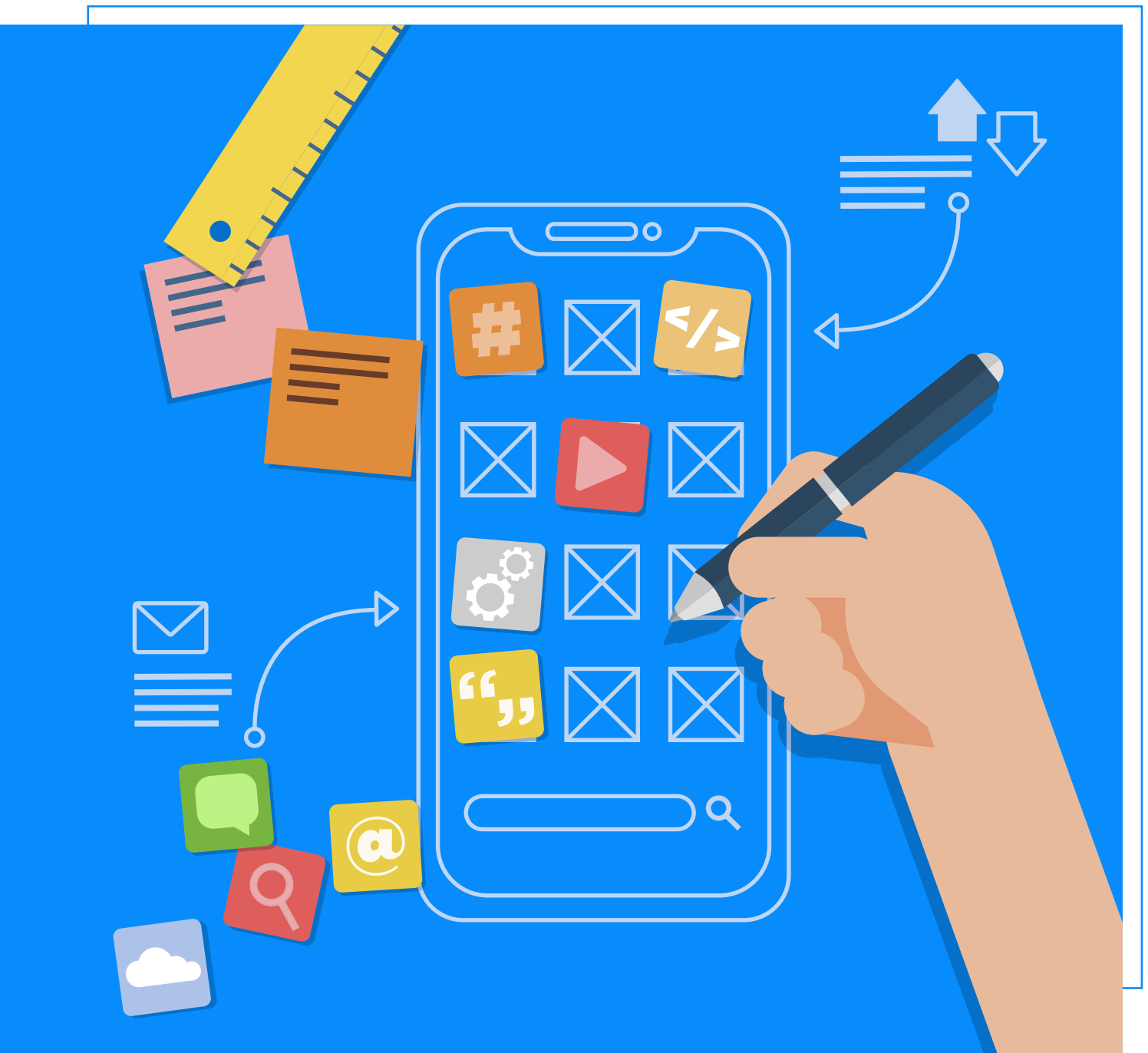


# Developer Considerations for Choice of Platform



## Developers perspective



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# Executive Summary

The global app business has witnessed exponential growth over the years, fuelled by factors such as smartphone penetration, affordable data plans, technological advancements, and evolving consumer needs. The Global market revenue of the app business was estimated at US\$ 475 billion in 2022 and expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.6%<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, India's app market is boosted by the availability of localized content and regional language support, catering to the diverse linguistic and cultural preferences of the country's population. This has created opportunities for developers to create apps that cater specifically to the Indian market, contributing to the sector's growth. In India, the market revenue of the app business is estimated at US\$ 2.7 billion in 2022 and growing at a CAGR of 11.3%.<sup>2</sup>

In the rapidly evolving world of mobile app development, developers face a threshold decision when building their mobile platforms: whether to opt for Native or Cross Platform development. This article examines the considerations that influence the decision-making process and how start-ups often embark on their journey using Cross Platform development before potentially transitioning to the Native approach. Moreover, it highlights that the choice between these two options is primarily a business-driven decision, with no significant technological barriers affecting developer preferences. Factors such as target audience, market share, scalability requirements, budget, and development timeline significantly influence this choice.

Towards this end, we reached out to key developers of mobile platforms to understand

their criteria of choosing a platform for their App development. The selection of developers for this study was meticulously conducted to encompass a diverse representation of the industry. The chosen developers were balanced between start-ups and established companies, all of whom had been actively engaged in app development. These developers employed a range of approaches, including both native and cross-platform development. Furthermore, their app portfolios spanned across either only Android or Android & iOS operating systems. Since more than 95%<sup>3</sup> of the market is dominated by Android, it was the first choice for most. This selection process ensured a comprehensive understanding of app development practices.

Our research highlighted that start-ups often embark on their journey using Cross Platform development to reach a wider audience quickly and efficiently. However, as businesses grow and gain deeper insights into their customers, they may opt to continue with Cross Platform development or transition to Native development for a more tailored and platform-specific experience. Regardless of the chosen approach, customers are the ultimate beneficiaries, enjoying high-quality apps that seamlessly operate on their preferred platform. This seamless experience has fostered an environment where developers can easily switch from one platform to another, further emphasizing the business-driven nature of the decision. Developers shared the ease of portability of apps between operating systems which can be done at no cost and in the absence of any technological differences.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statista.com/outlook/dmo/app/worldwide>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.statista.com/outlook/dmo/app/india>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262157/market-share-held-by-mobile-operating-systems-in-india/>



# Introduction

## App Economy in the global market

Over the past few years, the app market worldwide has experienced a boom in growth, with a projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.58% from 2022 to 2027<sup>4</sup>. This growth is expected to result in a market revenue of US\$755.50 billion by 2027<sup>5</sup>. The global app

business has witnessed exponential growth over the years, fuelled by factors such as smartphone penetration, affordable data plans, technological advancements, and evolving consumer needs. Localization and multilingual support have also played a significant role in driving this growth.

### 2022 Mobile App Landscape at a glance <sup>6</sup>

New App Downloads	App Store Spend	Daily Time Spent Per User	Mobile Ad Spend	Total Hours Spent
255 Billion	\$167 Billion	5 Hours	\$336 Billion	4.1 Trillion
11%		3%	14%	9%
YoY Growth	-2%	YoY Growth	YoY Growth	YoY Growth
iOS, Google play, Third Party Android in China	iOS, Google play, Third Party Android in China	Android Phones; Weighted Average Among Top 10 Mobile First Markets		Android Phones
>485,000 apps downloaded per minute in 2022	>\$318,000 spent per minute in 2022	1/3 of daily waking hours	Would be #44 largest country ranked among global economies	11.2 Billion hours collectively per day

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.statista.com/outlook/dmo/app/worldwide>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.statista.com/outlook/dmo/app/worldwide>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.data.ai/en/go/state-of-mobile-2023/?consentUpdate=updated>

The app industry caters to diverse applications for various needs, resulting in a lucrative industry. As the industry continues to evolve, app developers

are poised to meet the growing demand for digital experiences, ensuring their continued relevance and expansion in the digital landscape.

