



Flash presse
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“Choice Screen”: Qwant welcomes this first step forward for smartphone users

After years of promoting useful and desirable fair competition, Qwant welcomes this first significant step forward, but urges Europeans to go further in protecting Internet users' freedom!

Three years after being fined €4.34 billion for abuse of a dominant position, Google will offer Android phone buyers in Europe a home screen where they can choose between different search engines starting Sept. 1.

Although not yet complete, this new "Choice Screen" puts an end to the auction system set up by Google, which forced its competitors to bid for the right to be suggested to Android users. From now on, up to 12 alternatives will be suggested, but in any case, the 5 most popular search engines in each of the affected countries according to statistics published by StatCounter. Currently, Qwant is among the top five in France.

"Qwant would like to commend the European Commission, and in particular the cabinet of Ms. Margrethe Vestager, for going beyond the formal scope of their interventions to promote a dialogue between Google and its competitors (including Qwant), who had requested a three-way meeting," said Jean-Claude Ghinozzi, President and CEO of Qwant. "We believe that this arbitration process has been effective in underpinning the regulatory efforts of the digital giants in Europe and that the system put in place is a real step forward compared to auctions that penalize competition."

But this revised Choice Screen does not yet address all the obstacles for consumers. In particular, Qwant demands that consumers have the right to change their mind and be able to easily switch the default search engine on their device at any time, which is currently not the case.

"Switching search engines is a fundamental freedom for Internet users," Jean-Claude Ghinozzi concluded. Indeed, it should be easy to switch the search engine you want to use from any browser and operating system.

About Qwant

Designed and developed in France, Qwant is the first European search engine to have its own Web indexing technology, protecting the privacy of its users. Unlike the main search engines on the market, Qwant does not install any cookies on the user's browser, does not try to find out who they are or what they are doing, and does not keep a history of requests made. With a friendly interface that leaves a large place for results, Qwant allows users to find the information they are looking for efficiently across the Web and social networks, with total neutrality. Qwant treats all indexed sites and services without discrimination, without changing the order of results according to its own interests or the user's sensitivities. <https://www.qwant.com>

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