

In the 1990s Microsoft tried to use its Windows desktop monopoly to extend its dominance of the desktop computer operating system and application software market to the Web by bundling their Internet Explorer web browser with Windows made to compete against Netscape, and got Apple to bundle a Macintosh version of IE with the Mac OS to eliminate Netscape as a cross platform browser. With a browser monopoly Microsoft could go on to dominate online search, mapping, social networking etc and preempt the rise of Evernote, Box's cloud syncing technology, Cloudon which today distributes its Cloudon with MS Office 2010 apps for iOS and Android users in addition to offering it in the browser. Of course DOJ rightly stopped Microsoft but it was still too late for Netscape.

Once Netscape was extinguished (despite the Microsoft antitrust case) the Redmond giant simply discontinued development of IE for Mac and when Apple made Safari to replace IE for Mac Microsoft discontinued all support for IE 5 for Mac and discontinued its distribution. Today there is no IE for Mac but that's okay Apple's Safari is a much better web browser as is Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox. Had the Justice Department not intervened to stop Microsoft they could have not only erected a new monopoly in the browser market but used it to stop the rise of Google. Apple would still make the iPod but in a world dominated with Microsoft maps they would have been unable to deliver the first iPhone that shipped with Google Maps assuming Microsoft maps was only for Microsoft devices.

Today I use Box with MS Office (for Windows PC), the Box sync app for Windows desktop when on a PC, Box for Windows 8 Metro app, and on the Mac the Box Sync app for Mac in addition to having Box on my iOS devices. I have Microsoft

Office 2013 for Windows and Mac Office 2011 from Microsoft but find myself using Apple iWork, Google Docs and Cloudon with MS Office Suite 2010 more often, in addition to Google's QuickOffice on my iPad, which is also available for Chromebook users. I have the choice of using Evernote or MS OneNote on Mac, iOS, Android and Windows whereas earlier OneNote was for Windows PCs only and mobile devices like Apple's iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad plus Android phones Microsoft facing competition from the free Evernote has made OneNote for Mac free. Even Box is getting into the document creation and editing business with Box Notes. I can use Amazon Cloud Drive, Google Drive etc. That's the good news. However, in a world without Net Neutrality I am less willing to keep my files in the cloud. It might be harder to access my files in the cloud without Net Neutrality as big ISPs can decide to throttle the cloud services I use to favor their own like Verizon throttling Amazon Web Services (a lot of IT infrastructure is hosted by Amazon including Netflix) while prioritizing their Verizon Cloud. As a supporter of Net Neutrality I am boycotting Verizon Cloud.