

# An Exploration of the Handset Technology Landscape

Jared Moore

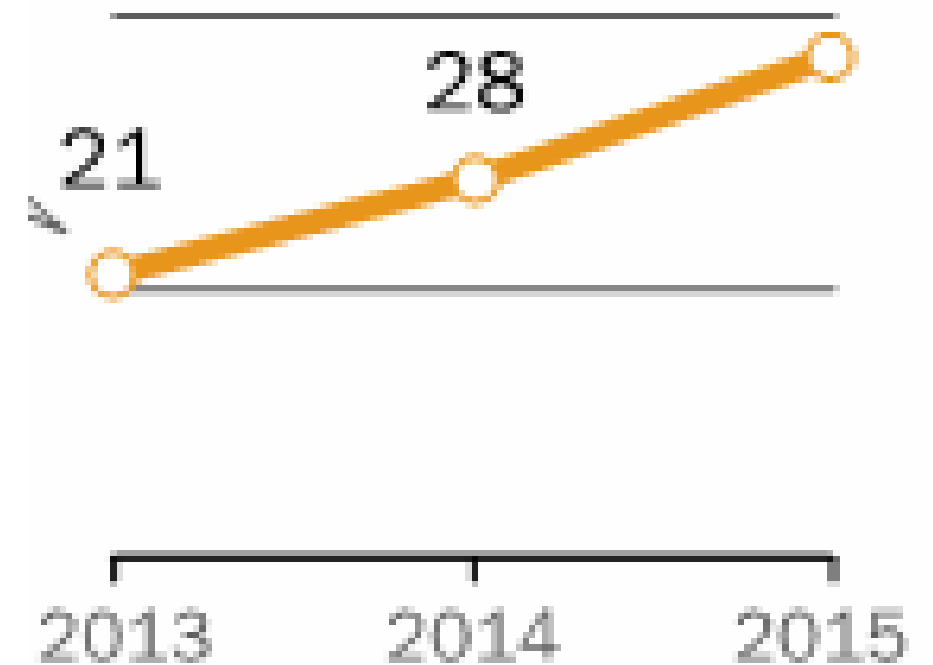


# Smartphones are the future?

**“Unlike old-fashioned “dumb” phones or even feature phones, smartphones can accommodate sophisticated financial services in a user-friendly way.”** (Mckinsey)

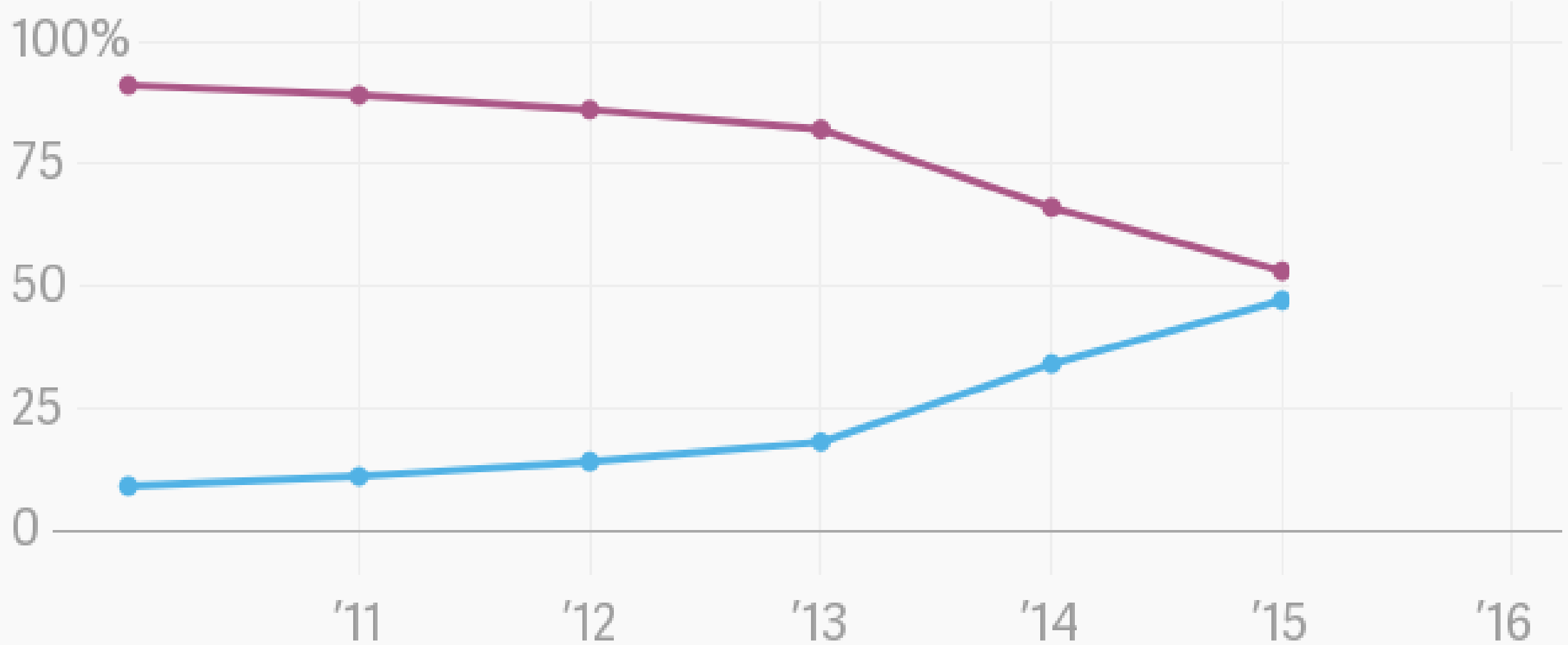
“Android devices can provide access to data from device sensors, apps, and the OS.” (FSP)

