APPLE 2.0

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Fortune.com

Here are the details of Google's Brillo OS for the Internet of things

charts

by Philip Elmer-DeWitt @philiped Al

AUGUST 18, 2009, 6:50 PM EDT

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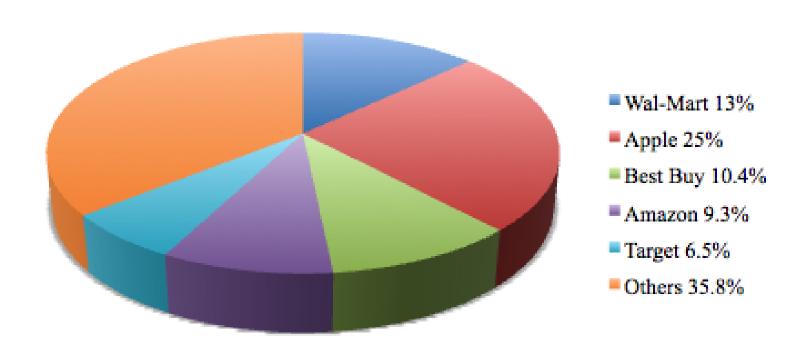
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Music Sales: Vendors



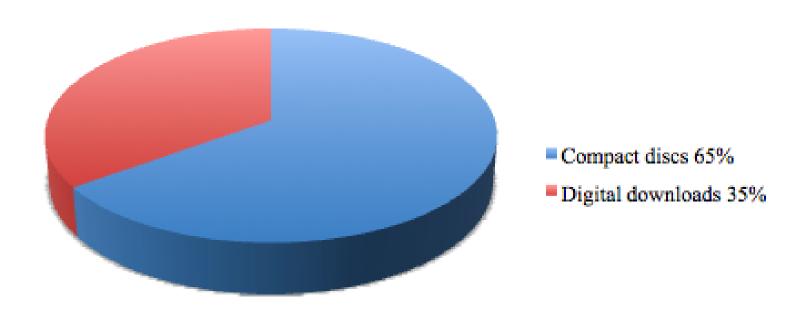
Source: NPD Group

The NPD Group on Tuesday issued what at first appears to be a pair of contradictory facts:

Apple (AAPL \checkmark -0.31%) now controls the largest share of the music business, its iTunes Store accounting for 25% of unit sales in the first half of 2009, up from 14% in 2007. Compact discs are still the most popular format for paid music, accounting for 65% of unit sales. How can this be? The trick is that Apple controls the lion's share — 69% — of paid downloads, whereas CD sales are spread out among many players, chief among them Wal-Mart (WMT \checkmark -0.31%), Best Buy (BBY \checkmark -0.06%), Amazon (AMZN \checkmark -0.80%) and Target (TGT \checkmark -0.42%).

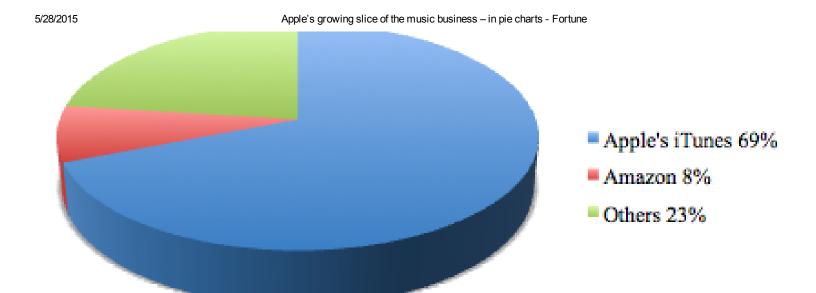
To see better how this works, let's put the data into pie charts:

Music Sales: Formats



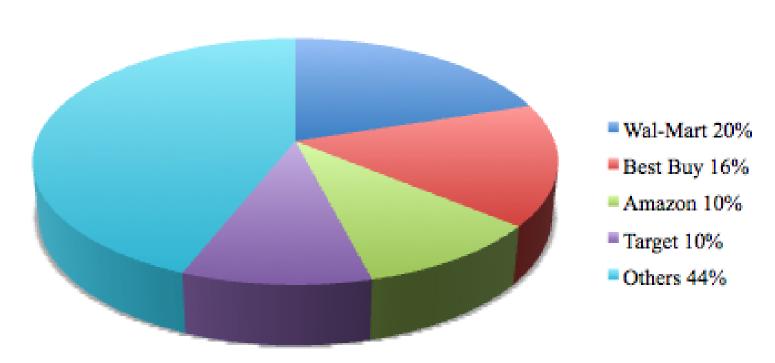
Source: NPD Group

Digital Downloads



Source: NPD Group

Compact Disc Sales



Source: NPD Group

Not covered in the NPD report, of course, is music piracy, which according to a recent U.K. report accounts for roughly 18% of music downloads — which would put it ahead of Amazon but well behind iTunes.

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