## India's App Economy

India's app market is booming, with a massive population of smartphone users and a rapidly expanding digital ecosystem. It is projected that India's app business will experience a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 11.28% between 2022 and 2027, leading to an estimated market size of US\$4.8 billion by 2027<sup>7</sup>. The country's app industry has experienced tremendous growth, fuelled by factors similar to the global drivers. In addition, various government programs like Digital India (which aims to increase internet accessibility across the country) and Start Up India, which has supported many new businesses, have become catalysts in the app business. This has also

accelerated the growth of many companies and the creation of new Unicorns.

In India, the app market is thriving due to a vibrant start-up community. With successful apps in e-commerce, food delivery, ride-hailing, fintech, and entertainment, Indian start-ups have made a substantial impact in various sectors. India's nearly 610 million smartphone users, of a total mobile subscriber base of nearly 1.2 billion in 2021<sup>8</sup>, is growing steadily. Data consumption in India has reached nearly 17 GB/month/user, growing at a CAGR of nearly 50% from 2017 to 2022, as the global average touched 15 GB/month<sup>9</sup>.

Mobile apps have become an essential part of daily life for millions of Indians, providing services from shopping and banking to entertainment and social networking. WhatsApp, one of the most popular messaging apps, has the most number of users in India<sup>10</sup>. In October 2021, India contributed to 487.5 million<sup>11</sup> users and Brazil, a distant second, with 118.5 million users. This provides an indication of the wide customer base that is available for any app developer. Moreover, India's app market is boosted by the availability of localized content and

regional language support, catering to the diverse linguistic and cultural preferences of the country's population. This has created opportunities for developers to create apps that cater specifically to the Indian market, contributing to the sector's growth.

In 2022, Indian phone users accounted for 12.4% of the 255 Billion global app downloads by downloading over 28.8 Billion apps,<sup>12</sup> emphasizing an ever-growing market and need for apps.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.statista.com/outlook/dmo/app/india>

<sup>8</sup> Nielsen's India Internet Report 2023

<sup>9</sup> Nokia MBiTIndex, [www.nokia.com/sites/default/files/2021-02/Nokia-MBiT-2021.pdf](http://www.nokia.com/sites/default/files/2021-02/Nokia-MBiT-2021.pdf)

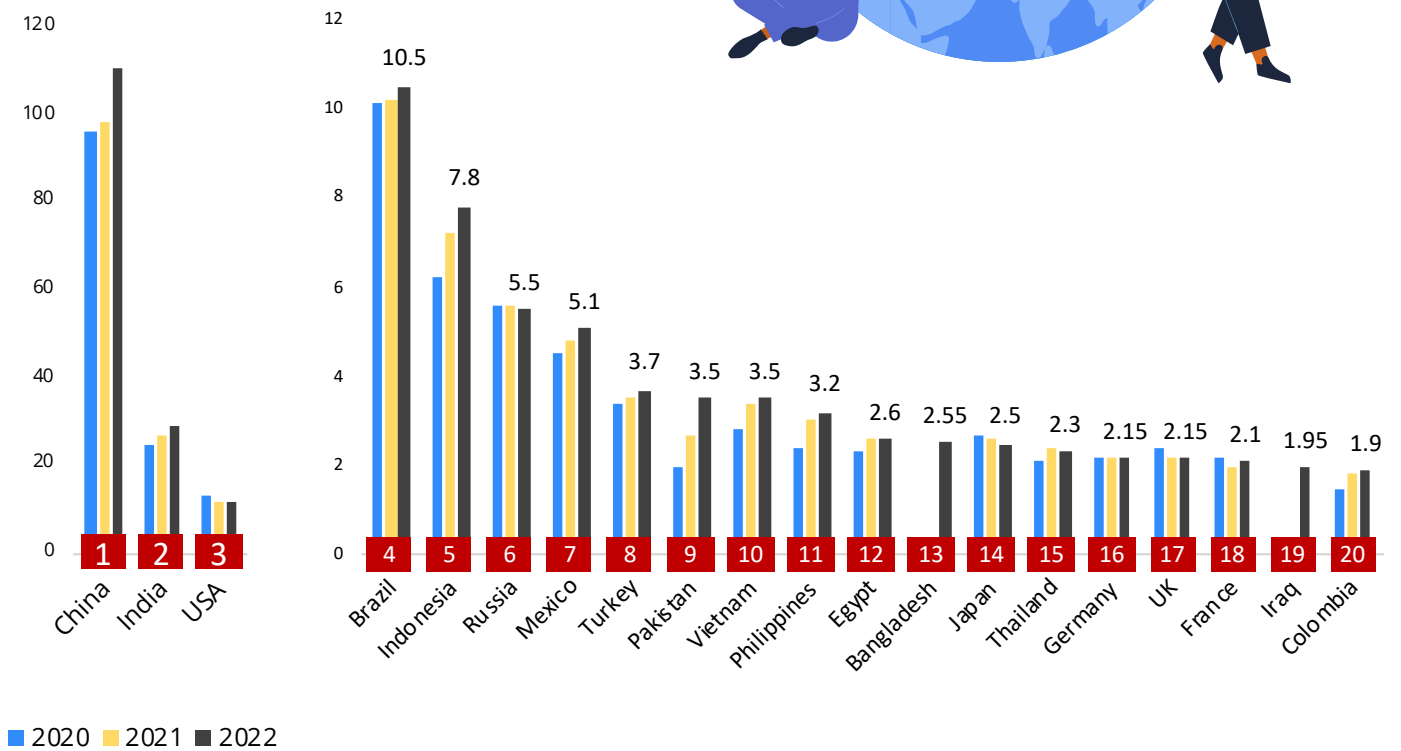
<sup>10</sup> BIF: The Economic Value of the App Economy in India

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/289778/countries-with-the-most-facebook-users/#:~:text=There%20are%20over%20487%20million,most%20used%20messaging%20services%20worldwide.>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.data.ai/en/go/state-of-mobile-2023/?consentUpdate=updated>



Figure 1: Global App Downloads Numbers in Billion





## Jobs created due to growing Indian App Economy

According to the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), India is predicted to surpass the US in having the largest population of developers by the year 2024<sup>13</sup>. The market is anticipated to witness further growth due to low-code/no-code app development, which involves minimal or no

utilization of coding languages and requires little technical expertise<sup>14</sup>. Therefore, with technology continuing to advance and the digital landscape evolving, the future of India’s app industry looks promising, and further growth is expected with increased access to global markets.

Table 2: India’s App Economy Jobs in thousands <sup>15</sup>

	APP Economy Jobs, May 2016	APP Economy Jobs, August 2019
<b>Total</b>	1,208	1,674
<b>IOS Ecosystem</b>	641	873
<b>Android Ecosystem</b>	922	1,359

Table 3: Global Comparison of App economy jobs <sup>16</sup>

	Millions of App Economy Jobs	Date of Estimate
<b>India</b>	1.674	August 2019
<b>USA</b>	2.246	April 2019
<b>European Union</b>	2.093	July 2019

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PPI\\_IndianAppEconomy\\_V3-1.pdf](https://www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PPI_IndianAppEconomy_V3-1.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2022-12-13-gartner-forecasts-worldwide-low-code-development-technologies-market-to-grow-20-percent-in-2023>

<sup>15,16</sup> [https://www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PPI\\_IndianAppEconomy\\_V3-1.pdf](https://www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PPI_IndianAppEconomy_V3-1.pdf)







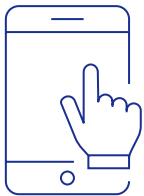


# App Development

## A brief overview of App Development

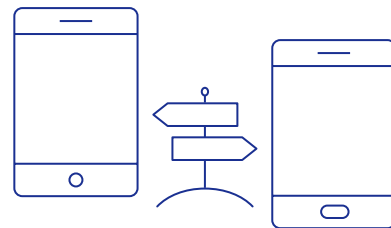
When it comes to developing apps, developers may opt for native development for a specific operating system or cross-platform development for multiple operating systems. The developer is free to choose from these multiple options on how they would like to create the app for their business.