*Pew: “Adults Who Report Owning A smartphone in Emerging Economies”*



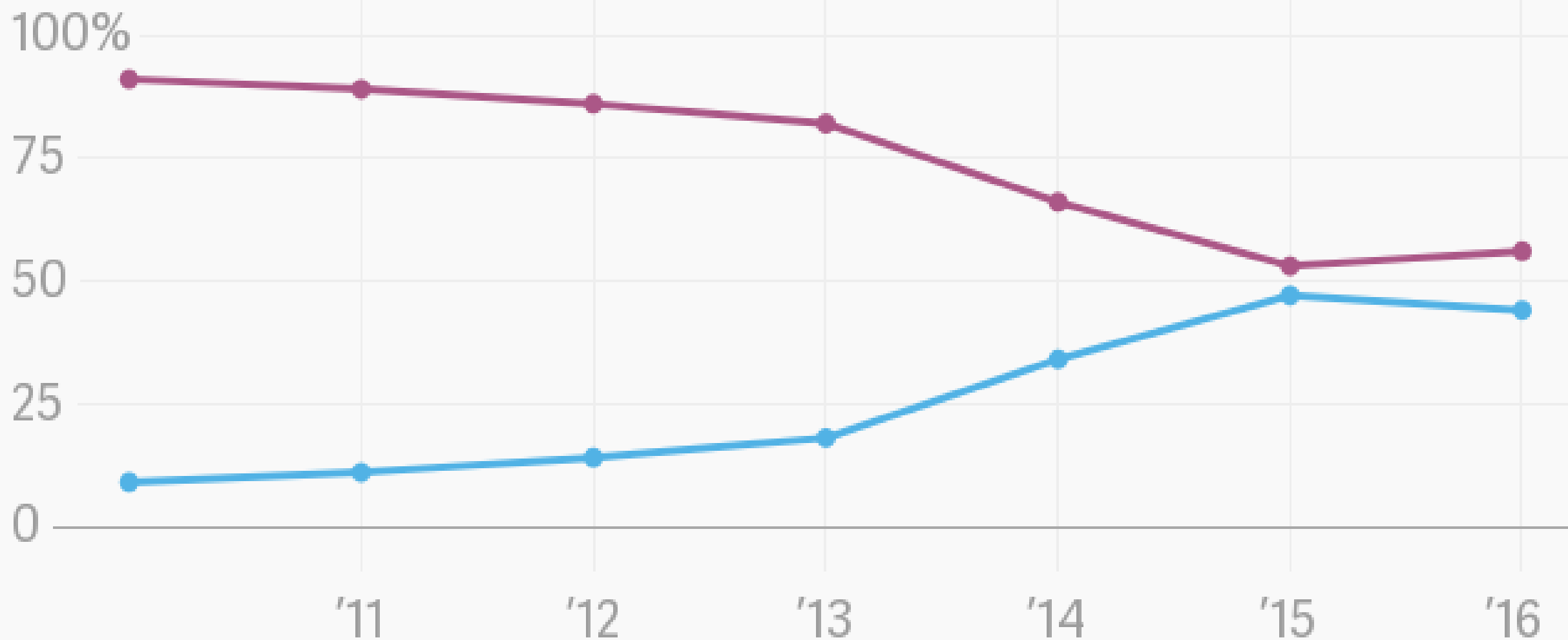
# Smartphone sales in Africa

■ Feature phone share ■ Smartphone share



# Smartphone sales in Africa didn't overtake feature phones in 2016

■ Feature phone share ■ Smartphone share



# Research Questions

## **1. Is the focus of DFS on smartphones sufficient?**

a) What does the handset landscape look like?

b) What do we mean by smartphone, feature phone, etc.?

## **2. What are the processes of application development, installation, distribution, and use on feature phones?**

# Outline

- 1. Term-setting and classification**
2. Application Development Process
3. Feature phone app platforms

*Pew Research Study on Smartphones, 2015:*

