

shares [6] and does not seem to decrease. This means the number of people who own such a device and would like to enjoy their FLAC music tracks will be increasing as well.

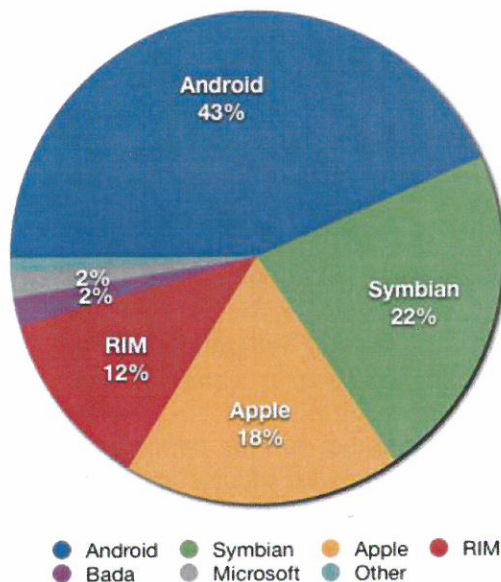


Fig. 3 Smartphone market shares in 2011 Q2 [7].
to change to the latest Ice-Cream Sandwich.

What is more, it is worth noting that even though the Android OS does not support the FLAC format natively yet, it was recently revealed that the Honeycomb version and newer will in fact recognize this format in the same way as, for instance, the MP3s. However, Android Honeycomb is tablet-oriented and does not exist on smartphones. Smartphone users will have to wait until there is an upgrade to Android Ice-Cream Sandwich available for their devices. Still, not all of the phones will be provided with such an upgrade – some of them are condemned to run the older Android Gingerbread. In my opinion this makes creating my application even more worthwhile as a significant amount of time will have to have passed for most of Android users

1.5 FLAC Music Players on the Android Market

As mentioned before, there are several other free music player applications on the Android Market which provide support for the FLAC format, with examples of these being Meridian Media Player Revolute, Mixzing and andLess (their screenshots might be seen in Figures 4 and 5). It is obvious it is not possible to examine their design from the programming point of view in order to see how their creators dealt with any problems they might have encountered during the process of programming their applications. However, these programs might provide a good source of ideas for features and user interface design that would be utilised in my own application.



Fig. 4 Meridian Media Player Revolute screenshot [8].