This decision is largely driven by the business environment, which we will further explore in this report. Both these development approaches used in software development are discussed in detail below.



### Native Development

Native app development involves the creation of applications for a specific platform or operating system like iOS or Android. Native app development allows developers to create a more immersive and customized user experience.



### Cross-Platform Development

Cross-platform development involves apps that can be used on various platforms with only one codebase. By using frameworks and tools that facilitate code sharing across platforms, developers can write code once and deploy it on different operating systems. Some of the most commonly used cross-platform frameworks include React Native, Flutter, Xamarin, and Ionic.

# Native Apps

## Better user experience & visuals

Native apps typically offer a better user experience that is unique to the platform. Because the aesthetics are customized for the platform UX, the user experience is also improved.



## Better performance

Native apps perform better because their code interacts directly with the resources used to power them.



## More scalable

Due to the freedom in resource management and the variety of tools available, apps created for the native environment also typically tend to be more scalable.



Difference between

## Native Cross platform Apps

How native have better functionality Cross-platform reduce cost

## Expensive development

When you need to launch on both platforms, native app development might be expensive.



## Longer development time

Creating two standalone apps for Android and iOS is time-consuming when developing native apps.



# Cross Platform Apps



## Reduced development time and cost

Cross-platform technology allows for the simultaneous development of iOS and Android apps at a substantial cost and time savings.

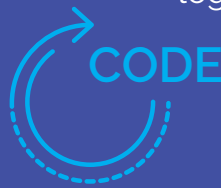


## Quick and simple to develop

Cross-platform app development is quick and simple to develop.

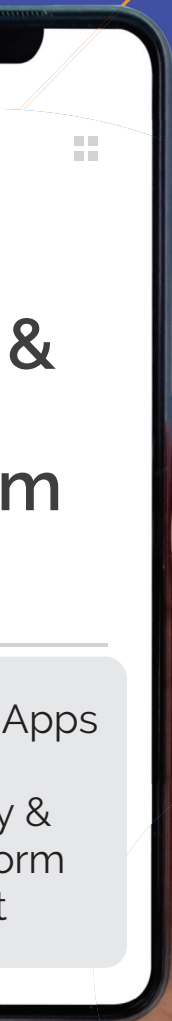
## Shared logic

A significant benefit of utilizing a unified codebase is the ability to maintain consistent application logic across various platforms. This approach offers a notable advantage in ensuring streamlined and efficient processes.



## Reusable codes

Cross-platform applications will have less cost due to reusable codes. The same codebase may be used to create apps for both iOS and Android, saving time and money.



## Key factors of consideration before choosing between native and cross-platform app development

Feedback Advisory was nominated by ICEA to conduct a research among developers to understand the key issues, if any, faced by developers in app development for different categories. As a part of the research, ICEA and

Feedback Advisory reached out to key developers of mobile platforms to understand their criteria of choosing a platform for their App development. The interviews were spread across the below types

### Type of Companies

Startups

Large Corporates

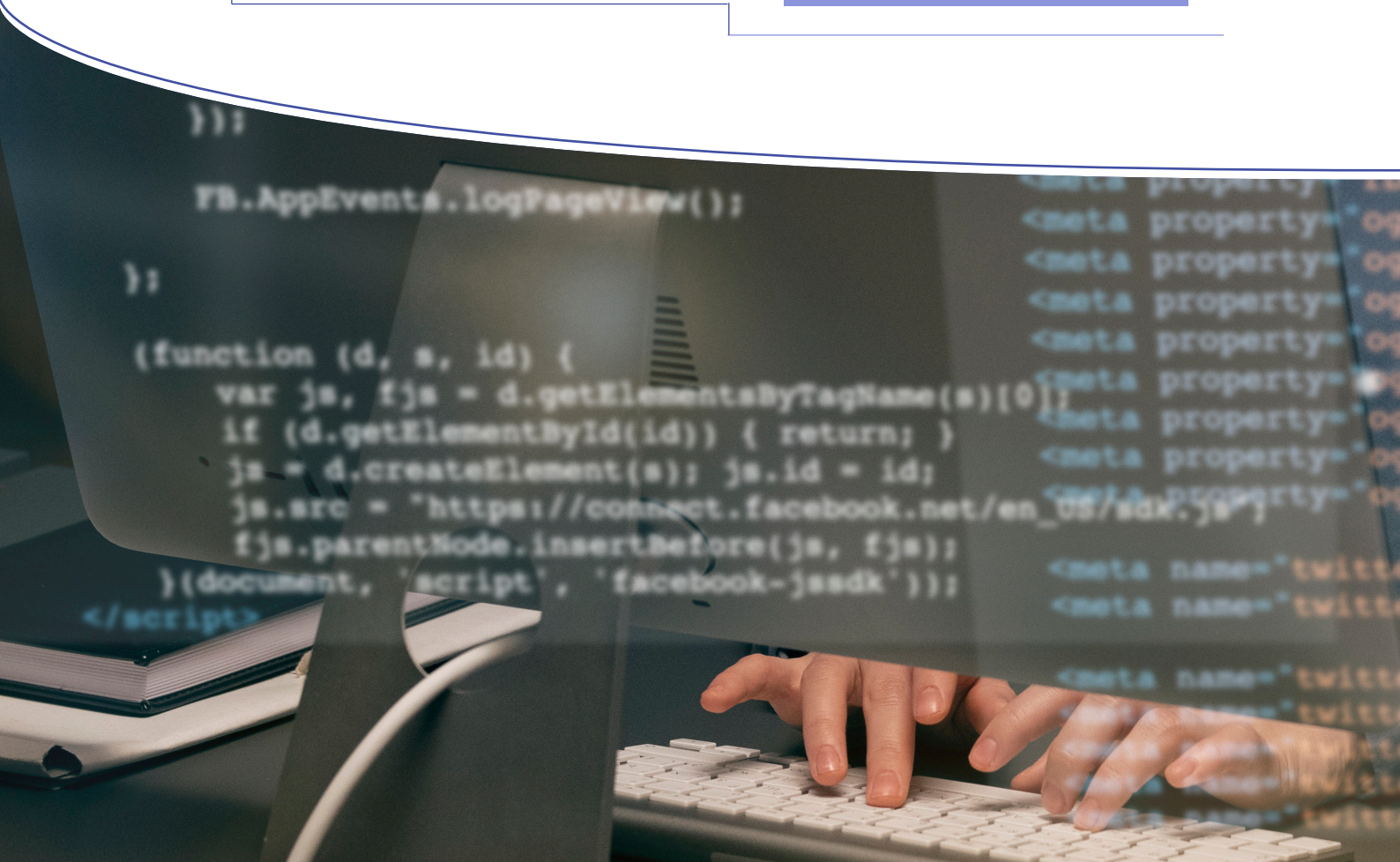
### Category of Companies

E-COMMERCE

FINANCE

ENTERTAINMENT

HEALTH





Some of the key points typically considered by companies before setting out on developing apps for their company