**“Q72: Some cellphones are called  
"smartphones" because they can access the  
internet and apps. Is your cellphone a  
smartphone, such as an iPhone, a Blackberry ...  
?”**

# Is this a smartphone?

- It has
  - Only LTE access
  - An app store\*
  - Wifi
  - A voice assistant
  - A front and rear camera
- But it looks like





# Handsets Attributes

- Battery life (mAh)
- Data access (2, 3, 4 G)
- Multimedia ability (video, camera)
- Input mode (keypad, keyboard, touch)
- How they run apps
- Operating System (OS) type


# Classification of Operating Systems

## Basic

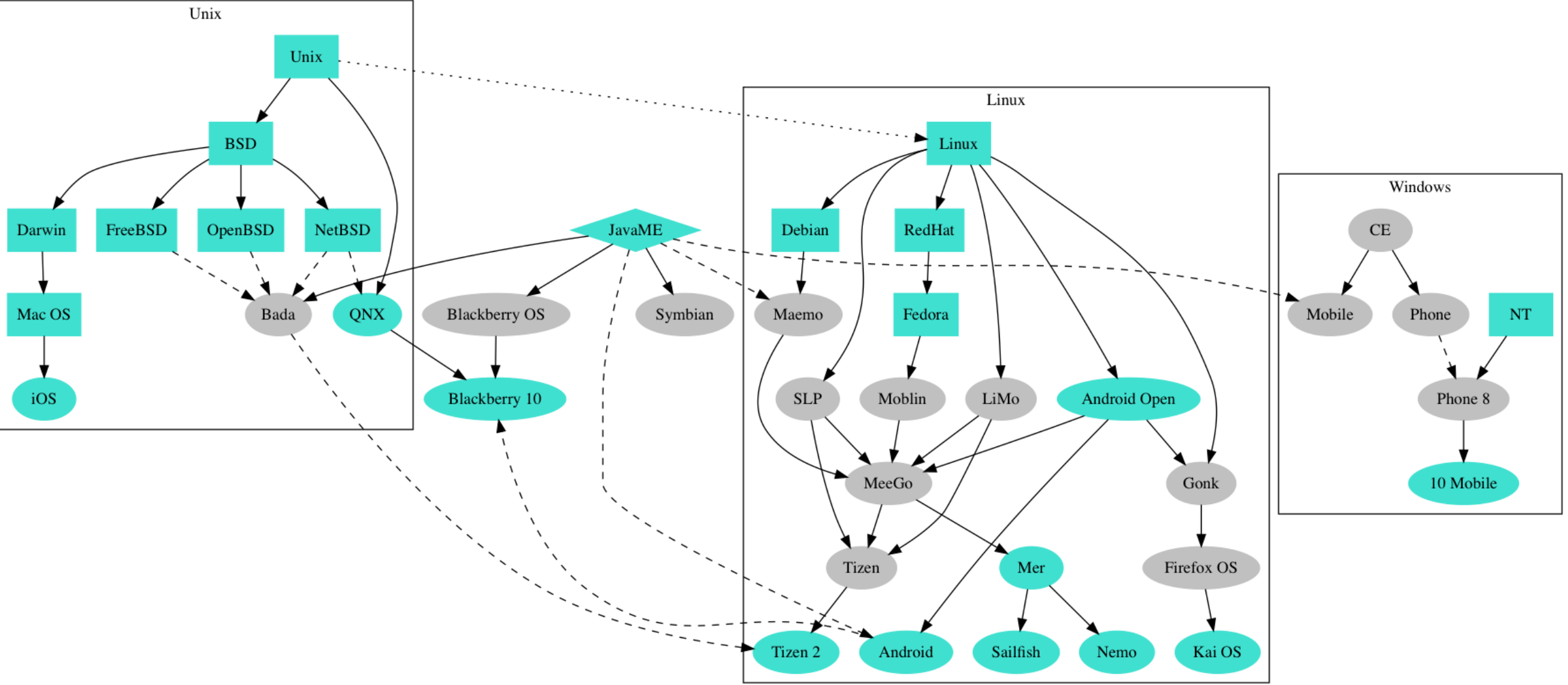
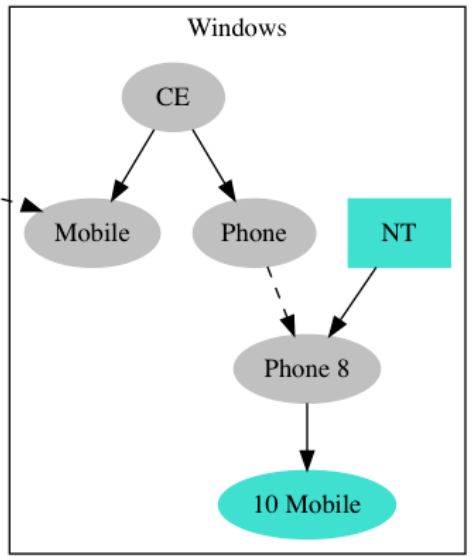
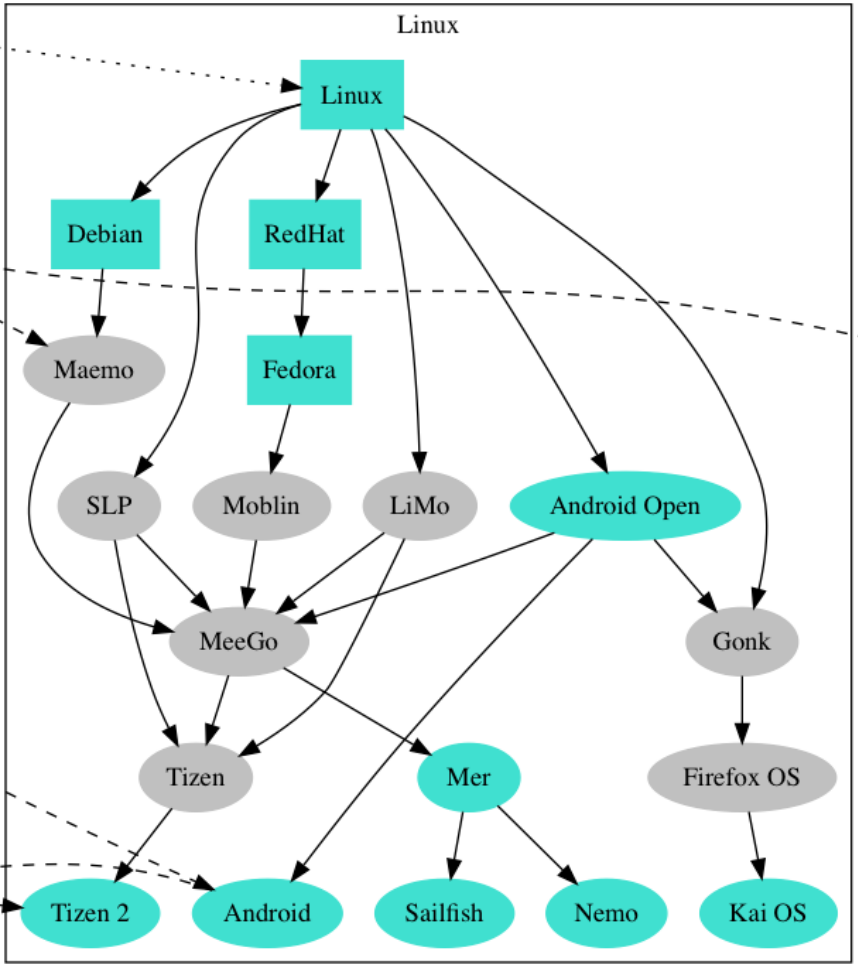
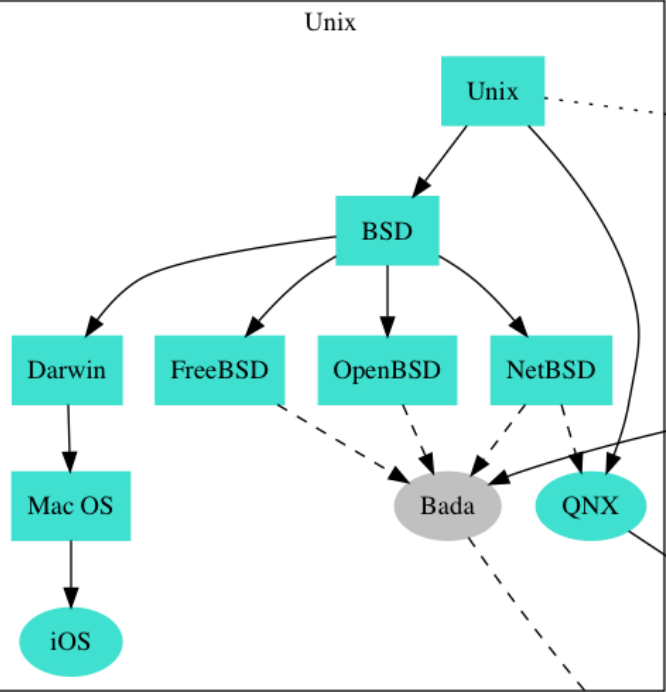
- Proprietary
- Runs off of firmware
- Not “smart”

