

Goodbye to dirty old Facebook – Zuckerberg admits he no longer connects family and friends, faces FTC lawsuit that could dismantle Meta

by **Laura M.**

[Zuckerberg is back in the news](#), this time not to announce the purchase of another company, but quite the opposite. This time, he has had to defend himself in a trial that could redefine the history of digital business. [The U.S. Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\) has taken Meta \(the parent company led by the mogul\) to court](#), accusing them of eliminating competition through “killer acquisitions” (buying the competition to shut it down). That’s exactly the case here, and Zuckerberg might have to say goodbye to his last two purchases: WhatsApp and Instagram. How legal is it to buy your competitors so they won’t outshine you? That’s for a judge to decide.

This trial has been open since April 14, and it has revealed some incredible facts, such as that the purchase of those last two social networks, WhatsApp (one billion dollars) and Instagram (19 billion dollars), could be an illegal strategy. On the stand, Zuckerberg himself admitted that Facebook is no longer used to connect with family and friends. Want to know more about what’s happening to Meta? We’ll tell you below.

“Facebook no longer serves its original purpose”

During his testimony, Zuckerberg admitted that the social network that made him a billionaire is no longer what it used to be. Today, he explained, Meta is no longer about personal relationships. Meta is focused on content, discovering viral trends, and following global conversations. He said it himself: what used to be a platform to share pictures of your cat with distant relatives or childhood classmates is now a showcase where the algorithm is in charge.

Justifying the most controversial acquisitions

The trial also focused (a lot) on Meta’s two most controversial acquisitions: Instagram (in 2012) and WhatsApp (in 2014). Zuckerberg defended both decisions. He said those

platforms wouldn't have survived without Meta's investment, and now they're essential tools for billions of people. Basically, his argument was: "We didn't destroy them, we made them bigger"

The FTC's accusations: a strategy to eliminate competition?

In search of a solo reign? Of course, the FTC didn't see it that way at all. During the trial, internal emails were shown where Zuckerberg described Instagram as a "terrifying threat" that had to be neutralized "at all costs". A rejected 6 billion dollar offer for Snap in 2013 was also revealed, which, according to prosecutors, proves a systematic policy of eliminating rivals. Was it then a strategy to get rid of the competition? Naturally, the ghost of monopoly is hanging over them, since they have 2 billion direct users between WhatsApp and Instagram alone, with these two companies generating more than half of Meta's advertising revenue.

"We are not a monopoly"

Meta insists it's not acting alone. Platforms like TikTok, Reddit, YouTube and X (formerly Twitter) are cited as direct competition. The company also reminds everyone that all of its acquisitions were legally approved at the time. And of course, undoing them now would just be changing the rules of the tech game.

What's coming: a battle

The trial will extend until July 2025. If the FTC wins this first phase, a second and even tougher stage would begin, aiming to argue that forcing Meta to sell Instagram and WhatsApp would directly benefit competition and consumers.

What's at stake?

Basically, the future of how large digital platforms work. If Meta loses, it wouldn't be surprising if other giants like Google or Amazon start facing similar lawsuits. Pressure against big tech isn't new, but this time, the one on the ropes is Zuckerberg. And this time, there's no "like" button to save him