



Android

Page Discussion

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This article is underdeveloped, and needs additional work to meet the wiki's [Content Guidelines](#) and be in line with our [Mission Statement](#) for comprehensive coverage of consumer protection issues.

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Android is an operating system which started in 2003, got acquired by [Google](#) in 2005^[1], and made its first official release (Android 1.0) in 2008.^[2] It is based on a modified version of the Linux kernel and other open-source software, designed primarily for touchscreen-based mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, but is also used in smart TVs, cameras, in-car infotainment systems, etc.^[3]

Consumer impact summary [\[edit \]](#)

[edit source](#)]

With over 3.5 billion active users, open-source flexibility, affordability, and extensive device ecosystems continue to shape consumer behavior, regional adoption, and technological advancements.^{[4][5]} Android's global reach, affordability, and device diversity make it the preferred OS for billions, particularly in emerging economies. It remains the world's most widely used mobile operating system, but its dominance has been accompanied by controversies from security vulnerabilities and privacy concerns to accusations of anti-competitive behavior and declining open-source commitments.

Global market share [\[edit \]](#) [edit source](#)]

Android remains the world's dominant mobile operating system (OS) as of 2025, holding a 72.23% global market share compared to iOS with 27.39%.^[4]

- Asia & Africa: Android dominates with 95.16% in India, 86.8% in Indonesia, and 80.88% in Africa due to affordability and device variety.^{[4][6]}
- North America: Android holds 45% market share, trailing iOS (57.68%) in the U.S.^{[4][7]}

Android



Basic Information

Release Year	2008 (Android 1.0)
Product Type	Software
In Production	Yes
Official Website	https://android.com/ ↗

- Europe: Android leads with 65% market share, though iOS is strong in the UK (52.29%).^{[4][7]}
- Affordability: Android devices range from \$100 budget phones to premium flagships, making them accessible in emerging markets.^{[4][6]}
- Device Variety: Multiple manufacturers (Samsung, Xiaomi, OPPO) offer diverse options, unlike Apple's closed ecosystem.^[8]

Incidents [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

This is a list of all consumer protection incidents related to this software. Any incidents not mentioned here can be found in the [Android category](#).

Data collection [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Main article: [Android Data Collection](#)

Android mobile devices, even when minimally configured, collect and share extensive user data with Google and provide few options for opting-out, raising privacy concerns. Settings for opting-out of sharing data with Google are generally hard to find, requiring users to search the device's settings and Google's settings to locate and toggle the settings on/off. The data shared with Google is sensitive user data including call logs, messages, data recorded from the device's microphone and camera, and more. This data is used by Google to improve the targeting of personalized advertisements and as training data for [Google Gemini](#).

Android System Safety Core silent install [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Main article: [Android System SafetyCore](#)

On January 22, 2025, Google quietly rolled out Android System SafetyCore to all Android devices. The installation of the program neither informed consumers that it was installed, nor did it request consumers to install it onto their devices.

OEM Locked Bootloaders [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Main article: [Motorola](#)

In North America, many Android devices like phones or tablets will not allow consumers to unlock and do what they want to modify the software. Therefore, it has been incredibly difficult and nearly impossible to root and install custom ROMs on the device unless an exploit has been found.

Blocking third-party programs [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Main article: [Google blocking sideloading of unverified Android apps](#)

Starting at September 2026, third-party apps will no longer be able to install on a unmodified Android in Brazil, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand without "verified identities"^{[9][10]}. The affected regions will expand globally in 2027. Devices without Google Mobile Service (GMS) or running a third-party ROM won't be affected. However it's hard for users to bypass/spoof [Google Play Integrity](#) to hide their ROM or root status to use utility apps such as most of banking apps^[11].

Android Cast restricted to Google -signed receivers [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

In Android, streaming over network is referred as "Casting". In Android 4.4 Miracast support was introduced. Miracast is an open standard by the Wi-Fi -alliance which makes it possible to stream screen contents as well as high quality multichannel audio over wireless networks.

In Android 9, Miracast was fully replaced with proprietary Chromecast -protocol. Chromecast protocol includes signing key verification of both the Cast source and receiver device, meaning that since Android 9 it is no longer possible to cast high quality content to receivers which aren't signed by Google. This means that unlike AirPlay on Apple devices, there's no way to stream multichannel Hi-Fi audio on Android unless the receiver has a valid vendor signature.^[12]

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3. ↑ "Why Android?". *Android*. 2025. Archived from the original on 2025-07-12. Retrieved 2025-07-12.
4. ↑ 4.0 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 G, Nick (September 4, 2024). "Android Market Share in 2025: Global Dominance and Key Insights". *TechJury*. Archived from the original on June 29, 2025.
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8. ↑ Frąckiewicz, Marcin (May 16, 2025). "Smartphone Wars 2025: Inside the Global Market Shake-Up, Trends, and Future Tech Disruptions". *Ts2*. Archived from the original on July 20, 2025.
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10. ↑ "Google's plan to end sideloading on Android". *XdaForums*. 26 Aug 2025. Archived from the original on 26 Aug 2025. Retrieved 26 Aug 2025.
11. ↑ "[Discussion] The root-and-mod-hiding/fingerprint-spoofing/keybox-stealing cat-and-mouse game". *XdaForums*. 3 Apr 2022. Archived from the original on 23 Aug 2025. Retrieved 26 Aug 2025.
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Categories: Articles in need of additional work | Articles requiring expansion | Android

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