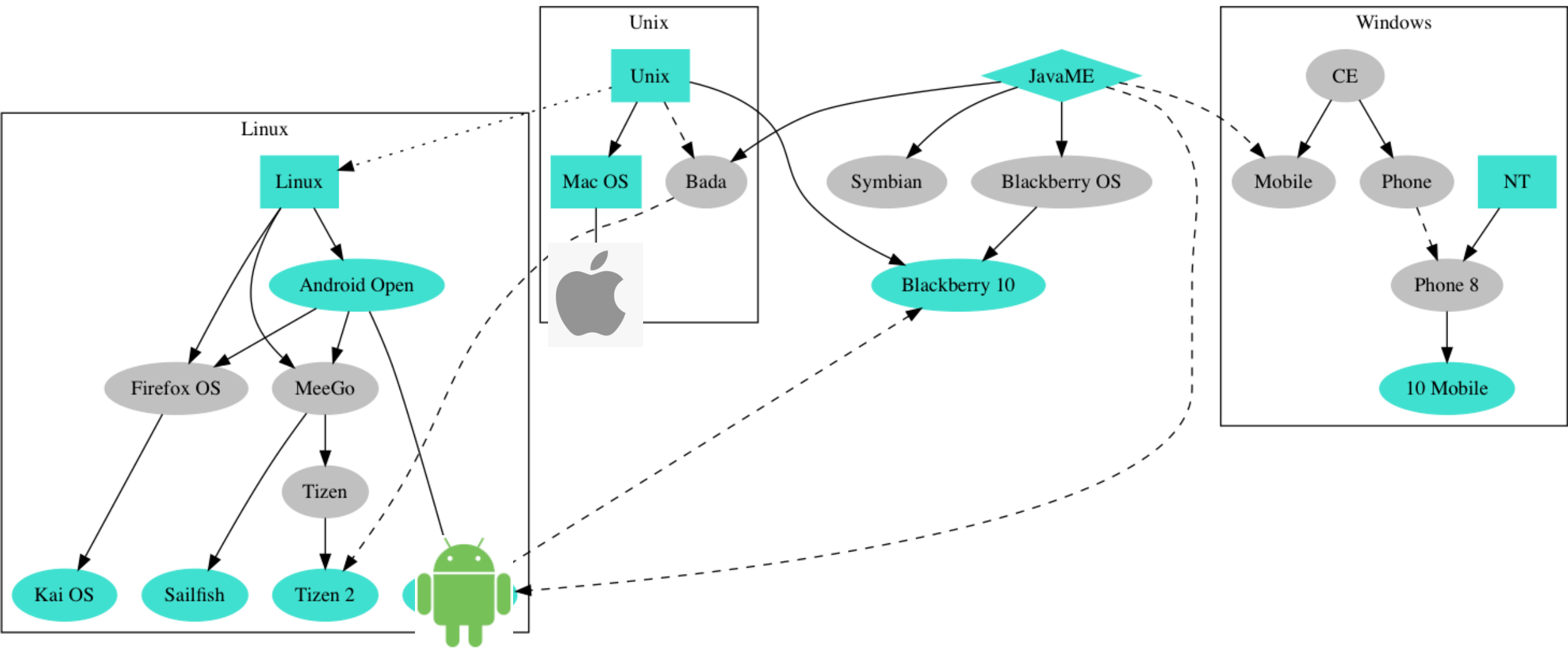


## Smart

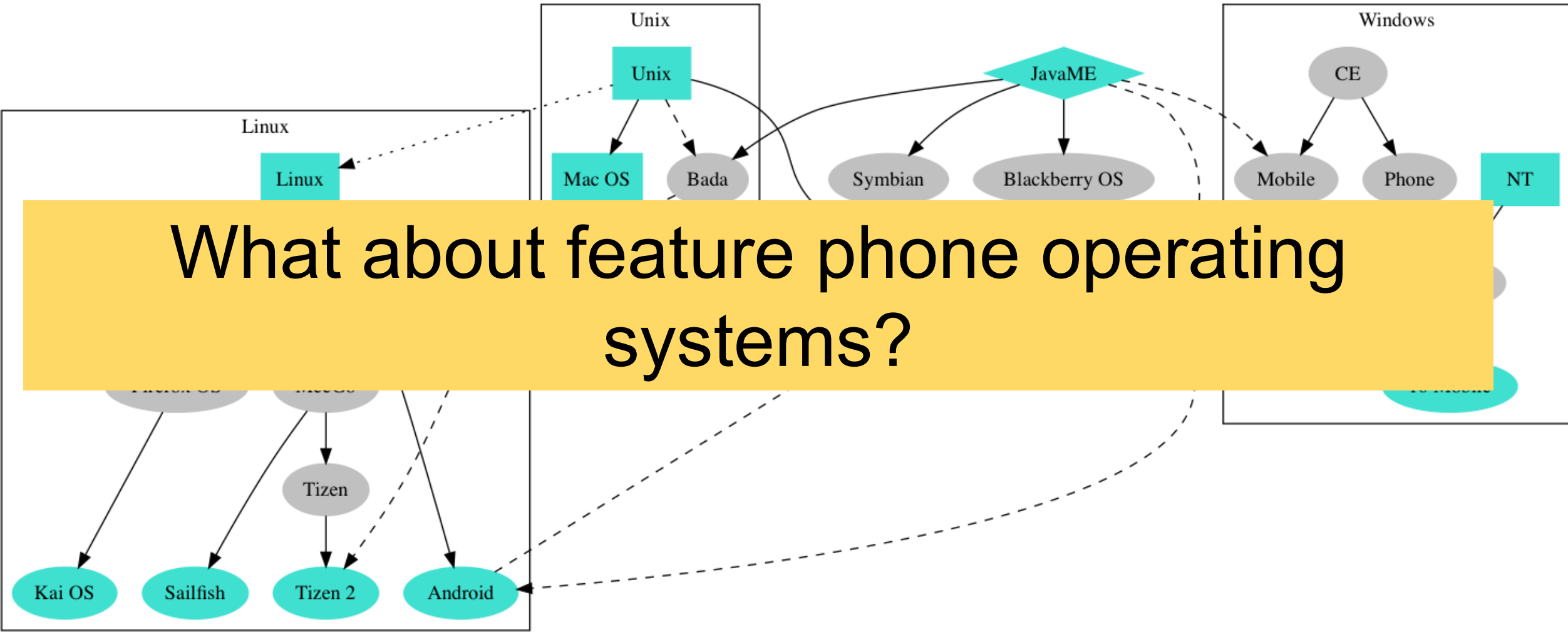
- Has an app store
- Is one of
  - **Android**  **(83%)**
  - **iOS** **(15%)**
  - Windows Mobile **(1%)**
  - BlackBerry
  - Tizen
  - Sailfish OS

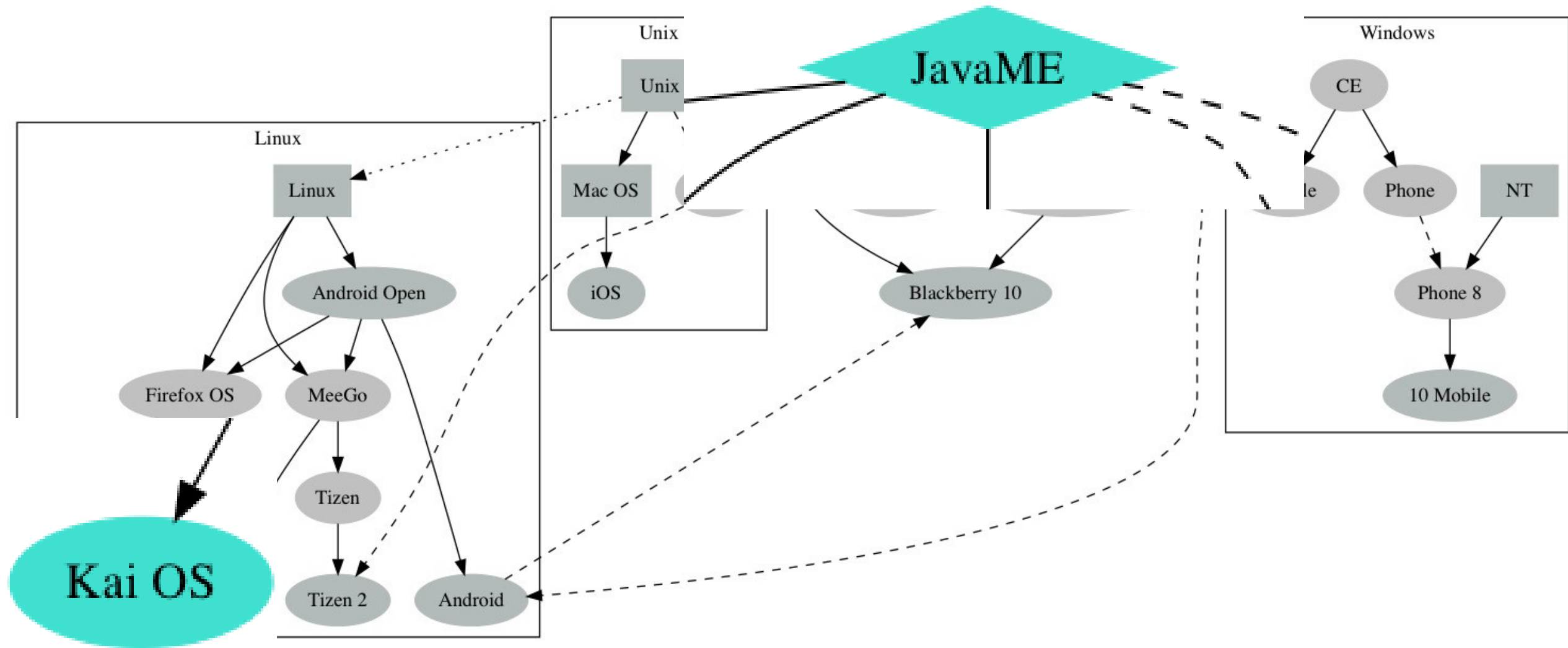
(IDC)





What about feature phone operating systems?

