Mobile App's for disaster.

Samantha Ridler Ueno BEng MPhil

Content

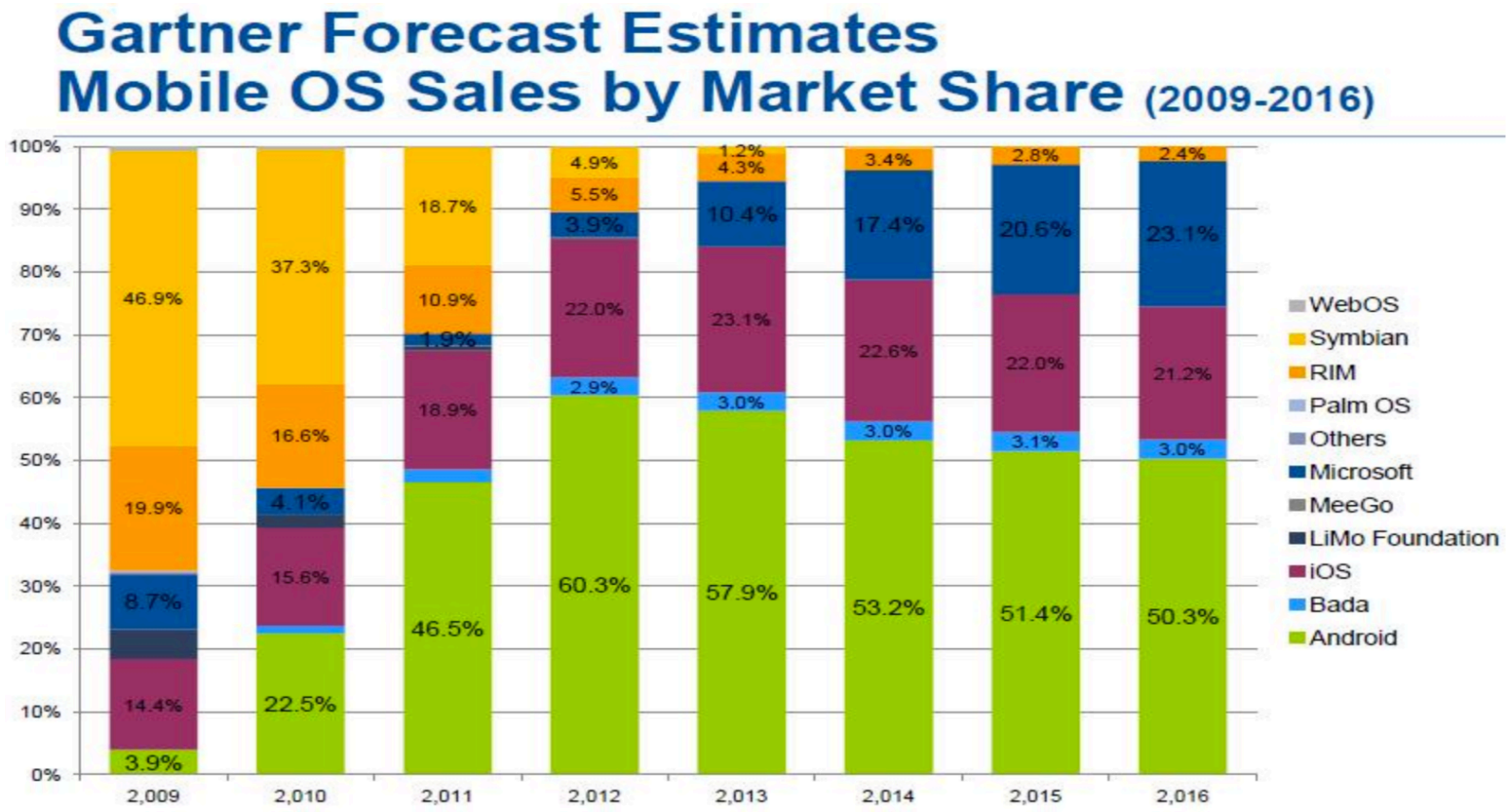
- Intro to App's
- Operating systems
- App's for disaster
- Categories
- Interesting innovations
- Concerns
- Best practices
- Conclusion

An App for everything

App's = software programs designed to run on mobile device operating systems

- Mobile phones, tablets, PC's, Vehicles, smart watches …
- Rate of App growth 45% in 2012
- 1.4 billion smartphones by end of 2013
- Are download from internet 'App stores' or specific websites
- Created by Individuals, and public / private sector organizations

