



# Google Slapped With Sweeping Antitrust Case By DoJ

There is no doubt that Google exercises monopoly power and control over the Internet. The Department of Justice has finally decided to act, and several states have already decided to join the lawsuit. This opens the door to other anti-trust suits against other tech giants like Facebook and Twitter. □ TN Editor

The Justice Department on Tuesday sued Google for antitrust violations, alleging that it abused its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and harm consumers.

The lawsuit marks the government's most significant act to protect competition since its groundbreaking case against Microsoft more than 20 years ago. It could be an opening salvo ahead of other major government antitrust actions, given ongoing investigations of major tech companies including Apple, Amazon and Facebook at both the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

“Google is the gateway to the internet and a search advertising behemoth,” U.S. Deputy Attorney General Jeff Rosen told reporters. “It has maintained its monopoly power through exclusionary practices that are harmful to competition.”

Antitrust cases in the technology industry have to move quickly, he said. Otherwise “we could lose the next wave of innovation.”

The Justice Department isn’t seeking specific changes in Google’s structure or other remedies at this point, but isn’t ruling out seeking additional relief, officials said.

Lawmakers and consumer advocates have long accused Google, whose corporate parent Alphabet Inc. has a market value just over \$1 trillion, of abusing its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and boost its profits. Critics contend that multibillion-dollar fines and mandated changes in Google’s practices imposed by European regulators in recent years weren’t severe enough and that structural changes are needed for Google to change its conduct.

Google responded immediately via tweet: “Today’s lawsuit by the Department of Justice is deeply flawed. People use Google because they choose to — not because they’re forced to or because they can’t find alternatives.”

The case was filed in federal court in Washington, D.C. It alleges that Google uses billions of dollars collected from advertisers to pay phone manufacturers to ensure Google is the default search engine on browsers. Eleven states, all with Republican attorneys general, joined the federal government in the lawsuit.

But several other states demurred. The attorneys general of New York, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah released a statement Monday saying they have not concluded their investigation into Google and would want to consolidate their case with the DOJ’s if they decided to file. “It’s a bipartisan statement,” said spokesman Fabien Levy of the New York State attorney general’s office. “There’s things that still need to be fleshed out, basically,”

President Donald Trump’s administration has long had Google in its sights. One of Trump’s top economic advisers said two years ago that the White House was considering whether Google searches should be subject to government regulation. Trump has often criticized Google, recycling unfounded claims by conservatives that the search giant is

biased against conservatives and suppresses their viewpoints, interferes with U.S. elections and prefers working with the Chinese military over the Pentagon.

Rosen told reporters that allegations of anti-conservative bias are “a totally separate set of concerns” from the issue of competition.

Google controls about 90% of global web searches. The company has been bracing for the government’s action and is expected to fiercely oppose any attempt to force it to spin off its services into separate businesses.

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**US Scientists Fret Over**

# Increasing Numbers Who Say They Will Refuse COVID-19 Vaccine

Technocrat scientists believe that they are in charge of vaccinating humanity for the good everyone and its their responsibility to carry out the mission. As people push back and say “NO!”, these same scientists are incredulous that anyone would not agree with their “science”. □ TN Editor

Tara Granger, 36, has worked as a nurse for two decades in Suffolk County, NY, and she and her two children have been vaccinated every year.

“Drugs are my life,” she says. “It’s what I learned in school.”

But she’s been questioning the promised upcoming vaccine for COVID-19, in large part because of what she’s witnessed firsthand about the financial incentives for vaccines.

“It scares me that I got so many free lunches and free dinners because I pushed the flu vaccine,” Granger says. “What am I going to get when I push a COVID vaccine?”

Granger got sick from the coronavirus earlier this summer and said she did “the opposite of what people said to do. I took my supplements and vitamins, and didn’t go to the hospital to be put on a ventilator and die. I was smart enough to say, ‘My immune system can fight this, I just have to find the right way to do it.’ ”

Her job will require her to recommend the COVID vaccine when it’s available, but Granger said she won’t personally be getting it.

“The vaccine isn’t something we need, even if it is safe,” she says. “People want an easy solution and they think this is it. But it isn’t.”

She’s not the only one with misgivings. A Pew Research poll from late

September showed that about half of US adults (51 percent) wouldn't get a COVID-19 vaccine if it was available today — a big drop from the 72 percent who said they'd get one back in May.

Complicating things even more: This past week, two major drug manufacturers halted their vaccine trials because of safety concerns.

It's made matters all the more confusing for Rob Holmes, 50, of Marina del Rey, Calif., who said he gets an annual flu shot despite his wife's reluctance. "I'm starting to think I'm the crazy one," he tells The Post.

For the first time, he hasn't gotten a flu shot, and he said he's "still on the fence" about whether he'll get a COVID vaccine when it becomes available.

Claudia Torres, a 28-year-old stay-at-home mom and blogger from Miami, feels the same. She said all of her kids are up-to-date on recommended vaccines. "I'm not an anti-vaxxer or think COVID-19 is a hoax," she says. "But I just don't want the COVID-19 vaccine."

Even the rich and powerful are expressing doubt. Elon Musk said in a podcast interview in late September that he won't be getting a vaccine because he's "not at risk for COVID, nor are my kids."

The anti-vax movement is nothing new — in 2019, the World Health Organization listed "vaccine hesitancy" as one of the top-ten threats to global health — but the growing distrust of a vaccine that, at this point, is only hypothetical is a rare cultural phenomenon.