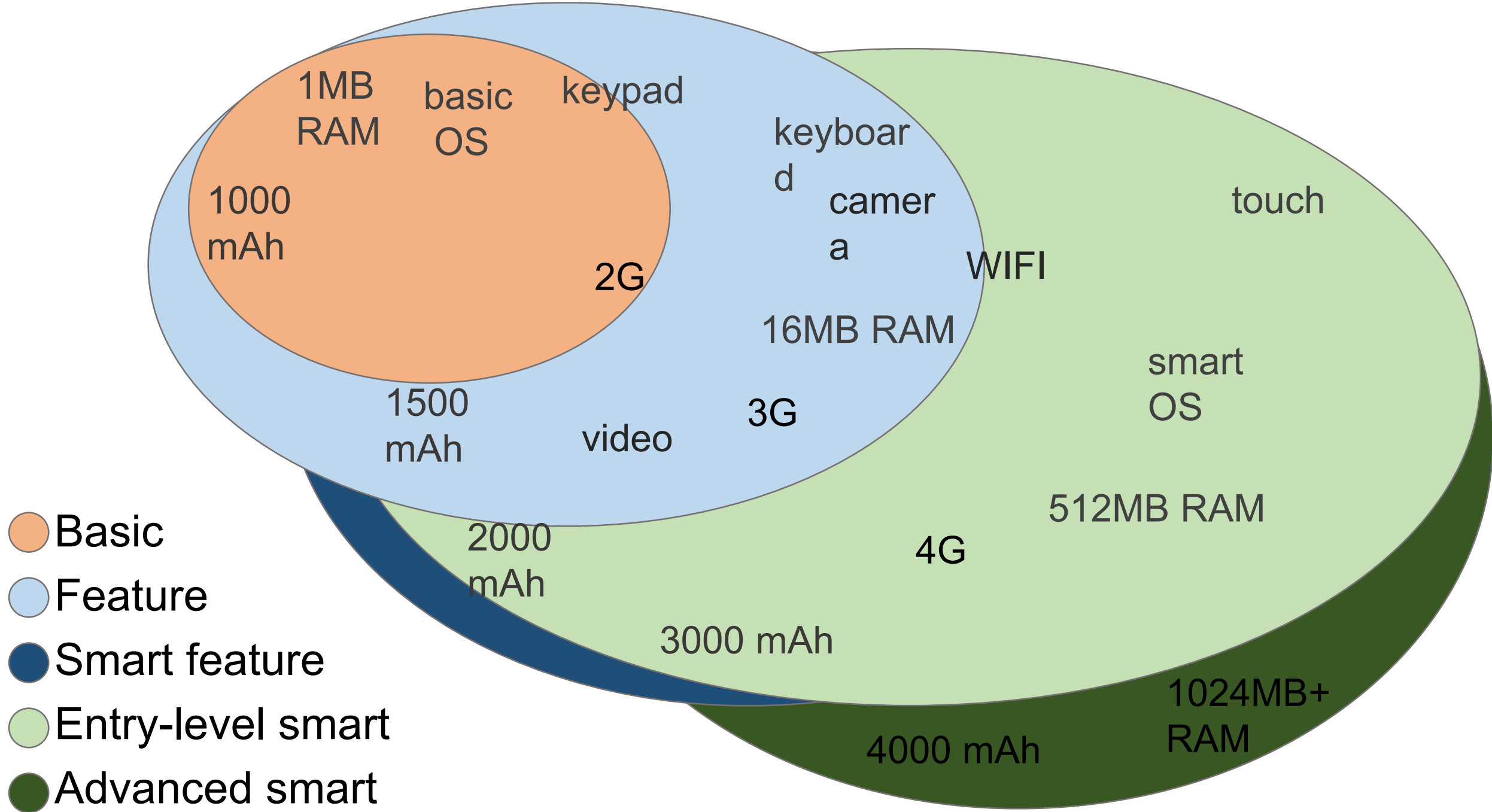




# Classification of Handsets

- Basic
- Feature
- **Smart feature**
- **Entry-level smartphone**
- **Advanced smartphone**







# Outline

1. Term-setting and classification
- 2. Application Development Process**
3. Feature phone app platforms

## Examples

**SMS** As receipts, M-Pesa

**USSD** M-Pesa (Tanzania)

**IVR** EcoBank

**SIM app** M-Pesa (Kenya)

**Thin-sim** Equity Bank (Kenya)

**Browser** EcoBank

**Feature phone  
app**

**Smartphone app** PayTM (India)



**Paytm**

# **Bottlenecks**

**USSD** Functionality, Telco contracts

**SIM app** Deployment, functionality

**Browser** Data cost, security

**Feature phone  
app** Deployment, engineering, functionality

**Smartphone app** Reach, engineering

# Costs

- Handset
  - Energy
  - Network
  - Hardware
- Application
  - MNO contract?
  - Developer time



# The Technology Depends On:

- Who is the developer?
- Does application require multimedia?
  
- Does population have home electricity?
- What is population's network coverage?
- What is distribution of handsets in population?