Operating systems

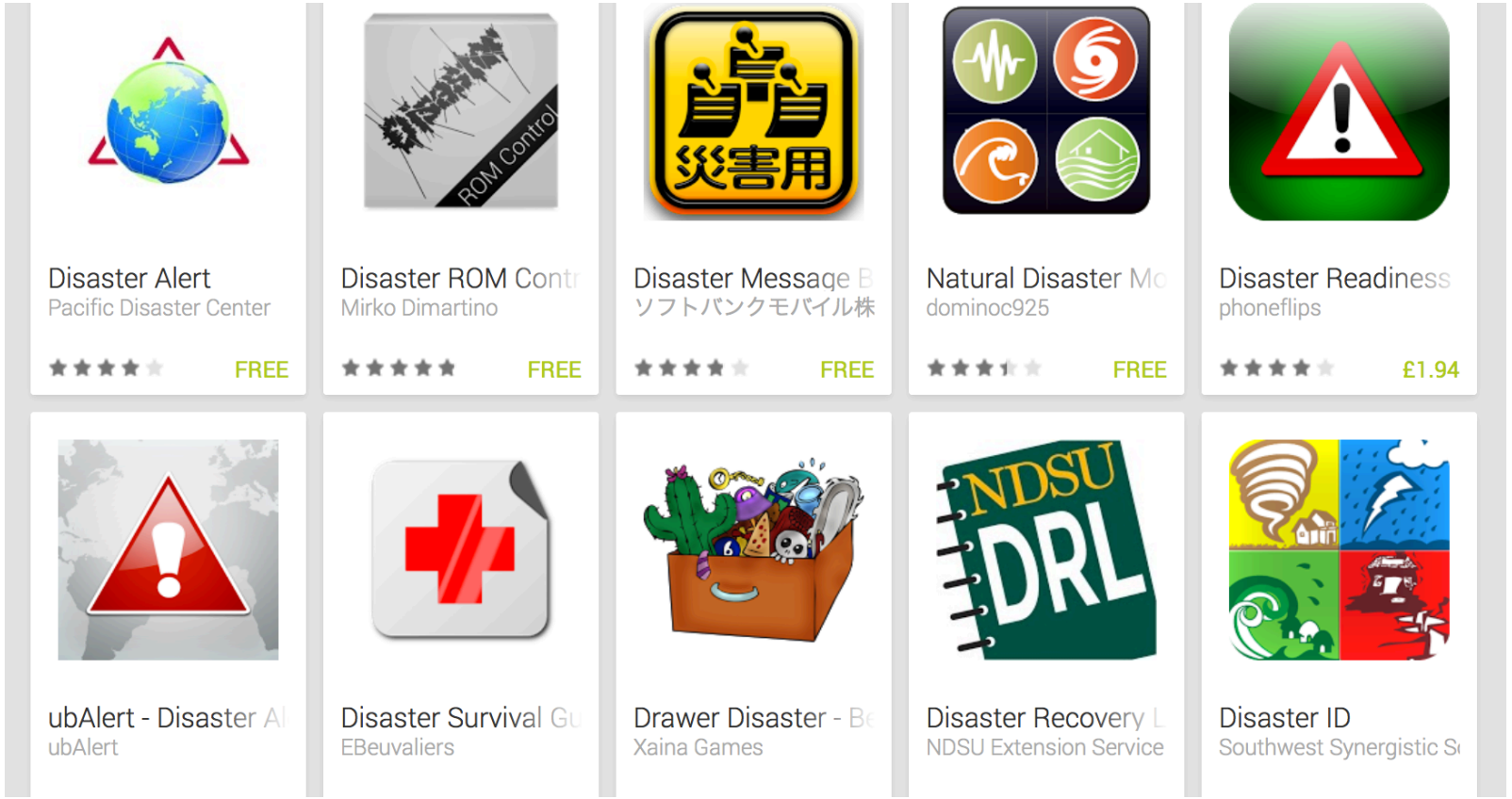


Source: Gartner

Forecast: Mobile Devices by Open Operating System, Worldwide, 2009-2016, 2Q12 Update

Gartner

Disaster App's = Mobile application targeted on use before, after or during a disaster



App Categories

News & Alert Apps

- Global disaster mapping
- National/regional disaster news
- Specific disaster type tracking (earthquakes, tornado, space weather etc)
- Deases/flu tracking/ alert
- News aggregator apps on specific event or region
- Forum Apps for preparedness issues
- P2P crowdsoursing info apps
- Volunteering app's

Guides and Education Apps

- Preparedness Guide
- First aid info
- Psychologicagy First aid
- Historical Disaster Video/picture
- Disaster trivia
- journals
- Educational Games
- nuclear escape info
- Emergency procedure
- childrensbooks
- Hazardous material info
- Global emergency numbers
- how to make emergency kit info
- X-ray analysis guide
- Business Impact assesment guide

Tool Apps

- Panic buttons
- GPS Tracking
- Compass
- Torch
- Siren/whistle
- police/emergency vehicle mimicing
- Medical record storage
- Emergency kit - replacement items remindersRapid Recall group alerts
- Seismometer
- Scanner
- House Insurance content records
- Donation
- shelter locator
- wifi comm's
- person finder

Other / Ethically concerning? Apps

- Superstitous Disaster prediction apps
- Radiation detectors

Innovations

The Serval Mesh
Serval Project FREE

Emergency Soun
intaechoi FREE

Psychological Fir
UMN School c FREE

Scanner Radio
Gordon Edwar FREE

Tornado - Americ
American Red FREE

WISER for Androi
National Libra FREE

Relief Central
Unbound Med FREE

HealthMap: Outb
HealthMap FREE

Concerns

- App store ratings / information
- Zombie App's
- 7 common criticisms by users:
  1. *Not installing onto certain phones*
  2. *Problems with OS update compatibility*
  3. *Data source format changes impact performance (USGS)*
  4. *Reduce Battery life*
  5. *App loading problems*
  6. *Data not relevant to person location*
  7. *Hidden subscription/login requirement*

Consideration for creating an App.

- Cost of app development and launch
- Cost of life cycle maintenance
- Security of data provided and/or stored
- Target Users for app (General vs specialist appeal)
- Core purpose of mobile app
- Value added nature of app over existing app's
- Data Interoperability

Discussion and conclusion

- City vs Regional vs national approach
- General vs Specialist app's
- Demography of users
- A need for disaster app vetted list or quality mark?
- Impact of app's for non-mobile platforms (i.e vehicle app's, watch apps etc)

In terms of saving lives app's are useful but not to the level of reliability needed for critical to life function.

Thank you for listening !

samantha.ueno@gmail.com