Point of consideration	Details
<b>Target audience</b>	Knowing the target audience is vital to choosing the right development strategy. Developers consider their preferred platforms and expectations for design, performance, and user experience. For a country like India, Android which has 95.79% market share <sup>17</sup> becomes the most preferred operating system for developers to target
<b>Operating system coverage</b>	Consider operating system (OS) options for app development. Native development is best for single OS focus, while cross-platform saves time and resources for multiple OS
<b>UI and design</b>	Native app development ensures a consistent and intuitive user experience by adhering to platform-specific design guidelines and UI elements. For a high-quality user experience, native development may be the better choice.
<b>Performance</b>	Native apps generally offer better performance as they are designed to work in sync with the device's features and hardware. This makes them a suitable choice for situations that require high-performance capabilities.
<b>Development time and cost</b>	Cross-platform development can save time and money, but consider trade-offs in performance and user experience.
<b>Security risks</b>	Native apps are more secure than cross-platform apps because they can use platform-specific security features. However, if proper security measures are taken during development, cross-platform apps are not riskier than native ones.
<b>Scalability and maintainability</b>	Evaluate the app's future goals, like adding new features and supporting different platforms. Native apps require more work to maintain since they have separate codebases, while cross-platform apps can be easily expanded with a shared codebase.
<b>Available resources and skillsets</b>	Before starting app development, available skills and expertise of either in-house team or third-party is evaluated. If the in-house team has experience with a specific platform or framework, that knowledge is leveraged

<sup>17</sup> <https://gs.statcounter.com/os-market-share/mobile/india>

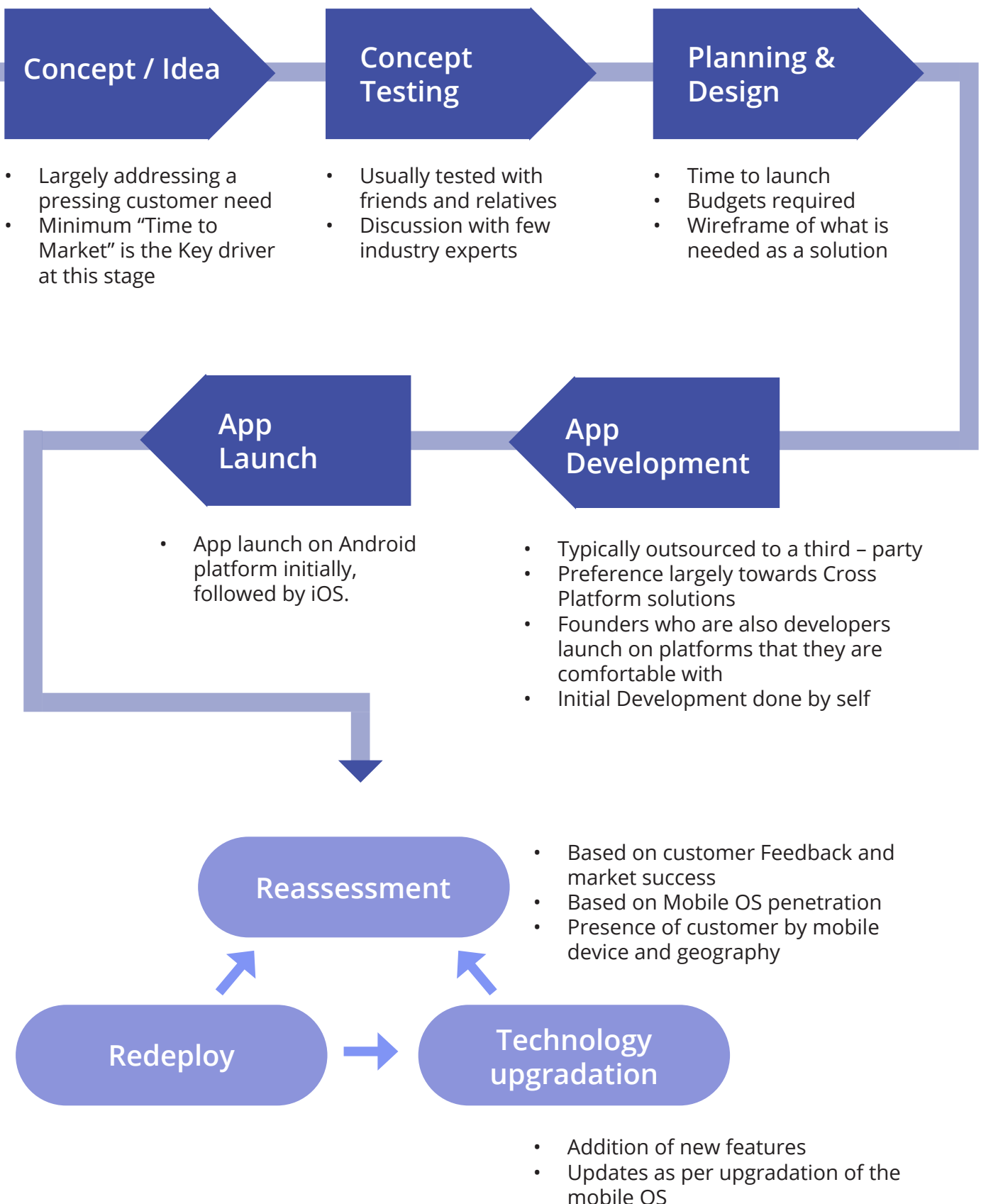
An analysis of the key parameters considered by these app developers with the importance level

Importance	Start ups	Large Corporates
<b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category for which the App is being developed for</li> <li>• Features to be provided for the App</li> <li>• Target customer</li> <li>• Operating system coverage</li> <li>• Cost of development</li> <li>• Development time</li> <li>• Security risks</li> <li>• Available resources and skillsets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security risks</li> <li>• UI and design</li> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Scalability and maintainability</li> <li>• Features to be provided for the App</li> <li>• Target customer</li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UI and design</li> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Scalability and maintainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating system coverage</li> <li>• Cost of development</li> <li>• Available resources and skillsets</li> <li>• Development time</li> </ul>

For Start-ups, in most interviews conducted, the time to market was very critical. They wanted to reach their target crowd first to be the market forerunner. The preferred option for these start-ups were Cross-platform apps, which gave them the benefit of being able to target both operating

systems at a comparatively economical cost of development. Post initial success of their idea / App, they evaluate the next steps of development. These next steps are largely governed by the type of customers that they have, the mobile phones (which in turn indicates the Operating system)

Figure 2: Start-ups App development lifecycle <sup>18</sup>



<sup>17</sup> Feedback Advisory analysis



Cost and time to market, play a major role in the choice of how an app needs to be developed. The approach taken for development, the platform used, ensuring compatibility across devices, and the app features are some crucial aspects that need to be considered. In the case of start-ups, cost becomes a critical factor since funding could be limited, especially in cases where the business is bootstrapped or crowdfunded.

Based on our analysis of the crunchbase data there were a total of 15,778 start-ups which were formed post 2017 till June 2023. Of these start-ups in various categories, close to 1,839 companies have come with their own apps for business. Roughly, 12% of the companies. The number of apps developed by these companies are close to 6,500, translating into 3.53 apps per company. It is anticipated that the higher number of apps by these companies can be largely attributed to 2 key reasons

1. New offerings by the company
2. Development of multiple apps from cross platform to native based on the business requirement

On the other hand, large enterprises may not face similar issues owing to a likely stable financial support allowing them to invest heavily in app

development.

Apps for large-scale businesses is another digital medium intended to reach out to their customer base to improve customer engagement, improve brand awareness and loyalty, data mining, and improve customer service, among other reasons. Some of the popular large Indian businesses that rely heavily on apps under different categories include Flipkart (online marketplace), MyJio (entertainment), ICICI Bank, Myntra (online marketplace), Naukri (online job portal), Big basket (online supermarket), and Redbus (Online Travel Ticketing).

