

Written Testimony of Kamy! Bazbaz
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Before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights
Hearing on Big Fixes for Big Tech

April 1, 2025

Chair Lee, Ranking Member Booker, and esteemed members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak on this critical issue. My name is Kamy! Bazbaz, and I am Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at DuckDuckGo.

DuckDuckGo was founded more than 15 years ago and is based in Paoli, Pennsylvania, far outside of Silicon Valley. We offer a search engine like Google and a browser like Chrome, but unlike Google, we don't collect any of your search or browsing history. Our privacy policy can be summed up in just four words: we don't track you.¹ We believe the best way to protect your privacy is to not collect your personal information at all.

We compete directly with Google. We are the second largest search engine on mobile devices in the United States and third largest overall with a market share of about 2.5%.² By contrast, Google's market share is more than 90%.

The question isn't whether Google is a monopolist. In August 2024, a federal judge ruled that in fact it is.³ The question now is what we do about it.

In American antitrust law, courts play a critical role, but Congress has a key role to play as well. Reigning in Big Tech's abuses require overlapping and interlocking rules that allow for the freedom to innovate, the freedom to compete, and the freedom for Americans to pick the services they want to use.

As the title of this hearing states there is no one "big fix." There is no silver bullet.⁴ Restoring the free market requires multiple "big fixes" working together.⁵

¹ DuckDuckGo Privacy Policy, available at <https://duckduckgo.com/privacy>.

² See Appendix I.

³ United States v. Google, LLC, No. 20-cv-3010 (D.D.C. Aug. 5, 2024), available at https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.223205/gov.uscourts.dcd.223205.1033.0_3.pdf.

⁴ See Appendix II.

⁵ DuckDuckGo Founder and CEO Gabriel Weinberg outlined a package of remedies that can work together to counteract Google's scale and distribution advantages. *Creating Enduring Competition in the Search Market* (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://spreadprivacy.com/creating-enduring-competition-in-the-search-market/>.

On March 7th, the U.S. Department of Justice submitted its revised proposal to remedy Google’s anticompetitive behavior as the search case goes into the remedy phase.⁶ We support this proposal.

While we recognize the potential of this landmark proposal, we must also acknowledge that nothing has actually changed yet, and it could be many years until anything does. Despite public scandals, botched rollouts, widespread discussion about declining search quality, and the explosion of AI chatbots, Google’s illegal stranglehold on the market and resulting market share remains unchanged.⁷ It should not take more than a decade of illegal behavior before action is taken, it should happen much faster.

This is where Congress comes in. Building on the momentum of the Google search case, Congress can implement procompetitive reforms that ensure companies like Google cannot decide for you what services you use, cannot block competitors from reaching consumers, and cannot self-preference their own products at the expense of better options.

Congress has done this before. For example, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 forced the “Baby Bells” to license their infrastructure and work with competitors. This legislation not only unleashed more than a trillion dollars of investment⁸, it also forced incumbents to innovate and compete for consumers. The same can happen in the search market.

Google has the most robust index of websites on the Internet, but they only rank them one way in their search results. That means there's only one algorithm deciding and ranking the content that 90% of Americans see in their search results. It doesn't have to be this way.

If competitors had access to that same index and anonymous ranking signals, they could launch new search engines with new algorithms and different ranking decisions to better serve consumers than Google is now. This kind of algorithmic choice and diversity isn't just good for business, but good for society at large.

⁶ On March 7, 2025, the Department of Justice, as well as Google, offered Revised Proposed Final Judgments, which outline what each party believe the judge should require Google to do to get right with the law. The Department of Justice’s is available here:

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.223205/gov.uscourts.dcd.223205.1184.1.pdf>.

⁷ See Rand Fishkin, *New Research: Google Search Grew 20%+ in 2024; receives ~373X more searches than ChatGPT*, SparkToro (March 10, 2025), <https://sparktoro.com/blog/new-research-google-search-grew-20-in-2024-receives-373x-more-searches-than-chatgpt/>.

⁸ Stuart N. Brotman, *Was the 1996 Telecommunications Act successful in promoting competition?*, Brookings (Feb. 8, 2016), <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/was-the-1996-telecommunications-act-successful-in-promoting-competition/>.