Scott Ratzan, a physician and medical misinformation expert at the City University of New York and Columbia University, says anti-COVID vaccine sentiment is the result of "a massive assault on trust in government, in science and in public-health authorities."

The misinformation has mostly been spread online, thanks to social media and the controversial documentary "Plandemic," in which discredited virologist Judy Mikovits claims a hypothetical COVID vaccine would "kill millions."

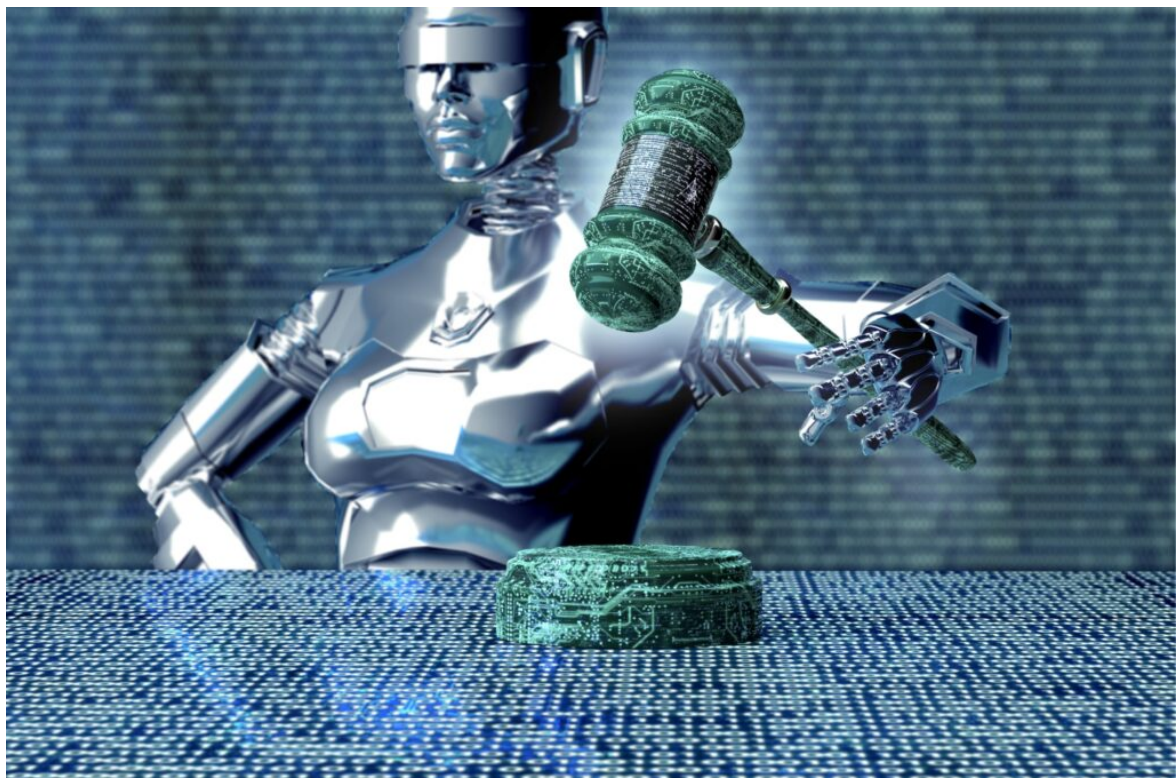
"Throw in QAnon and people's increasing impatience with the effect of

the disease on their lives and livelihoods, and you have fertile ground to sow anti-science propaganda,” says Ratzan. “It’s been like manna from heaven for hardcore anti-vaxxers.”

The usual anti-vax tropes — religious objections, concerns that vaccines cause autism — aren’t behind most COVID-19 vaccine concerns. According to an August survey from STAT and the Harris Poll, 78 percent of Americans are worried that a COVID-19 vaccine is being influenced more by politics than science.

It’s a largely bipartisan opinion: 72 percent of Republicans and 82 percent of Democrats don’t trust a vaccine pushed by politicians, regardless of their party affiliation.

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# AI Scientist: Robot Judges Will Determine Cases Within 50 Years

Justice is an exclusively human concept that cannot be replaced by anything non-human, including Artificial Intelligence. It is dangerous that AI scientists work today with views that they can replace all things human with computer algorithms. □ TN Editor

Leading artificial scientist Terence Mauri said the UK could adopt robot judges within 50 years to identify behavioural patterns signalling “wrongdoing or probable falsehoods”

Robot judges that can determine guilt or innocence will be commonplace in the English legal system within 50 years, experts have claimed.

Scientists say the the bots will be able to conclude whether someone is guilty or innocent with a 99% accuracy rate by analysing body language.

One believes the physical and psychological signs of dishonesty will be identified using an array of cameras.

Signs that signal “wrongdoing or probable falsehoods” could include irregular speech patters, an increase in body temperature and hand and eye movements.

Data collected from the robots will then be analysed using AI to build an almost “error-free” and unbiased picture of whether a defendant or witness is telling the truth.

Within 50 years, the bots could replace human judges and become a common feature in criminal and civil hearings in England and Wales, according to a two-year study Terence Mauri.

Mauri, who runs the London-based policy institute Hack Future Lab, said AI in the courtroom carries “great promise” for the legal industry - and for those wrongly accused of crimes.

Mr Mauri said: “AI has created unprecedented changes in the way that people live and work by performing complex problems with a level of consistency and speed that is unmatched by human intelligence.

“In a legal setting, AI will usher in a new, fairer form of digital justice whereby human emotion, bias and error will become a thing of the past.

“Hearings will be quicker and the innocent will be far less likely to be convicted of a crime they did not commit.”

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