Most of these companies have large in-house teams which work on these apps to ensure critical aspects of high uptime, security of customer information on the app, providing the customer with good experience as it directly impacts the brand reputation of the company.

Most businesses belonging to different categories ideally begin their journey using Cross-Platform apps due to their affordability and ability to reach a broad customer base across geographies. As the business becomes more established, it transitions to native apps, where user experience and customizations are a top priority allowing them to leap further in their growth plans.







# Platform preference for app development

The choice of platforms across categories would typically depend on few key parameters like



## Performance

For apps that require intensive processing, such as gaming or multimedia apps, native development may be preferred. Cross-platform frameworks like React Native or Flutter can offer good performance for less demanding applications.



## User Experience (UX)

Native development allows for a more tailored and platform-specific user experience, leveraging the unique design patterns, interactions, and UI elements of each platform. This can be crucial for app categories like social networking, e-commerce, and lifestyle apps where user experience plays a significant role.



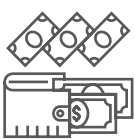
## Platform-specific Features

If an app heavily relies on specific features or APIs provided by a particular platform, such as camera functionalities, geolocation services, or health data, native development may be preferred to access those capabilities more seamlessly.



## Time to Market

Cross-platform development frameworks like React Native or Flutter offer faster development cycles as they enable code sharing across multiple platforms. If time to market is a critical factor, cross-platform development may be a suitable choice, especially for apps with relatively simpler requirements.



## Development cost

Cross-platform development allows for code sharing, reducing the development effort and cost compared to developing separate native apps for each platform. This cost advantage can make cross-platform development more attractive for startups or businesses with limited resources.

Table 4: Platform decision making

Criteria / Need	Ideal selection
Don't need functionality to work offline	<b>Cross - Platform</b>
Needs to be created on a limited timeline	
Low on budget	
Targeting a broad, large audience across multiple different markets	
Need a prototype or MVP to test the market	
Similar experience for the user irrespective of the platform	
Need for very high functionality and performance	<b>Native</b>
Need an app that will operate offline	
Working with a flexible / more extended time frame	
Higher budgets considering limited Talent pool	
Target specific audiences and customer bases	
Need updates from the OS provider to be implemented as they are launched	
Explore the complete hardware / OS capabilities	

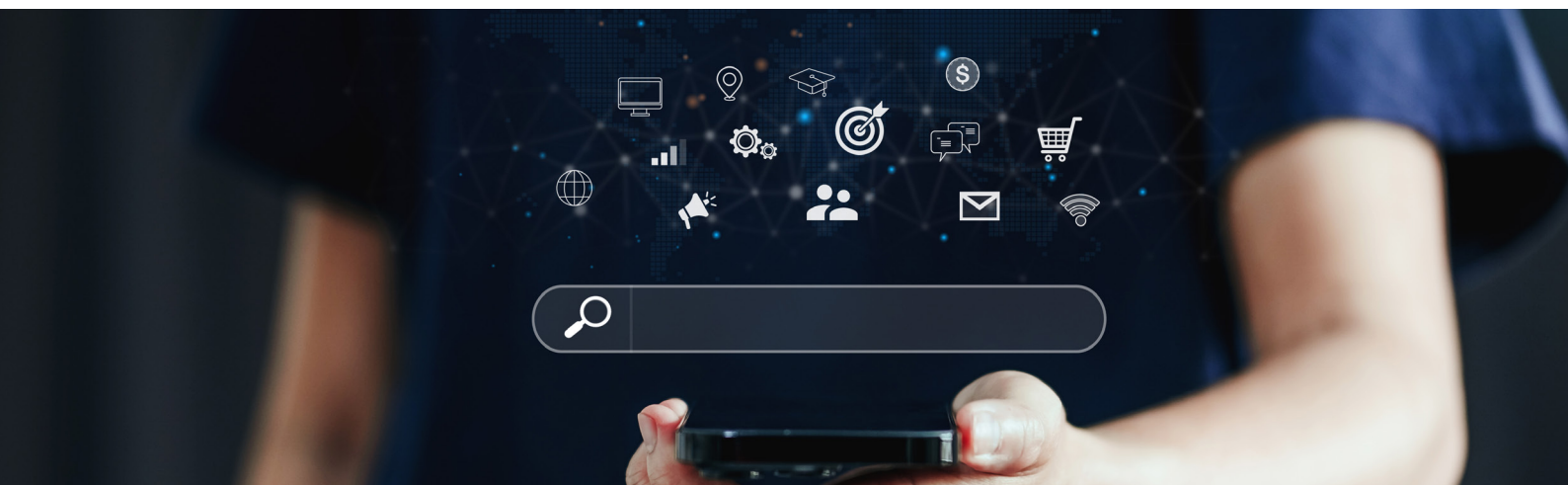
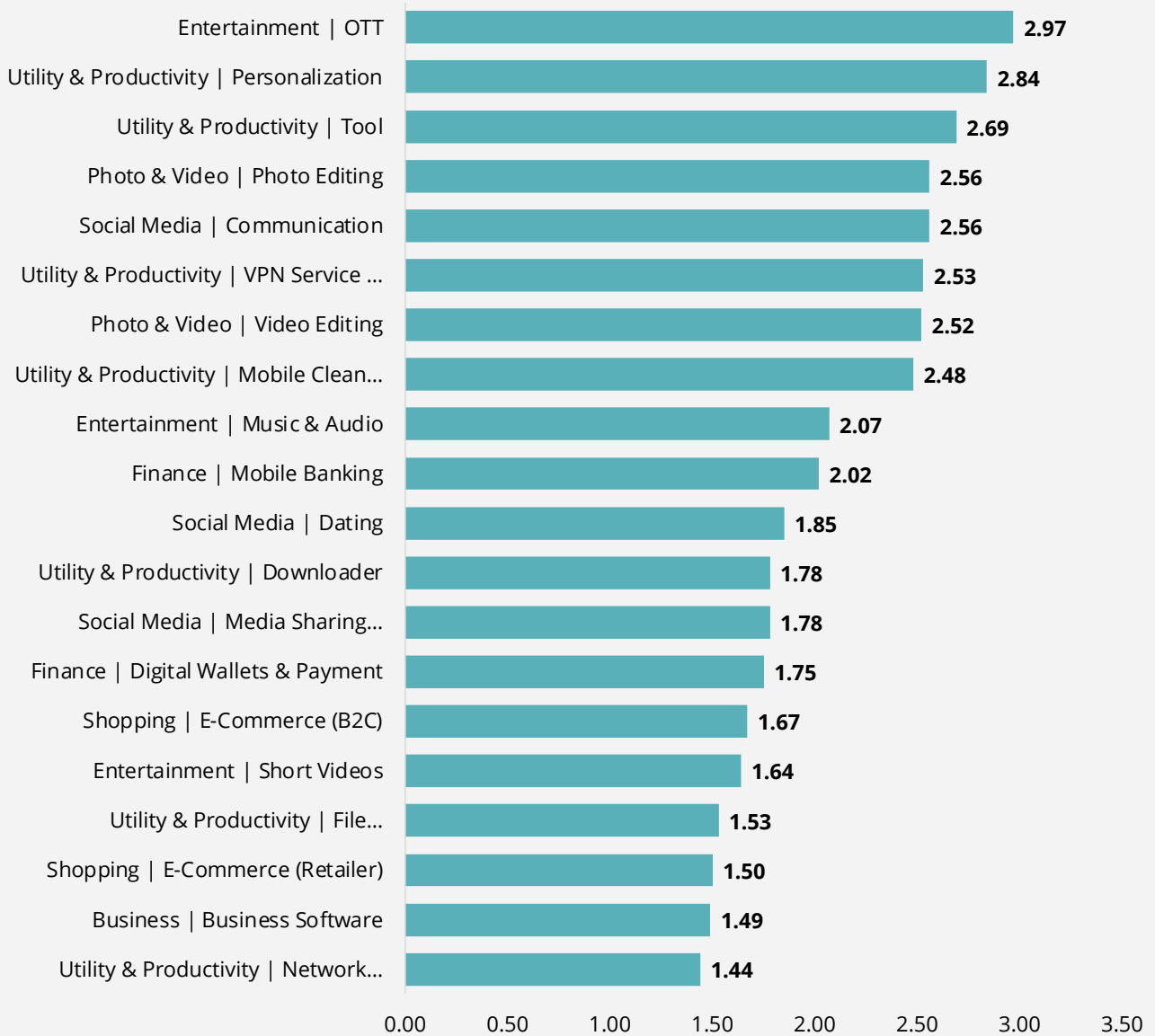
## Importance of category for app development