If you take away one thing from my testimony, I hope it would be this: with Congressional action, the search market can rapidly serve consumers so much better than it does now.

Imagine a future where picking your default search engine is a choice you actually make, not one that's made by backroom business deals and then forced upon you. Imagine a future where consumers can comparison shop between different search engines across features, benefits, rankings, and brands, easily picking the one that most suits their needs, for example a search engine that favors small publishers or one that protects your privacy.

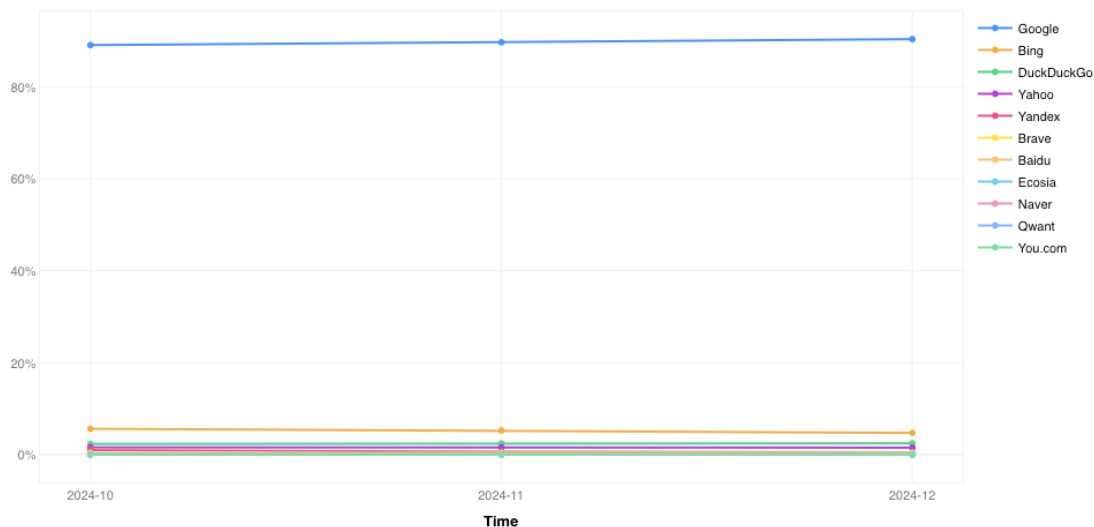
We use search engines to ask some of our most sensitive and personal questions about life, parenting, politics, health, and everything in between. One company should not have a monopoly to answer those questions for 90% of Americans.

We urge lawmakers to consider bold, clear and targeted legislation that can change that.

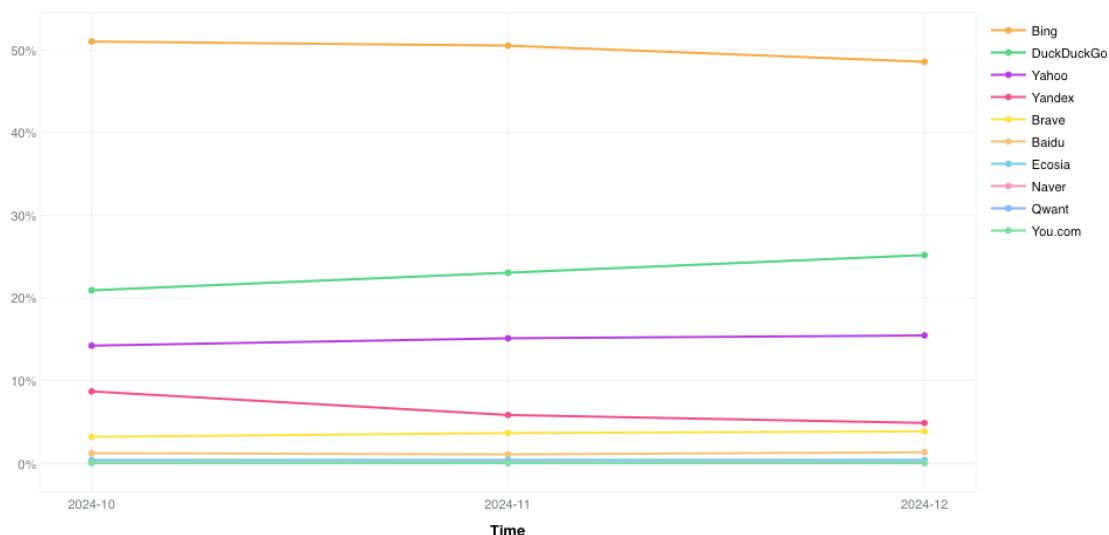
I look forward to answering your questions.

