# Introduction

## Mobile usage today

There are over 5 billion mobile phones worldwide[[1]](#footnote-2). Phones have changes our lives, and have for many of us not only changed our way of life – for some it has been a very important part of our life. With over 5 billion phones, it is one of the most widespread types of technology.

The mobile technology has developed a lot since the early start. From the transportable phone to the latest Smartphones today.

## Android

Android is one of the most used operating system for smartphones and tablets. The android system is a free open source system from Google[[2]](#footnote-3). The android system does only work with devices equipped with a touchscreen[[3]](#footnote-4). There are over 100 million android devices, with 400.000 new devices every day[[4]](#footnote-5). HTC, Samsung and LG are some of the big mobile companies, who use android. They have their own skin, like HTCSence, but they use android as OS. The programs for android are called Apps. Apps can be downloaded from Android Market, where many apps are free, and some are for sale. There are over 200.000 apps available in Android Market, with 4.5 billion installed apps. [[5]](#footnote-6)

The many apps can improve the users’ experience of android, but all these apps are not authorized by Google. It means, that Google do not control the porpoise of the app, e.g. sending personal information to a third part.

## IMEI

International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is a number which follows the mobile unit. If the SIM-card on a phone is replaced, the IMEI number will remain the same. When a phone connects to the mobile network, it will be identified by its IMEI. The IMEI can be a great weapon against cell phone thieves. If a cell phone is stolen, the police have the possibility to block the IMEI, so the phone cannot get access to the mobile network anywhere in the world, which will make the mobile useless as a mobile phone.

The IMEI is a unique number for a phone – in theory. There are examples of changing the IMEI of a phone, making it a copy of another phone.

The IMEI has a lot of opportunities, like combating theft, but also have some possibilities of illegal use.

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10569081> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <http://source.android.com/source/licenses.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <http://www.gartner.com/it/page.jsp?id=1764714> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2011/05/android-momentum-mobile-and-more-at.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2011/05/android-momentum-mobile-and-more-at.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)