview

Consolidated listings						
Company	Close	Chg	Div	Company	Close	Chg
AFLAC	57.83	+34	1.56	Kraft	88.19	0
AK Steel	2.29	-14	-	LillyEl	84.06	-129
AT&T Inc	32.33	+22	1.88	Loews	35.97	+25
Aurubis	40.86	-1.08	.96	Lowes	68.69	+21
Aerosp	.86	-03	-	McDnids	97.59	+30
Aetna	112.02	-4.42	1.00	Merck	49.60	-99
Allergan	279.03	-11.53	.20	MetLife	47.23	+80
Allstate	58.99	+40	1.20	Microst	43.94	+03
Altria	54.79	+18	2.26	Mondelz	42.80	+67
AMOVill	16.80	-07	.33	Monsanto	84.51	+56
AEP	55.99	+53	2.12	MorgStan	32.19	+22
Anadarko	62.67	-1.03	1.08	NewellRub	40.68	+21
Apache	38.20	+32	1.00	NextEraEn	98.61	+109
Apple	114.71	-29	2.08	NokiaCap	6.57	-09
AridInt	14.80	-09	.40	NestLtl	51.00	0
AurivTech	8.10	-17	-	NorthropG	165.57	+121
BP PLC	30.43	+27	2.40	OneokPtrs	32.10	-35
BKINMtel	39.60	+1.08	.68	Oracle	36.05	+01
BestBuy	36.53	-08	.92	PPL	31.97	+39
Boeing	131.01	+126	3.64	Panasonic	22.30	-01
BRNYSq	60.24	-1.56	1.48	Penn Gmng	16.95	-16
BkrfIdAs	31.31	+55	.48	Penney	9.43	+10
CBS B	40.77	-12	.60	PepsiCoHD	23.70	+24
Centerpillar	64.98	-82	3.08	PepsiHold	93.47	+100
CenterPnt	17.89	+07	.99	Pfizer	31.89	-81
Chevron	77.70	+81	4.28	PhilipMor	80.60	+19
Citigroup	50.55	+14.2	.20	PhilpSciE	23.69	-01
CocaCola	39.62	+47	1.32	Praxair	100.92	-08
Corning	16.57	-11	.48	ProctGam	72.67	+131
Covance	106.00	0	-	PrudntCl	77.25	+212
Deere	75.81	+05	2.40	QstDiag	64.41	-111
Dell				Rayonier	22.30	-01
DirectTV	93.55	0	-	Raytheon	106.03	+34
Disney	100.30	-32	1.32	ReynAmer	42.99	+88
DowChem	42.32	-17	1.68	RylCarb	91.07	-49
DuPont	48.55	+52	1.52	Schwab	28.42	+54
DukeEng	70.71	-39	3.30	SeersHdgs	24.67	-37
ExxonMbl	73.23	+50	2.92	Sherwin	227.49	-31
FedExCp	144.45	+001	1.00	Siemens	0	3.00
FidInfin	36.54	+14	.84	SonyCp	25.34	+32
FidNatInfo	68.22	-08	1.04	SwsAirt	38.09	-08
ForestLab				Starbucks	59.99	-38
FMCG	9.80	-19	.20	Symantec	19.20	+09
FrontierCm	5.00	+17	.42	TARGET	79.05	-01
GlaxoSkin	38.48	-31	2.37	Target	38.27	-01
GoldmanS	179.83	+2.92	2.60	3M Co	138.56	+198
Google	611.97	-13.83	-	TW Cable	183.79	+129
Hershey	92.56	+47	2.33	TimeWarn	67.87	+25
HewlettP	25.01	-25	.70	Toyota	118.51	+96
Hitachi	50.99	-46	1.02	Travelers	99.91	+105
HonamDp	116.74	+40	2.36	UBS AG	18.39	+26
Honda	30.54	-16	.73	UPS B	98.76	+126
Intel	28.81	+33	.96	ValeroE	60.81	+01
IntlBsch	24.95	+05	.58	WalterEn	.16	0
IBM	145.42	+1.01	5.20	WellsFargo	51.48	+93
JPMorgCh	61.47	+125	1.76	Yahoo	29.13	-21
Kohls	47.70	-14	1.80	Zimmer	113.56	0