Appendix I: Search Engine Market Share (United States)

A. Search Market Q4 2025 (Including Google)



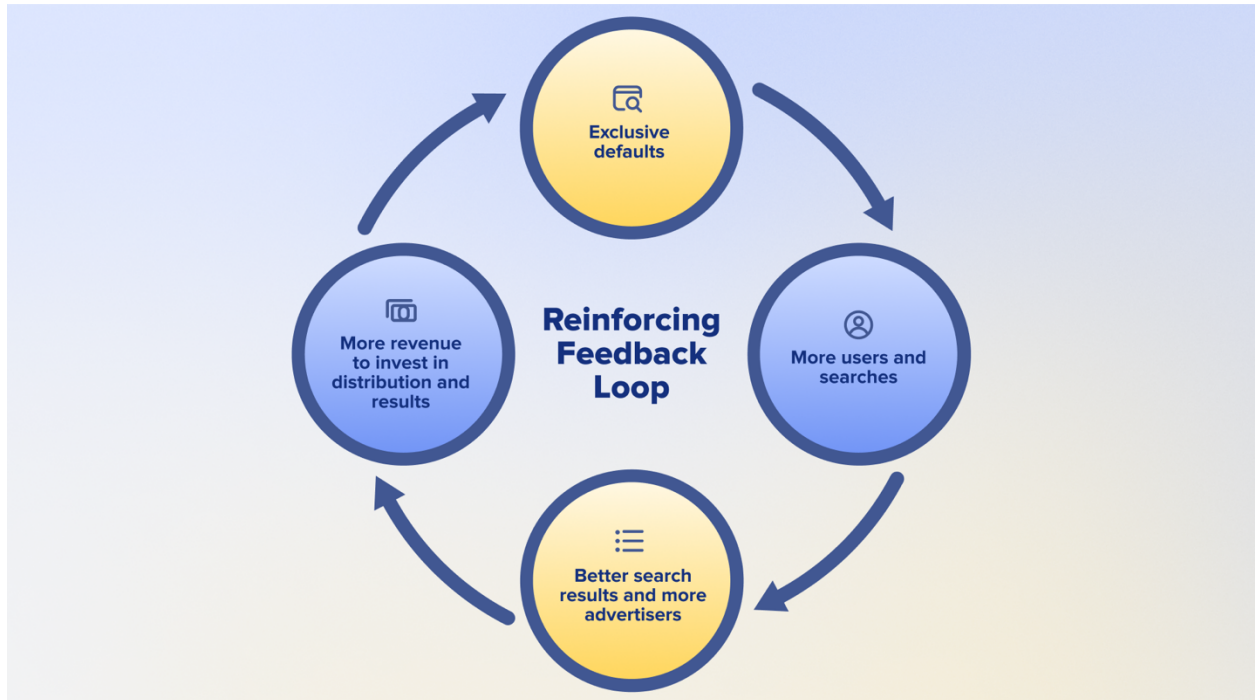
B. Search Market Q4 2024 (Excluding Google)



As of December 2024, the US market shares of the top 5 search engines are as follows: Google 90.3%, Bing 4.7%, DuckDuckGo 2.4%, Yahoo 1.4%, Yandex 0.4%.⁹ If Google is excluded, DuckDuckGo is the number two search engine with a 25.2% market share

⁹We believe the most reliable source for market share estimates come from Cloudflare. The most recent report on search engine market share is available for Q4 2024 here: <https://radar.cloudflare.com/reports/search-engine-market-share-2024-q4>.

Appendix II: Google’s Monopoly Feedback Loop



Google’s exclusive defaults are part of a reinforcing feedback loop that gives them an insurmountable scale advantage and makes it difficult for rivals to compete. As the court describes the situation, Google’s scale advantage fuels a powerful feedback loop of different network effects that ensure a “perpetual scale and quality deficit” for rivals that locks in Google’s advantage.