The app category impacts various aspects of App development, including target audience, design guidelines, competition, monetization strategies, and marketing efforts. For example App categories like gaming and social media are highly immersive and high on consumer engagement, so choice of app platform could largely be towards Native, which allows the app to utilise the complete capabilities of the operating system and associated hardware.

Most downloads that were done in the year 2022 were among Entertainment (OTT platforms), Utility & Productivity, Photo and video editing and Social Media. While Globally the highest growth was seen in the Utility & Productivity category, India saw more boom in apps that provided E-Commerce shopping, Downloaders, Personal Loans etc. This also can be attributed to the increasing penetration of E-commerce and fintech in India.

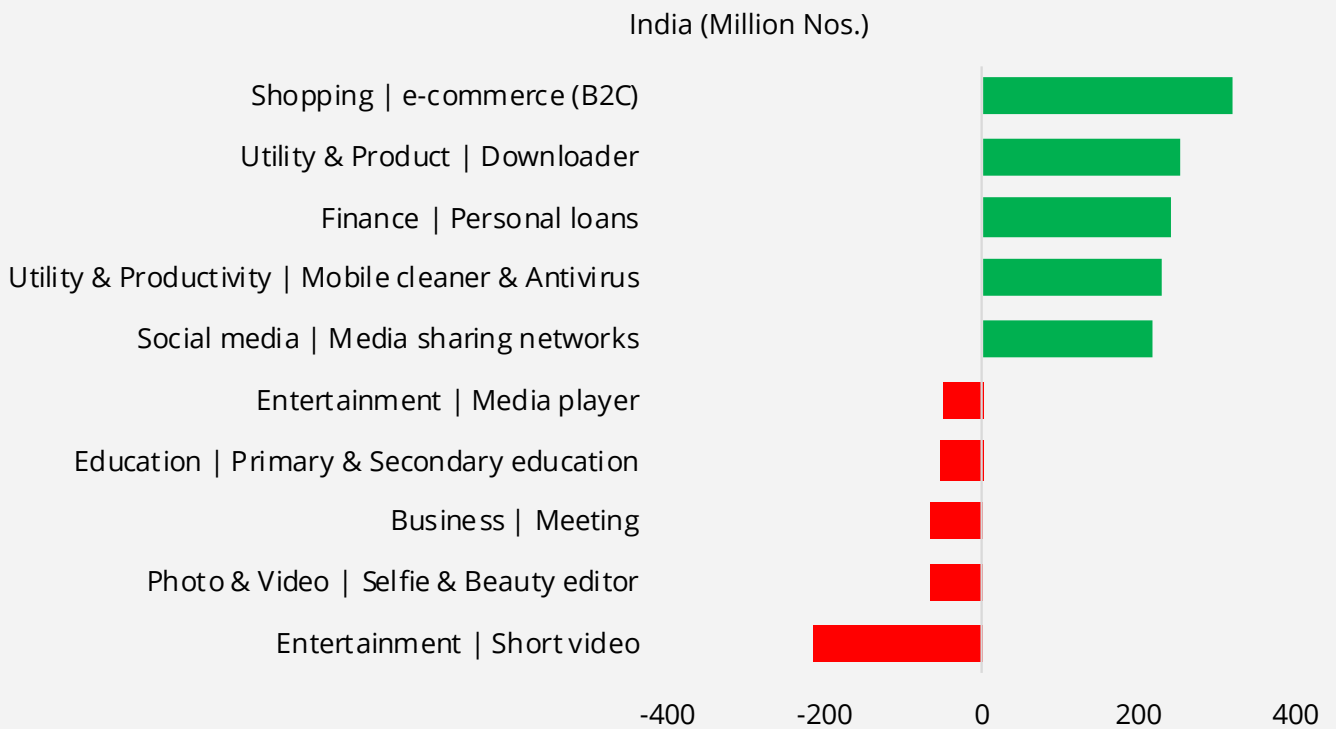
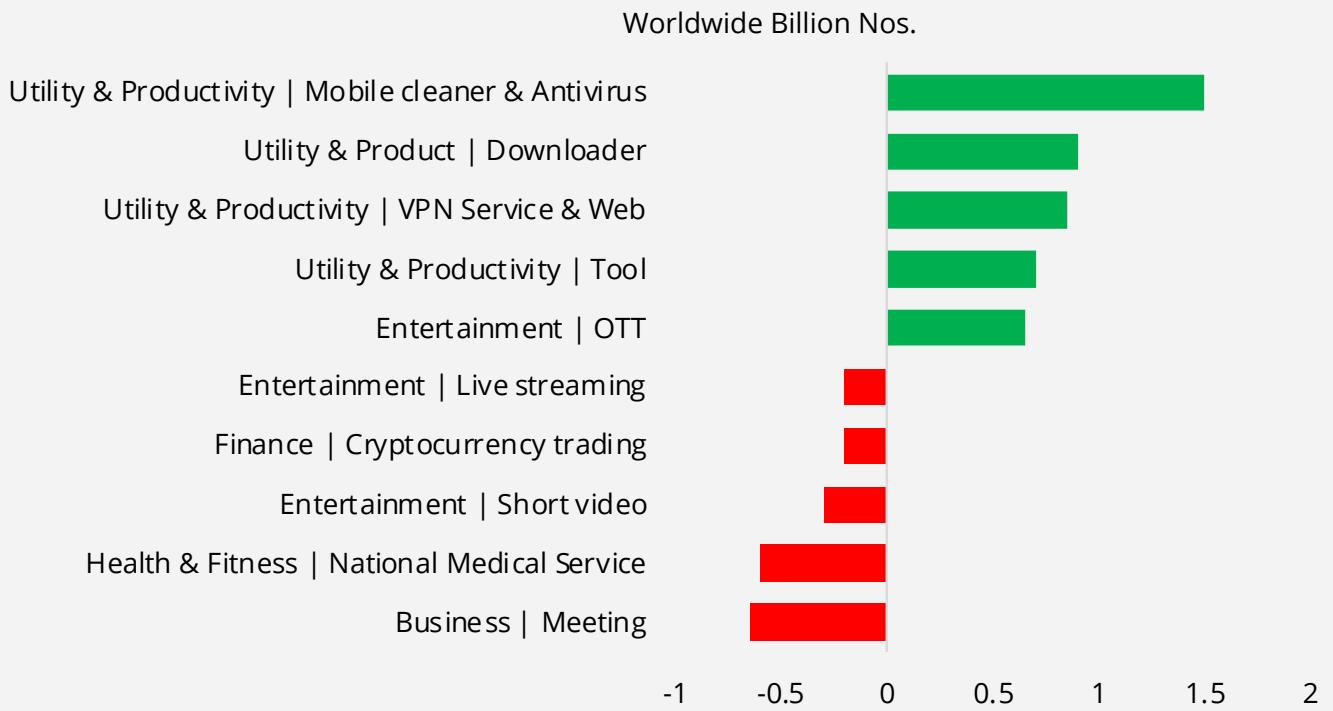


