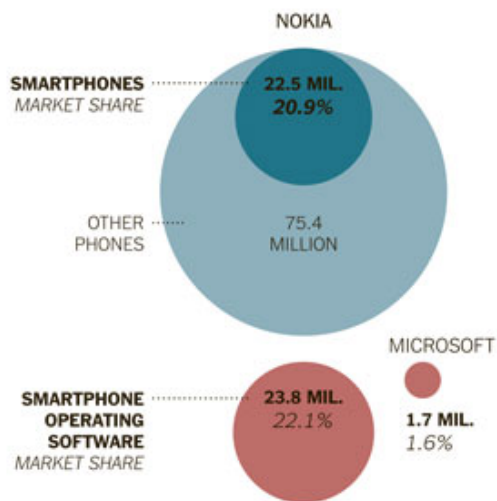


The Smartphone Landscape

Google's proposed acquisition of Motorola Mobility may reshape the mobile device industry, already in flux as heavyweights RIM and Nokia are losing ground to Android-based devices and Apple. Here is how the makers of smartphones — and the software that runs them — shaped up against each other at the end of June.

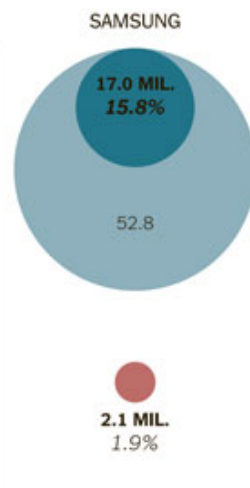


Once the market leader, Nokia's fortunes have sagged, causing the company to ditch its Symbian operating system in favor of Microsoft's in the hopes of rejuvenating its handset business.

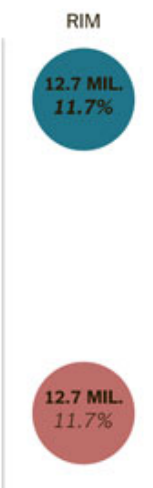
Microsoft was once a phone software leader, but it missed the transition to touch-screen phones and is now playing catch-up.



High demand for the iPhone may propel Apple to be the dominant smartphone maker. The well-integrated operating system has won fans worldwide, making it the one to beat.



Dependent on Android, the Korean cellphone giant is also betting on Bada, its homegrown operating software, as an insurance policy to keep from being too dependent on Google. So far, the software has been used on very few phones.



Formerly the king in the workplace, RIM has been slow to integrate a totally new operating system and sales have dipped.



HTC, based in Taiwan, has only recently risen to prominence and profitability, fueled by demand for its Android-based handsets.



Proving comebacks are possible, Motorola has started to regain consumer appeal with its Android-based phones.

The fastest-growing operating system, but many versions of Google's software create a clunky experience, confusing some consumers.

Source: Gartner

THE NEW YORK TIMES
The New York Times

Close Window

Copyright 2011 The New York Times Company