

# Understanding Android

From facts to terminology, learn how Android helps support the mobile market.



## ANDROID FACT #01

By being an open-source platform, Android's **source code** is available for anyone to view, download, modify, enhance, and redistribute without requiring any payment of fees, royalties, or other costs. This is the opposite of closed source/proprietary software which never makes its source code public and strictly prohibits any modification.



## ANDROID FACT #02

Each new update to the Android operating system is a free, fully-functional, open-source mobile operating system that manufacturers can use to build devices.

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## ANDROID FACT #03

Google has released 24 versions of the Android operating system since 2008 and continues to make substantial investments to develop, grow, and improve the OS.

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Amazon Fire tablet runs on an operating system that was built using Android yet ships with no Google apps pre-installed.

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### ANDROID FACT #05

Microsoft has partnered with 74 Android manufacturers based in 25 countries to preload its popular productivity apps and services on many Android tablets and phones including the Samsung Galaxy S6, Sony Xperia Z4, and the LG G Pad 2.

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### ANDROID FACT #06

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### ANDROID FACT #07

Among 2016 flagship phones in the UK, Germany, and France, only 29% of installed apps are from Google. The remaining 71% are from device makers, mobile operators, and other companies, like Facebook.

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### ANDROID FACT #08

Android apps have more distribution opportunities than on any other mobile platform. In addition to the Play Store, there are dozens of other app stores on Android, such as GetJar, Yandex, LG's Smart World, and Samsung's Galaxy Apps store.



## ANDROID FACT #09

While users on other platforms can't download alternative app stores without "jailbreaking" their phones, Google doesn't restrict other stores from Android, making it the only major mobile OS to enable multiple app stores.

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## ANDROID FACT #10

Android users can completely customize their homescreens with launchers, widgets, and reskin their devices. Even pre-installed apps can be removed from the homescreen or disabled entirely.

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