# Probable DFS Paths

- Telco

- USSD + sim toolkit + (optional) smartphone app, SMS



**vodacom**

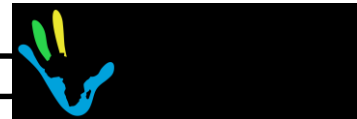
- Bank

- Smartphone app + (rarely) thin sim



- Startup

- Smartphone app + (sometimes) USSD



- **Desired**

- Feature phone app

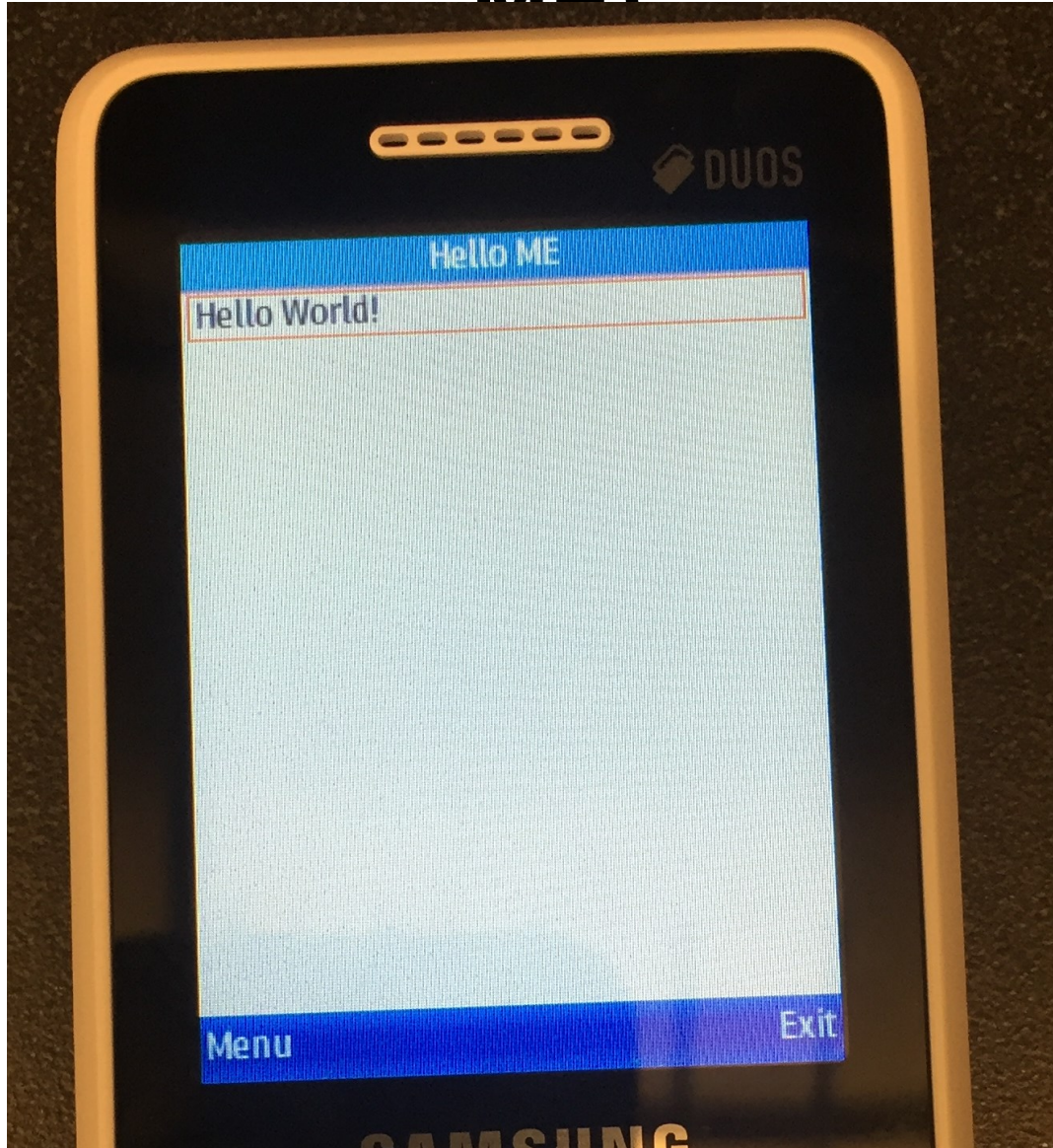
# Native Feature Phone Apps

- JavaME
  - Opera/Bemobi App Store or side-load
  - Compatibility issues
- Proprietary OS
  - MNO
  - Scalability issues

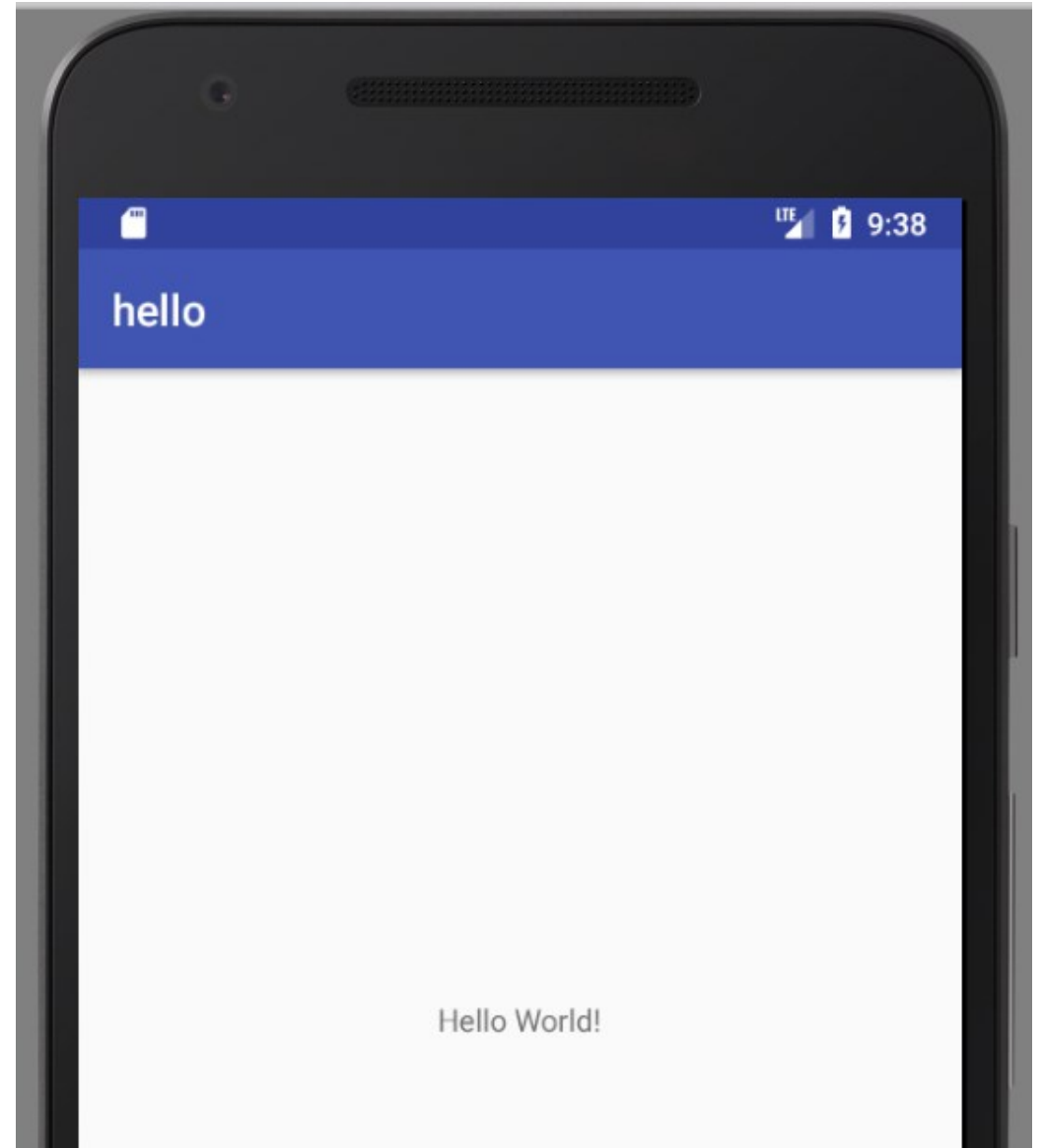




# Basic (Java ME)



# Smart (Android)





**Basic (Java ME)**

**Smart (Android)**

**0 to 60**

20 hours

2 hours

**Phones Operable**

Some

Almost all

**Distribute**

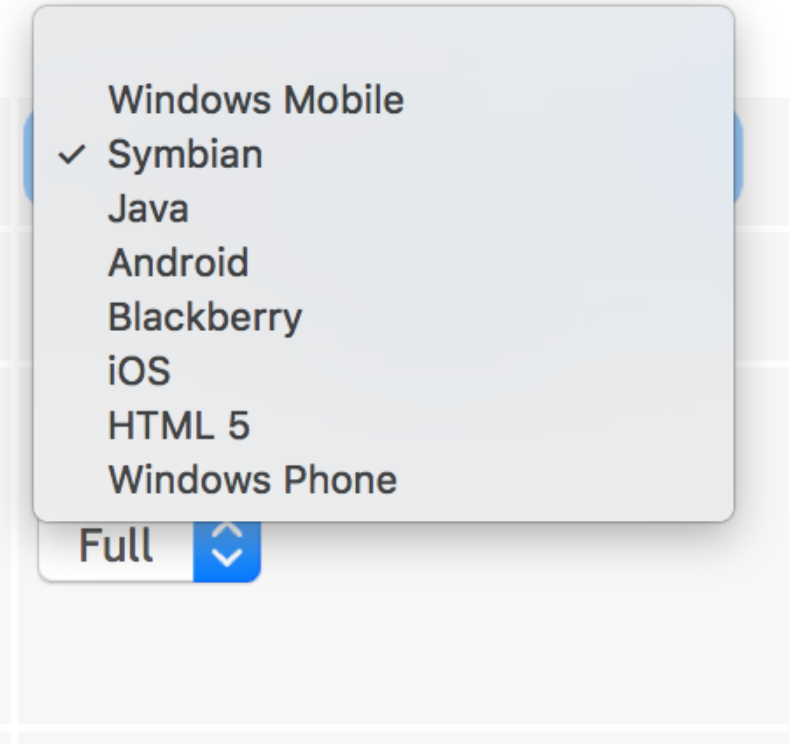
Preinstalled,  
Bemobi

Google Play Store

# Opera/ Bemobi Mobile S



- 6745 handset models run JavaME
  - Acer E200 to ZTE Yoigo F233
  - 136 makes
- 273 handset models run Symbian





