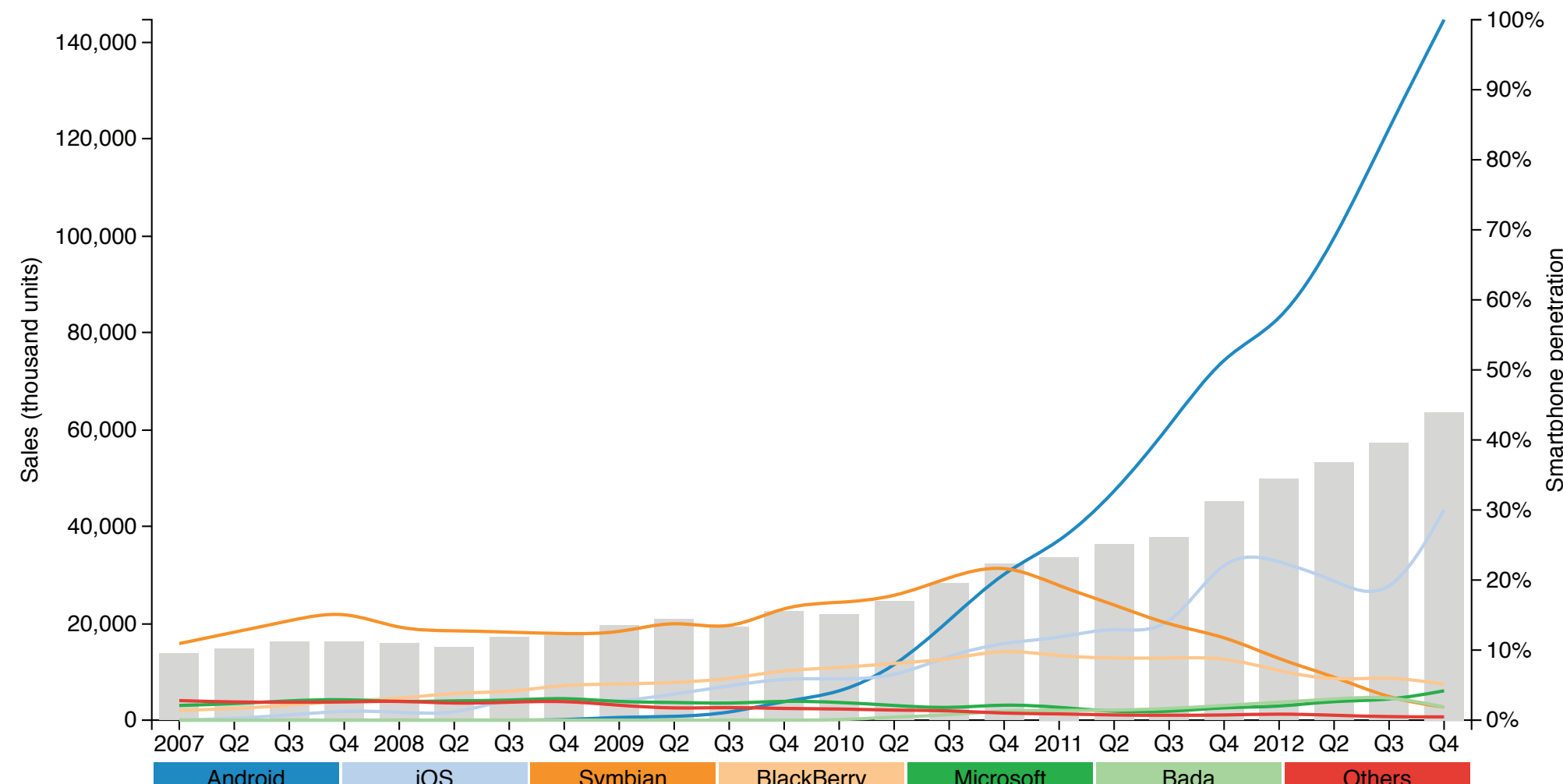


A comparative study of cross-platform tools for mobile application development

Michiel Staessen, department of computer science, KU Leuven
2012 – 2013



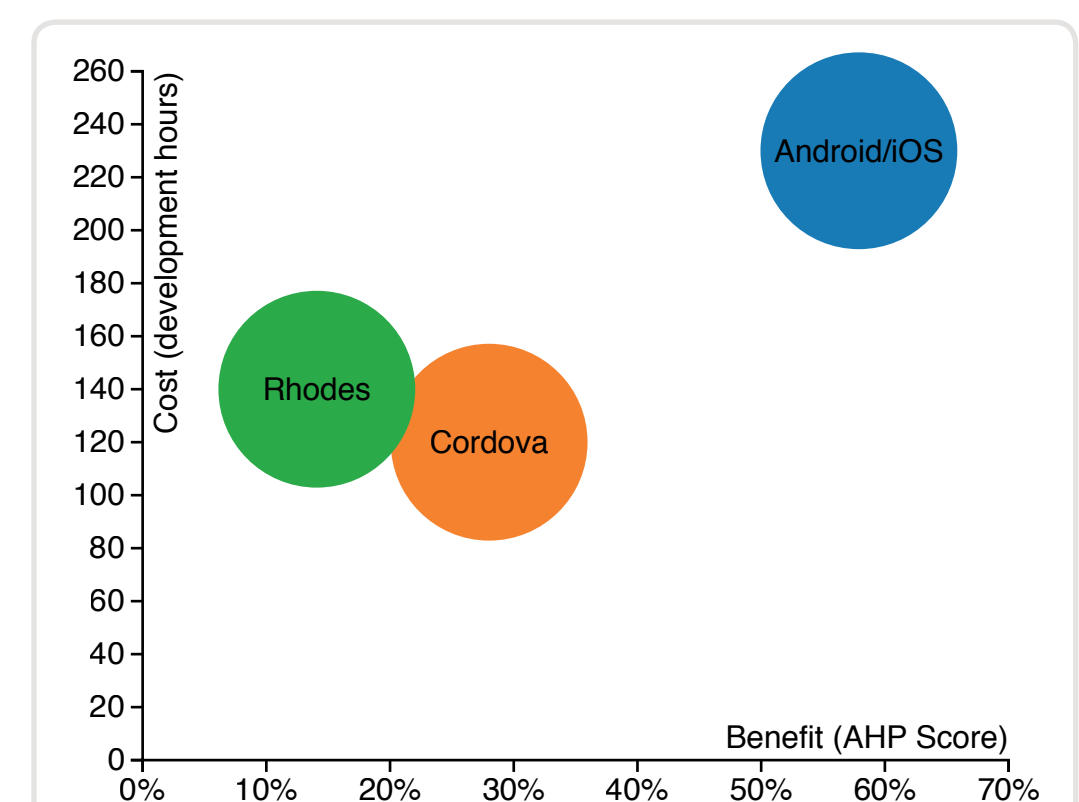
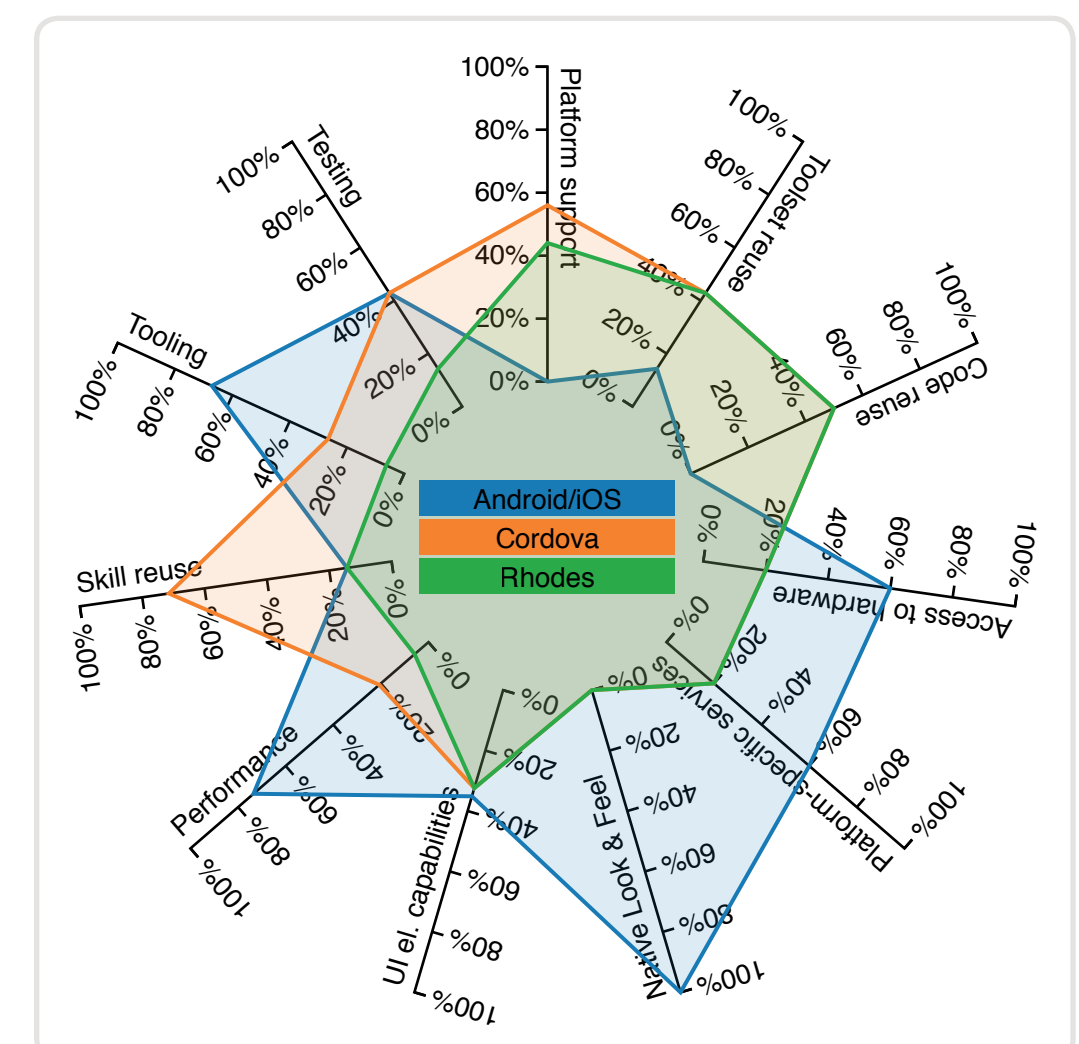
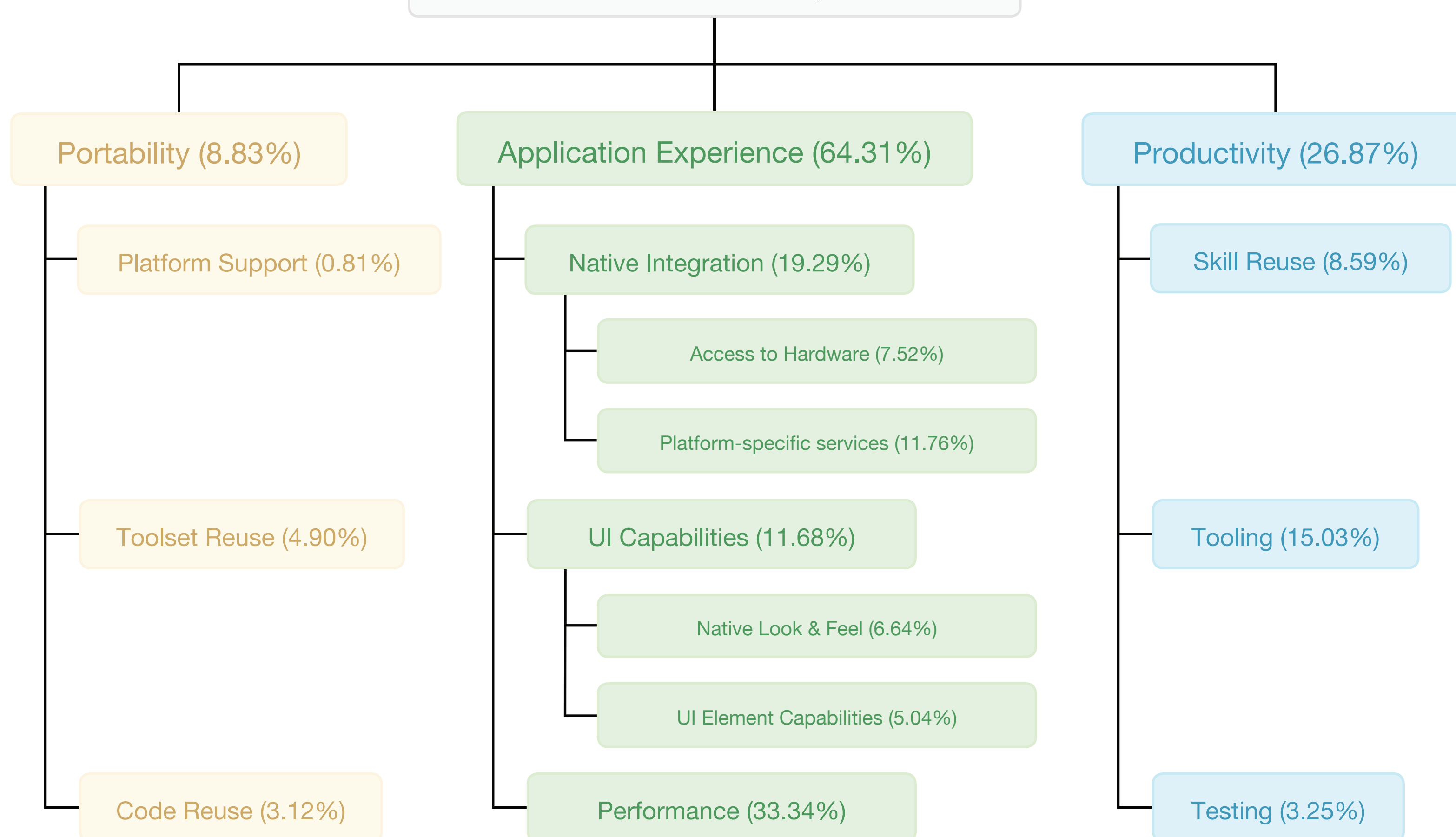
What is a cross-platform tool?

A cross-platform tool allows the development of applications for multiple platforms from a single codebase.

They...

- ... reduce entry- and exit barriers,
- ... deal with fragmentation,
- ... provide easy access to new platforms and screens,
- ... allow for efficient use of developer resources.

Goal: Select the best cross-platform tool



Apache Cordova

- Produces hybrid applications
- HTML5 – JavaScript – CSS
- Free (Apache 2.0 open source license)
- Extendable plugin system
- Extremely easy to adopt
- No native look & feel



Android

- Native apps
- Java + XML
- High performance
- Cheap
- Awful runtime fragmentation



iOS

- Native apps
- Objective-C
- High performance
- Great IDE
- Rather expensive



Motorola Rhodes

- Produces interpreted/hybrid applications
- Ruby + HTML(5) – JavaScript – CSS
- Free (MIT) + paid extensions (RhoMobile)
- Targets enterprise applications
- Not extendable
- Poor performance and tooling