Mostactive						
Company	Close	Chg	Div	Company	Close	Chg
BAC	15.89	+34	.20	HPO	25.01	-25
GE	24.92	-01	.92	WMB	41.60	-22
PBR	4.08	-06	-	HAL	36.70	-30
FCX	9.80	-19	.20	AIJY	1.76	+06
SUNE	8.50	-57	-	DNR	2.68	-06
ABX	6.57	+01	.08	NEM	16.59	-19
F	13.53	-12	.60	WPX	6.73	-20
C	50.55	+14.2	.20	POT	20.67	-34
ITB	6.51	-11	.05	GG	13.37	-14
PFE	31.89	-81	1.12	MTG	9.45	-04
RAD	6.80	-03	-	MRO	15.75	+30
AA	9.07	-11	.12	MT	5.58	-28
RIG	12.58	-43	-	TSM	20.05	+06
KMI	29.42	+08	1.96	HST	16.25	+20
CX	6.97	-04	-	RAI	42.99	+88
TD	32.33	+22	1.88	KGC	1.68	-03
S	.30	0	-	GNW	4.95	+20
CAT	64.98	-82	3.08	RF	9.08	+16
SAT	4.32	-03	-	DIS	100.30	-32
WLE	4.52	-16	.39	CVX	77.70	+81
TWTR	25.29	-131	-	MRK	49.60	-99
ABEV	4.87	+13	.08	NRG	15.07	-41
BABA	59.24	.68	-	AES	9.96	-04
DOW	42.32	-17	1.68	BP	30.43	+27
GM	29.41	-03	1.44	CAE	6.64	-08
KO	39.62	+47	1.32	CGA	41.53	+46
ETU	1.22	-19	-	M	52.51	+43
BTU	23.24	-43	1.06	CVC	33.10	+02
ORCL	36.05	-01	.60	EMC	23.78	+02
NBR	10.00	+26	.24	NOK	6.57	-09
JPM	61.47	+125	1.76	DAL	46.04	+13
WFC	51.48	+83	1.50	BSX	16.31	-48
MS	32.19	+69	.60	MOS	32.14	-31
X	10.79	-22	.20	CSX	26.52	+13
CHK	7.39	-37	-	KBH	14.52	-08
BEE	13.87	-04	-	ILY	10.42	-120
PBRa	3.43	-04	-	NE	10.93	-19
SDRL	6.18	-04	-	AVE	3.45	-03
EXC	29.50	+43	1.24	MHR	.38	-05
KEY	13.20	+41	.30	P	20.86	0
GLW	16.59	-11	.88	ABBV	55.74	-83
SWN	12.99	-28	.20	USB	41.67	+91
XOM	73.23	-50	-	XRX	10.08	-02
WFT	8.70	.38	-	CNQ	19.65	+17
SCHW	28.42	+54	.24	V	70.69	+45
VER	7.94	+02	.55	COF	47.19	-57
VZ	44.22	+13	2.26	SPN	5.61	+01
PCAU	12.98	-12	-	ESV	14.49	-16
PG	72.67	+131	2.65	AKS	2.29	-14
TCK	4.88	-25	.24	DE	75.81	+05

	High	Low	Close	Chg	% Chg	52-wk hi	52-wk lo
DOW	16,465.23	16,205.07	16,314.67	+113.35	+0.70%	18,351	15,370
NYSE Composite	9948.77	9814.57	9857.25	+19.44	+0.20%	11254.87	9509.59
S&P 500	1952.89	1921.50	1931.34	-0.90	-0.05%	2134.72	1820.66
S&P 400	1402.02	1383.16	1388.21	-2.41	-0.17%	1551.28	1269.45

Regionalstocks									
Stock	52-wk hi	52-wk lo	close	chg	% chg	chg 52-wk hi	Vol	P/E	DIV
BkofAm	18.48	14.60	15.89	+0.34	+2.19%	-14.02%	88489571	16.60	0.20%
BarHarb	37.98	27.85	30.71	-1.32	-4.12%	-19.14%	14620	12.53	1.02%
CamdnN	41.83	34.75	39.90	-0.97	-2.37%	-4.61%	14514	11.77	1.20%
Cisco	30.310	22.490	26.025	+0.615	+2.420%	-14.137%	37616073	14.871	0.840%
GenEurRus	25.74	16.53	18.01	+0.27	+1.52%	-30.03%	5401	N/A	0.97%
Delhaize	25.00	15.58	21.35	+0.17	+0.80%	-14.60%	45688	41.90	0.45%
Domtar g	48.30	33.04	36.86	-0.36	-0.97%	-23.69%	380838	5.57	1.60%
FairchildS	20.84	12.01	13.34	+0.15	+1.14%	-35.99%	1087082	N/A	1.00%
FstBcpME	20.00	16.20	18.74	-0.20	-1.06%	-6.30%	22045	12.75	0.88%
GenDynam	153.76	114.73	138.02	-0.49	-0.35%	-10.24%	1066476	16.15	2.76%
GenElec	28.68	19.37	24.92	+0.01	+0.04%	-13.11%	38915674	N/A	0.92%
ImdexLabs	84.25	57.56	74.54	-1.54	-2.02%	-11.53%	358196	19.00	N/A
ImmuCell	11.40	3.96	6.27	+0.10	+1.62%	-45.00%	10625	28.12	N/A
IntPap	57.90	38.15	38.70	-0.23	-0.59%	-33.16%	2866041	16.03	1.60%
Keycorp	15.70	11.55	13.20	+0.41	+3.21%	-15.92%	14803083	12.92	0.30%
KimbClk	119.01	99.60	108.71	+0.54	+0.50%	-8.65%	2106543	62.80	3.52%
MeadWwco	55.15	37.28	48.30	+0.00	+0.00%	-12.42%	0	N/A	1.00%
NorestB	11.02	8.59	11.00	+0.38	+3.58%	-0.18%	7122	15.38	0.04%
PNC	100.52	76.69	89.29	+1.49	+1.70%	-11.17%	2423754	12.31	2.04%
PeopUtdF	16.95	13.61	15.68	+0.13	+0.84%	-7.49%	3012504	19.12	0.67%
PlumCrk	45.26	36.95	39.67	+0.21	+0.53%	-12.35%	992776	36.36	1.76%
Suppi	37.50	4.08	4.68	-0.02	-0.42%	-87.52%	7909	N/A	0.00%
StateStr	69.21	68.12	68.74	+1.01	+1.49%	-0.68%	2718416	16.26	1.36%
Sysco	41.87	35.45	39.73	+0.02	+0.05%	-5.11%	5636301	34.55	1.20%
UtdTech	124.45	85.50	87.30	+0.48	+0.55%	-29.85%	7447583	12.52	2.56%
UnumGrp	38.15	29.81	32.01	+0.59	+1.88%	-16.09%	1859630	20.96	0.74%
VersoPap	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00%
WalMart	90.97	61.50	63.78	-0.05	-0.08%	-29.89%	7163040	13.31	1.96%