Figure 3: Global Downloads by category in billion numbers <sup>19</sup>



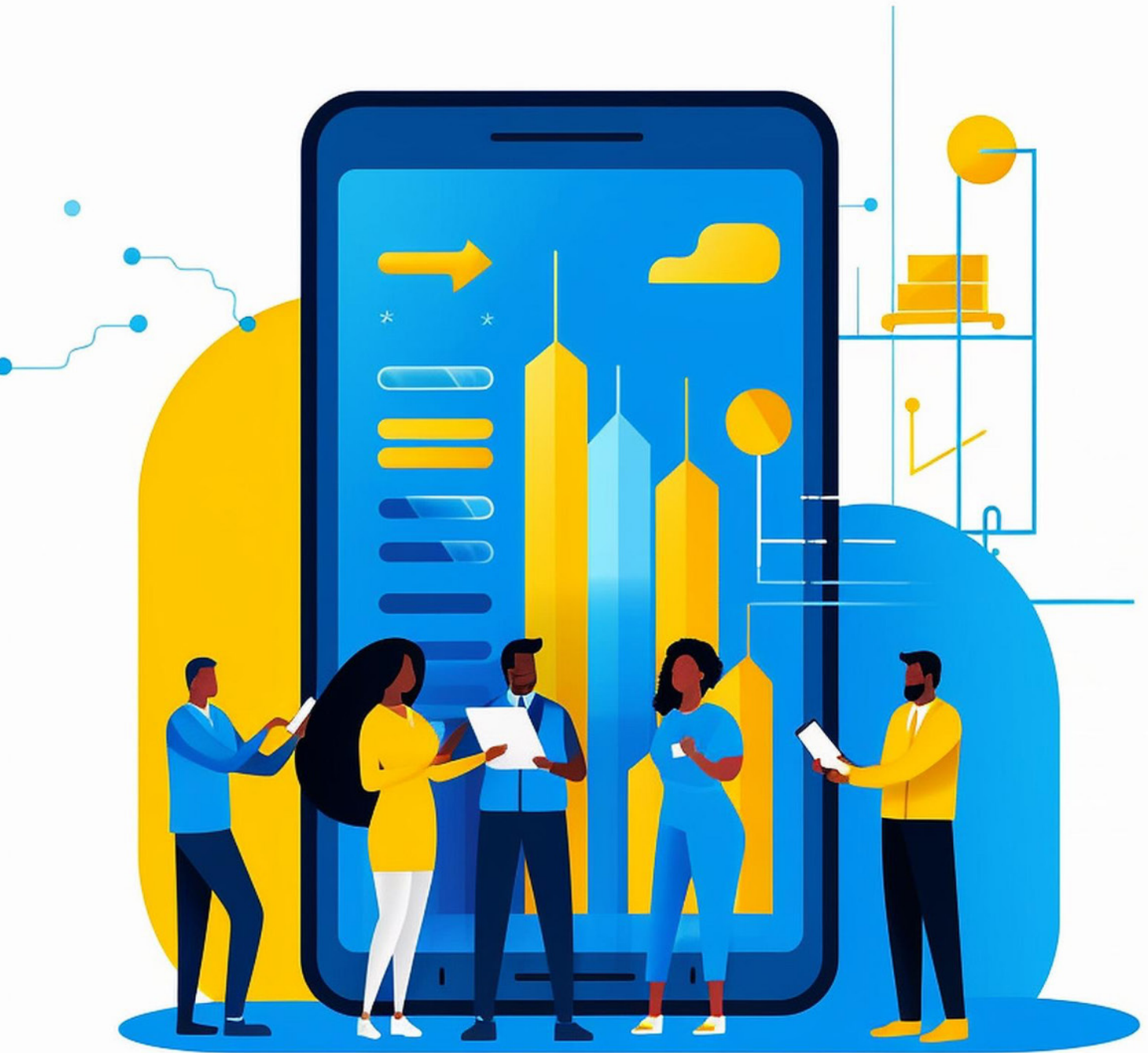
<sup>19</sup> <https://www.data.ai/en/go/state-of-mobile-2023/?consentUpdate=updated>

Figure 4: Growth in downloads by category in Global Vs. India <sup>20</sup>



<sup>20</sup> <https://www.data.ai/en/go/state-of-mobile-2023/?consentUpdate=updated>





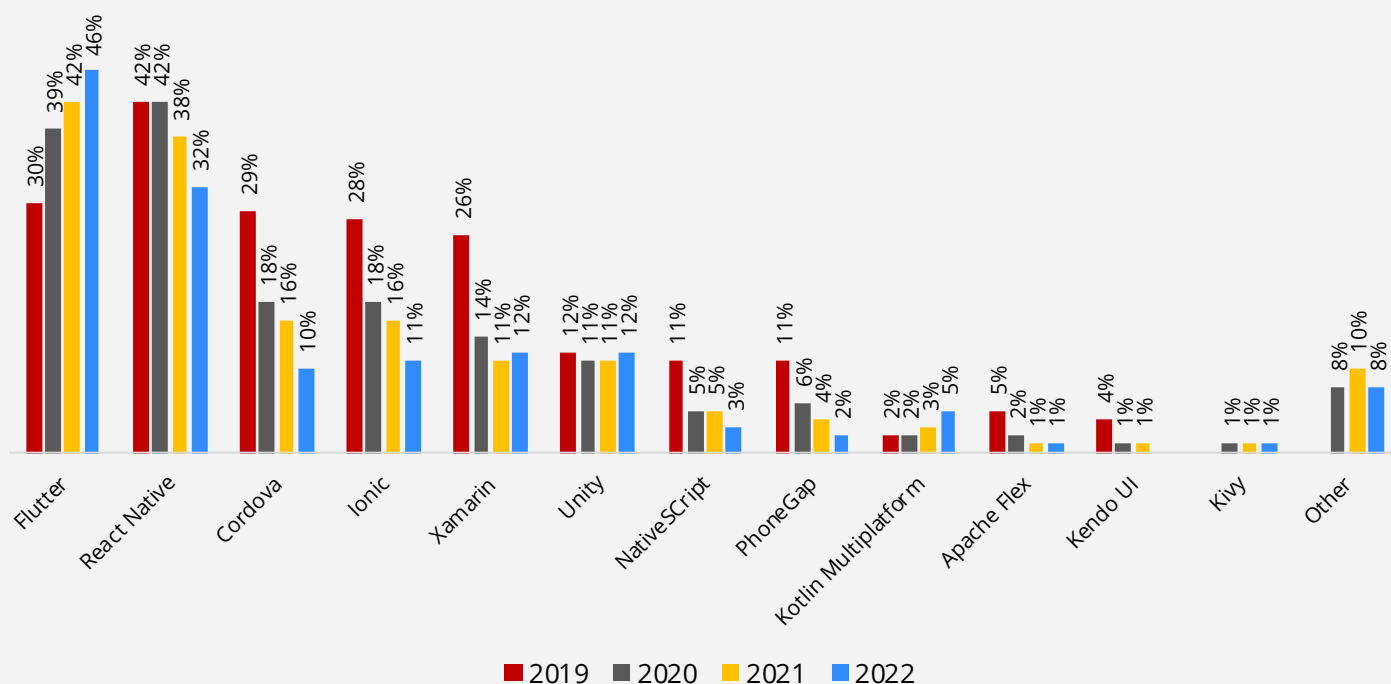


# Popular platforms available for developers

There are several platforms that app developers are using for both native and cross-platform. For instance, globally, many software developers have been using popular cross-platform mobile frameworks such as Google’s Flutter, Facebook’s

React Native, Microsoft’s Xamarin, and Native Script from 2019 to 2022<sup>21</sup>. In 2022, 46% of developers utilized Flutter and 32% React Native for their app development needs<sup>22</sup>.

