Apple extends in-app purchase exemption for online group and event apps yet again

Apple has extended its deadline requiring online group and event apps to comply with the company's in-app purchase policy once again, as announced in a post on the company's developer's blog (via *9to5Mac*). Apps in this category can now use alternate payment options until June 30th, allowing them to skirt Apple's 15 to 30 percent cut the company takes out of in-app purchases.

"In 2020, we chose to support apps and developers that needed to adapt services from in-person to digital as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," Apple writes in the post. "Given the recent resurgence of COVID and its continued impact on in-person services, we've extended the most recent deadline."

Apple first deferred its rule targeting group event apps in November 2020

Apple introduced changes to its in-app purchase policy in September 2020, clarifying apps that provide "one-to-few and one-to-many realtime experiences," such as online classes and virtual group events, must process payments through in-app purchases. However, the company changed its rules to permit "person-to-person experiences" consisting of just two people, like medical consultations or real-estate tours, to use other payment methods.

After facing criticism for charging event platforms a commission in the midst of a pandemic, Apple decided to defer its rule targeting group event apps in November 2020 and later extended the reprieve until December 31st, 2021.

https://www.theverge.com/2022/1/23/22896736/apple-in-app-purchase-exemption-deadline-online-group-services-extended