NOKIA

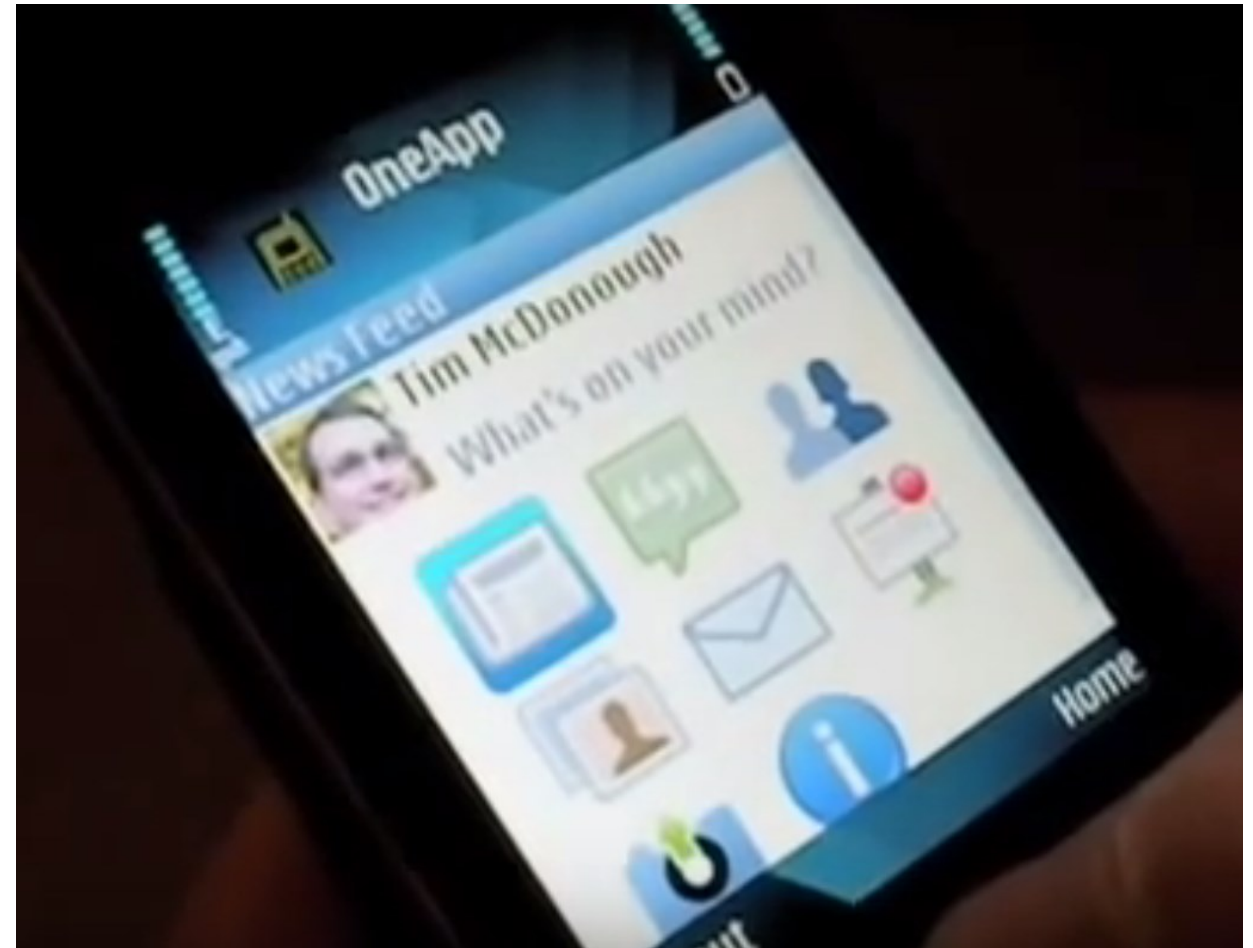
**SORRY. THIS SCREEN  
ORIENTATION IS  
NOT SUPPORTED**



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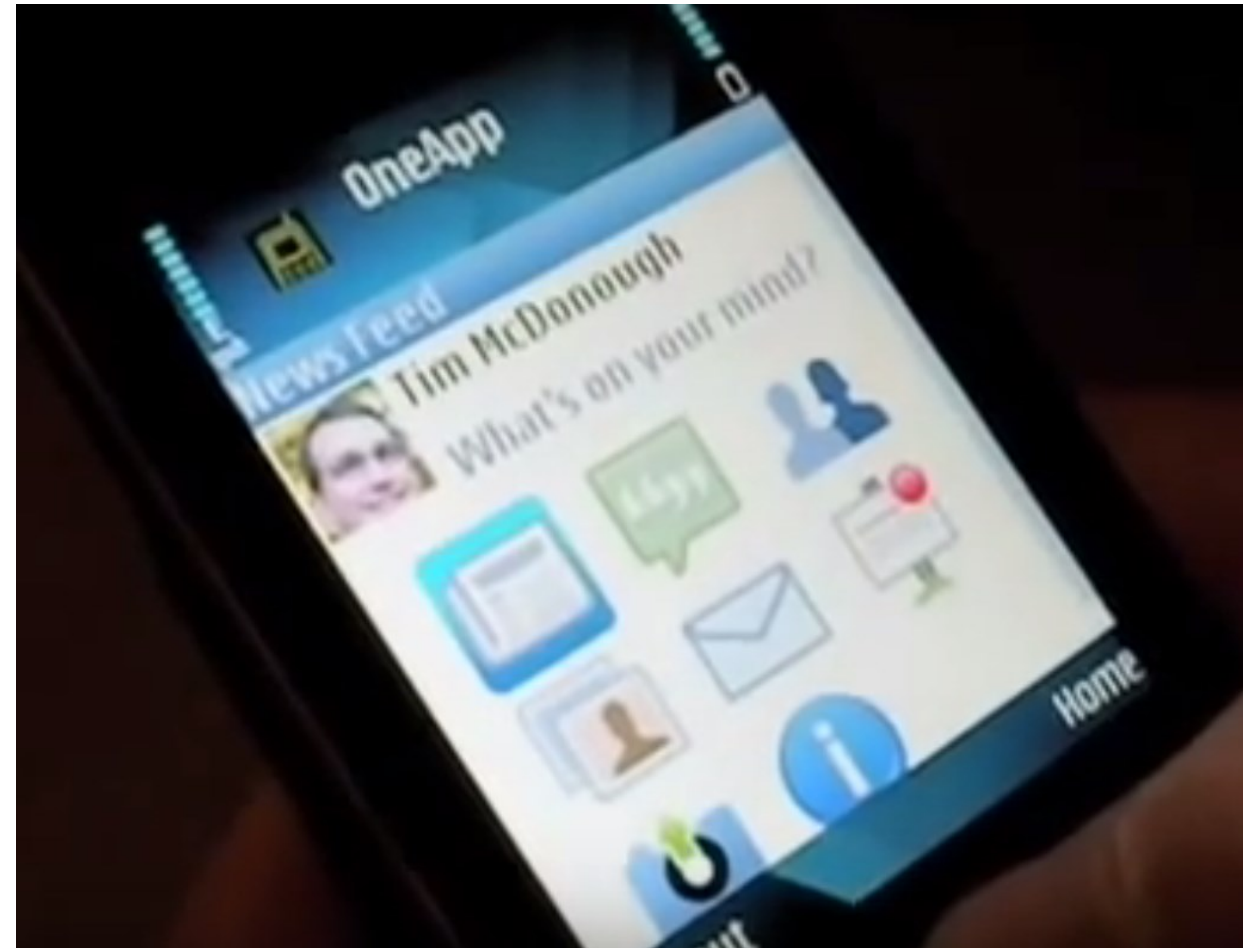
“A new software application designed for feature phones ...OneApp expands the capabilities of these handsets to deliver new apps and services”



