

# What is Android?



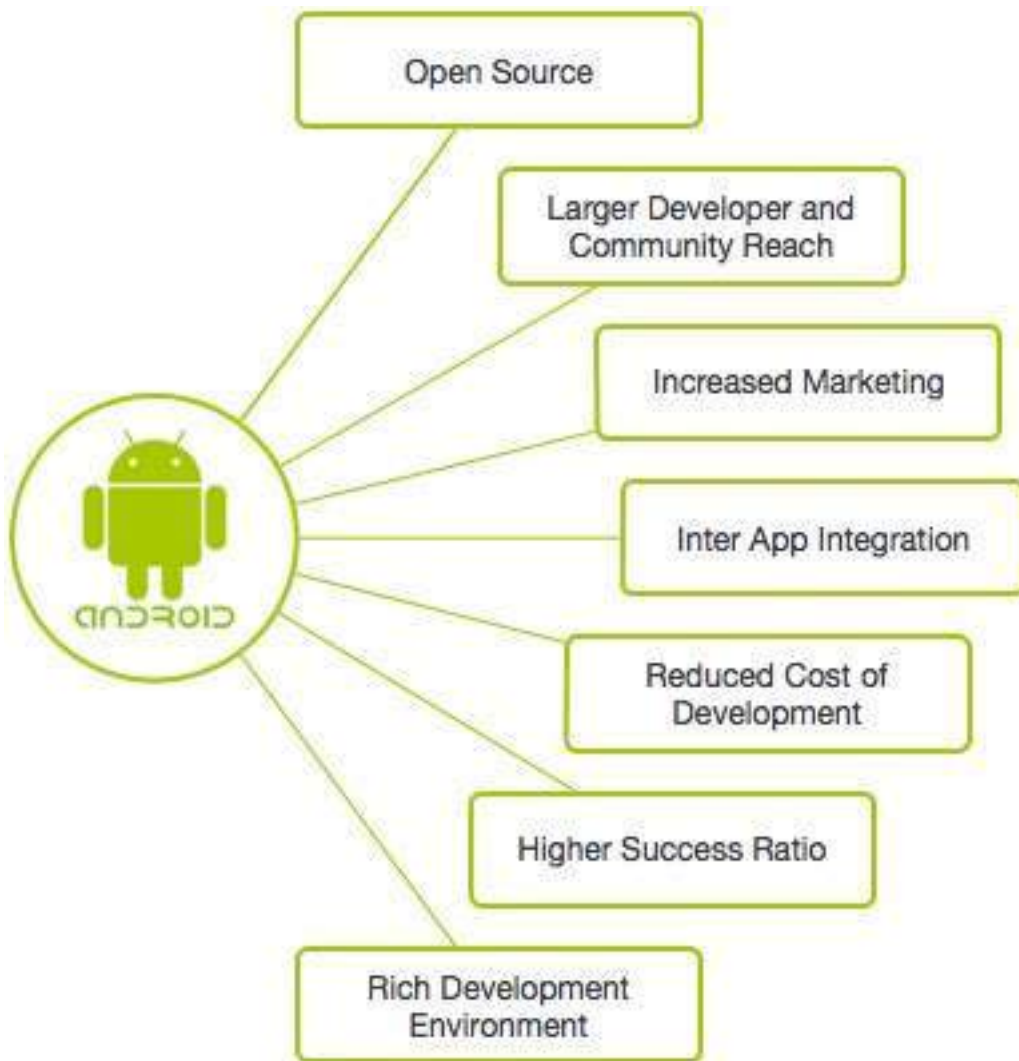
Android is an open source and Linux-based Operating System for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablet computers. Android was developed by the *Open Handset Alliance*, led by Google, and other companies.

Android offers a unified approach to application development for mobile devices which means developers need only develop for Android, and their applications should be able to run on different devices powered by Android. The first beta version of the Android Software Development Kit (SDK) was released by Google in 2007 where as the first commercial version, Android 1.0, was released in September 2008.

