

# Words of Visionaries

Today's News, Tomorrow's Leaders!

Back in 2001, the landmark antitrust case against Microsoft opened the door for tech giants like Google, Apple, and Facebook, and they dominate the digital landscape today. Now, we may be at another pivotal moment as Google faces intense scrutiny. Recently, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) won its first case against Google for monopolizing search. Additionally, Google is soon to stand trial over allegations related to its Ad Tech practices—a case whose outcome we await with great anticipation.

In this week's Dreamers and Innovators session, we focused on helping young attendees understand Google's story and the basics of antitrust laws. With this knowledge, they are now well-equipped to follow the unfolding developments. Our young Dreamers are eagerly tracking the news, fully aware of the potential impact of these cases.

Are you ready? If not, here's a quick information guide from our talented young Dreamers, who we're incredibly proud of!

Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

## Google's Legal Showdown



Aanya Mehra  
19 years

Google began as a research project by Larry Page and Sergey Brin while they were students at Stanford University, California, back in 1996. Little did they know that their project would grow to this magnitude and become the default search engine for most people today.

But there's more to this exceptional success story. Although 90% of the world uses Google to search for anything on the internet, it's important to consider why other search engines like Firefox, Yahoo, and others have been swiftly replaced by Google. This astounding success is now being questioned, as Google faces, and has even lost, trials regarding illegal practices that helped it achieve its dominant position. Google lost an antitrust trial for monopolizing the search engine market and is now facing another for monopolizing the advertising market as well.

Allegations claim that Google charges higher fees because there are few competitors today, many of whom are kept at bay through contracts that favour Google. The company has also been accused of hiding evidence.

As the trials progress, we eagerly await the outcome. Will this conglomerate break apart? Speculators suggest that this could lead to a breakup, with Google's search, advertising, YouTube, and Android operating systems—currently part of the Google framework—potentially becoming independent entities in the future.

## Understanding Google's Antitrust Trial



Aayra Kapur  
13 years

Google is one of the most widely recognized search engines globally. Recently, however, it has made headlines for losing an antitrust case.

In 2024, a U.S. court ruled that Google held an illegal monopoly over internet search. This legal battle began on October 20, 2020, when the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed an antitrust lawsuit against Google's parent company, Alphabet. Google is accused of maintaining its dominance by unfairly controlling what is promoted or sold through its platform, violating antitrust laws. The company has also been accused of paying large sums to keep competitors at bay, including deals with companies like Apple, to ensure Google remains the default search engine on devices and browsers like Safari and Firefox. Google has also faced allegations of concealing evidence related to these practices.

As the case escalates, the DOJ is considering measures to break up parts of Google's business. These include potentially separating Chrome as a standalone product, breaking up the Android operating system, and splitting YouTube from Google. In its defense, Google argues that its practices are comparable to businesses paying for better advertising space, such as billboards or prime spots in newspapers. Google also claims that users can choose to switch their default search engine but prefer to stick with Google due to its quality and ease of use.

The ongoing debate raises a key question: If Google is penalized, which company would step in to become the dominant search engine?