## **“MOBILE WALLET**

**Transactions made easy.**

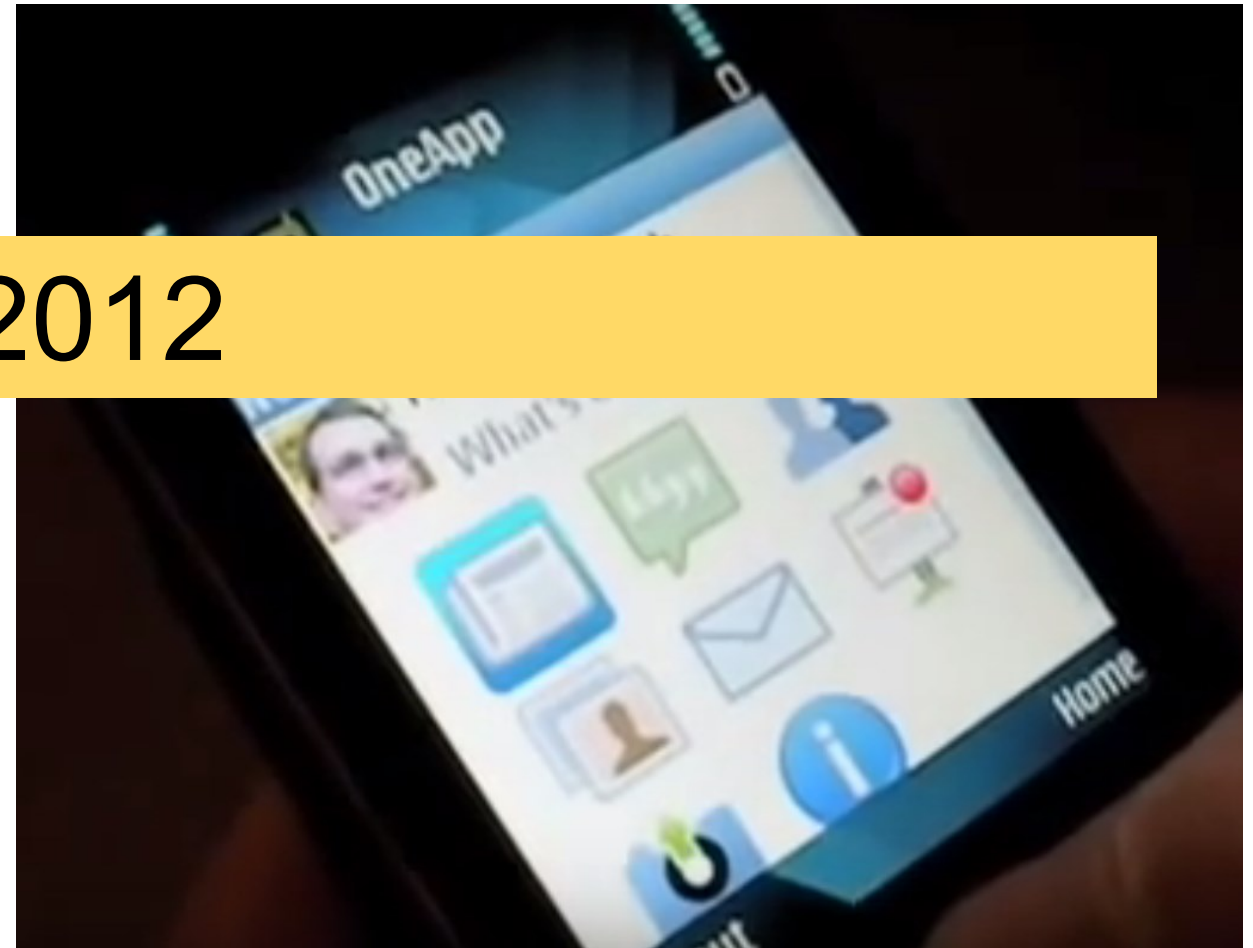
Top off airtime, pay bills, buy tickets, or send money to a friend or family member—no more lines and no bank account needed!”



**“MOBILE WALLET**

**RIP 2012**

top up airtime, pay bills, buy tickets, or send money to a friend or family member—no more lines and no bank account needed!”



**UPDATE:** You won't be able to use **WhatsApp** on the following platforms for:

- Nokia Symbian S60 after June 30, 2017
- BlackBerry OS and BlackBerry 10 after December 31, 2017
- Windows Phone 8.0 and older after December 31, 2017
- Nokia S40 after December 31, 2018
- Android versions 2.3.7 and older after February 1, 2020





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# Is this a smartphone?

**\$2.50**

**42GB DATA**

**Validity: 28 days**

Free voice calls | Unlimited Data  
Unlimited SMS | Jio Apps



India <b>Featurephone</b> Shipment Market Share (%)	Q4 2016	Q4 2017
JIO	-	26%
SAMSUNG	25%	15%
MICROMAX	9%	9%
ITEL	11%	7%
NOKIA HMD	-	6%
OTHERS	55%	37%

# Jio Phone

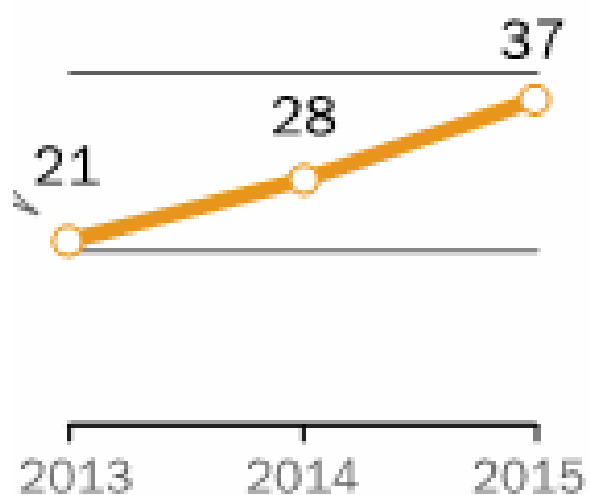
- Exemplifies continued demand for feature phones
- Easier development with HTML5
- Adoption despite no open app environment
- Data cost model

Kai OS



# Future(s) of Open Platforms

1. Smartphones take over world
2. Jio-like phones are a viable middle and low end
3.  $\frac{21}{28} = \frac{28}{37}$  d, use least common denominator



# Open Questions

- 1. What is the handset distribution and usage data over time for various developing regions?**
2. What policies will help create our desired world?

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# Questions?

1. We can't abstract DFS from the devices
2. Handset classifications are conveniences
3. Consider app. development, deployment and cost