On June 27, 2012, at the Google I/O conference, Google announced the next Android version, 4.1 Jelly Bean. Jelly Bean is an incremental update, with the primary aim of improving the user interface, both in terms of functionality and performance.

The source code for Android is available under free and open source software licenses. Google publishes most of the code under the Apache License version 2.0 and the rest, Linux kernel changes, under the GNU General Public License version 2.

## Why Android ?



# Features of Android

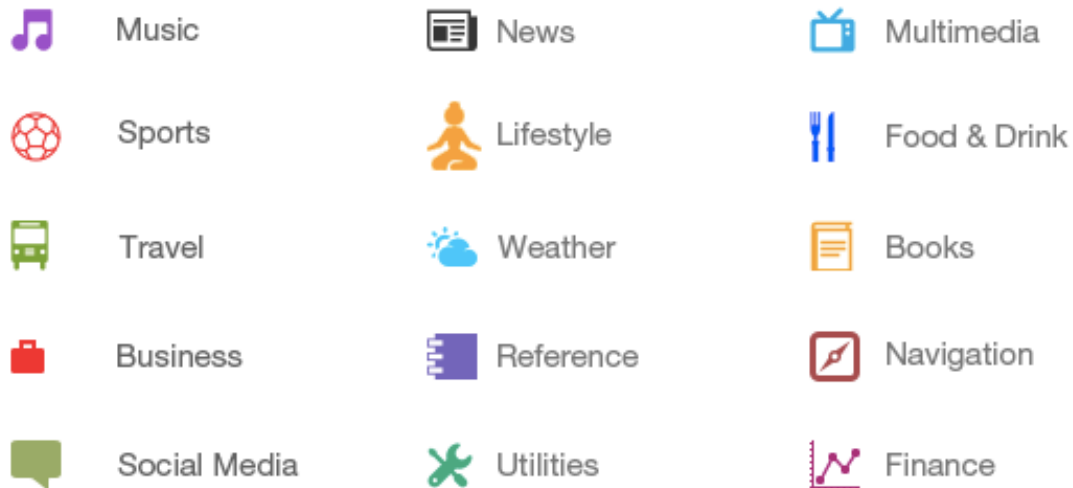
Android is a powerful operating system competing with Apple 4GS and supports great features. Few of them are listed below –

1	<b>Beautiful UI</b> Android OS basic screen provides a beautiful and intuitive user interface.
2	<b>Connectivity</b> GSM/EDGE, IDEN, CDMA, EV-DO, UMTS, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, LTE, NFC and WiMAX.
3	<b>Storage</b> SQLite, a lightweight relational database, is used for data storage purposes.
4	<b>Media support</b> H.263, H.264, MPEG-4 SP, AMR, AMR-WB, AAC, HE-AAC, AAC 5.1, MP3, MIDI, Ogg Vorbis, WAV, JPEG, PNG, GIF, and BMP.
5	<b>Messaging</b> SMS and MMS
6	<b>Web browser</b> Based on the open-source WebKit layout engine, coupled with Chrome's V8 JavaScript engine supporting HTML5 and CSS3.
7	<b>Multi-touch</b> Android has native support for multi-touch which was initially made available in handsets such as the HTC Hero.
8	<b>Multi-tasking</b> User can jump from one task to another and same time various application can run simultaneously.
9	<b>Resizable widgets</b> Widgets are resizable, so users can expand them to show more

# Android Applications

Android applications are usually developed in the Java language using the Android Software Development Kit.

Once developed, Android applications can be packaged easily and sold out either through a store such as Google Play, SlideME, Opera Mobile Store, Mobango, F-droid and the Amazon Appstore.



## History of Android

The code names of android ranges from A to N currently, such as Aestro, Blender, Cupcake, Donut, Eclair, Froyo, Gingerbread, Honeycomb, Ice Cream Sandwich, Jelly Bean, KitKat, Lollipop and Marshmallow. Let's understand the android history in a sequence.

