

Apple agrees to \$500 mn deal in iPhone-slowness suit

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Apple agreed to a settlement in a class-action lawsuit alleging it slowed the performance of older handsets including the iPhone 7 when battery life was deteriorating to encourage users to upgrade

Apple has agreed to pay up to \$500 million to settle a class-action

lawsuit over claims it covertly slowed older iPhones to get users to upgrade.

A [federal judge](#) in California presiding over a group of lawsuits will be asked to approve the proposed settlement at a hearing in early April, according to a [court filing](#) on Friday.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The litigation centers on stealthy mobile operating software changes in the name of avoiding "unintended power-offs."

In December 2017, Apple admitted that iOS software was tweaked to slow performance of older iPhones whose [battery life](#) was deteriorating to prevent handsets from spontaneously shutting down.

Critics accused Apple of surreptitiously forcing users to buy phones sooner than necessary, and the outcry forced Apple to upgrade its software and offer steep discounts on battery replacements.

The proposed settlement calls for Apple to pay at least \$310 million dollars, but no more than \$500 million, to compensate affected US iPhone owners and pay lawyers for the plaintiffs, according to court documents.

People who owned iPhone 7 models or older will get \$25 for each handset, with the amount rising or falling depending on how many people file claims and costs of getting word to them.

Lawyers behind the suit want to pocket \$93 million of the settlement money plus another \$1.5 million or so for out-of-pocket expenses, legal documents indicated.

France's consumer watchdog said last month that Apple had agreed to pay 25 million euros (\$27.4 million) in a related case.

French prosecutors opened an inquiry in January 2018 at the request of the Halt Planned Obsolescence (HOP) association.

The slowed handset performance was described by Apple as a well-intended feature to "smooth out" spikes in demand for power to prevent iPhone 6 models from shutting down due to the cold or weak batteries.

The company issued a [software](#) update to make it easier for customers to see if an aging battery is affecting performance.

An Apple statement at the time maintained that "we have never—and would never—do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades."

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