## Platforms used by developers in 2022 <sup>23</sup>



In India too, the story is similar. Most developments are done on Cross Platforms before the business need requires them to go Native.

It is important to acknowledge that although the fundamental purpose of an application may be

alike across various categories, it is vital to consider that each individual company and app has its own set of distinctive requirements. The way in which the user interacts with the app, the design and unique features can greatly differ depending on the industry and target demographic. Specific

<sup>21,22,23</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/869224/worldwide-software-developer-working-hours/>

categories may also demand specific native capabilities or integrations, which could have an impact on choosing between cross-platform and native app development. It is crucial to meticulously evaluate the specific needs of the business and the app's functionality before deciding on the most

suitable development approach.

App categories have different preferences for operating systems based on factors such as user engagement and immersive experiences. These are discussed below in brief

### Preference of platforms based on App category

Category type	Observation
<b>Gaming</b>	Considering the requirement for complex gaming apps, developers mostly prefer native platforms. This helps them provide an immersive experience and the capability to utilise the complete hardware functionality of the device. For simple games, developers typically would prefer using Cross platform development
<b>Social Media</b>	Social media apps require operating systems that can handle high user engagement and immersive experiences. Example, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter prefer platforms that have a large user base and easy sharing features. Android is popular because it has a bigger market share. Apps that need to keep user data secure may prefer iOS because of its strict privacy and security measures.
<b>Multimedia &amp; Entertainment</b>	Operating systems that can seamlessly handle high-quality audio and video playback are essential for multimedia and entertainment apps to provide a satisfying user experience. Multimedia functions such as audio and video playback, high-quality streaming, and integration with external devices are well-supported by both iOS and Android operating systems.
<b>Productivity and Business</b>	Productivity and business apps require operating systems that can handle multitasking, file management, and data security. Android offers customization and flexibility for diverse device preferences. iOS is preferred for handling sensitive data and is commonly used in enterprise environments.

While the requirement could vary by the type of App category and the various parameters mentioned above, the typical cost of app development in India would be as mentioned in the below figure

Table 5: Onetime App development cost in India <sup>23</sup>

Complexity	Native development (USD)	Cross platform (USD)
<b>Simple</b>	20,000 – 40,000	5,000 – 20,000
<b>Medium</b>	40,000 – 80,000	20,000 – 40,000
<b>Complex</b>	80,000 – 500,000	40,000 – 200,000


<sup>23</sup> Feedback Analysis based on interviews with developers

Most start-ups coming up with apps typically look at utilising Cross Platform as their first option in the interest of time and economical cost. While the development cost of an app could vary based on various parameters, the cost charged by the Mobile operating system is minuscule and largely

towards creating a safe and secure environment. These developer accounts on either of the operating systems provide the developers with various features and they can upload as many apps as they like. The development program comprises of the following,

### Developer program comparison

Criteria	iOS Developer Program	Cross platform (USD)
<b>App distribution</b>	By subscribing to iOS Developer Program, app developers can distribute their creations on the Apple App Store, making them accessible to iOS users globally.	The Google Play Developer Console offers developers the opportunity to distribute their apps on the Google Play Store, allowing them to reach out to Android users worldwide.
<b>Development tools and resources</b>	Developers can utilize Apple's integrated development environment (IDE) known as Xcode, in addition to a range of software development kits (SDKs) and APIs. These tools are specifically designed to assist in the creation of iOS, macOS, watchOS, and tvOS applications.	Google offers Android Studio as the primary IDE for building Android apps. It comes equipped with a variety of development tools, libraries, and APIs to help streamline the development process.
<b>App testing and deployment</b>	App developers have the option to test their application on either physical devices or simulators and once satisfied, they can submit it to the App Store for review and distribution.	Developers have the option to test their application on either physical devices or through emulators, and subsequently submit it for review and distribution on the Google Play Console.
<b>App performance and analytics</b>	Developers can access comprehensive analytics and insights from Apple on their app performance, which includes metrics on user engagement, retention, and monetization.	Developers can gain valuable insights into their app performance through the Google Play Console. This includes metrics on user engagement, reports on app crashes, and feedback from users.
<b>Monetization options</b>	Offers several monetization options for app developers including methods such as Paid Apps, In-App Purchases (IAP), Subscriptions, Free Apps with Ads, Apple Pay, and Affiliate Program	Offers several monetization options for app developers including methods like Paid Apps, In-App Purchases (IAP), subscriptions, Advertisements (AdMob), Google Play Pass, and In-App Billing API



Moreover, obtaining a Google or iOS developer account enables developers to connect with a supportive developer community, access extensive documentation, and avail themselves of valuable support resources. These resources can assist in resolving technical challenges and keeping abreast of the latest platform developments.

## In Conclusion

In the rapidly evolving world of mobile app development, developers face a critical decision when building their mobile platforms: whether to opt for Native or Cross Platform development. Each approach offers distinct advantages and caters to specific needs. This study examines the considerations that influence the decision-making process and how start-ups often embark on their journey using Cross Platform development before potentially transitioning to the Native approach. Moreover, it highlights that the choice between these two options is primarily a business-driven decision, with no significant technological barriers affecting developers' preferences.

**Native Development: Unmatched Performance and User Experience** When developers choose Native development, they build applications dedicated to a specific operating system, such as iOS or Android. This approach allows them to leverage the full capabilities and features of the chosen platform, resulting in unparalleled performance and user experience. By directly interacting with the native APIs and frameworks, Native apps can achieve smooth animations, fast load times, and optimal utilization of device resources. Additionally, Native apps blend seamlessly with the operating system's UI and user

experience guidelines, leading to a more familiar and intuitive interface for users. Companies with substantial resources and a customer base predominantly using a single operating system might find Native development the ideal choice to deliver a premium, platform-specific experience.

**Cross Platform Development: Versatility and Wider Reach** On the other hand, Cross Platform development offers the advantage of creating apps that can run on multiple operating systems with a single codebase. Developers use frameworks like React Native, Flutter, or Xamarin to build applications that can be deployed on both iOS and Android devices. This approach drastically reduces development time and costs, as developers don't have to maintain separate codebases for each platform. For start-ups or smaller companies with limited resources, Cross Platform development allows them to reach a broader audience without compromising app quality. It also facilitates rapid iterations and updates across all platforms simultaneously, ensuring consistent user experiences for all customers.

Start-ups and the Cross Platform Journey: Many start-ups often begin their app development journey with Cross Platform development. It





offers a cost-effective way to validate their app idea and reach a broader market quickly. Start-ups typically prioritize speed to market and customer feedback in their early stages, and Cross Platform development perfectly aligns with these goals. As the start-up grows, gathers user insights, and better understands its target audience, it can then decide whether to continue with the Cross Platform approach or transition to Native development.

**Business-Driven Decision:** The decision to choose between Native and Cross Platform development is inherently business-driven. Factors such as target audience, market share, scalability requirements, budget, and development timeline significantly influence this choice. If a company's primary target market consists of users from both iOS and Android platforms, they usually tend to use Cross Platform development.

From a developer's perspective, there are no significant technological barriers affecting their choice between Native and Cross Platform apps. Most developers prioritize a seamless and intuitive user experience, regardless of the development approach. Today, Cross Platform frameworks have matured, and are effective competitors to Native platforms providing developers with

an array of options. As a result, customers can access high-quality applications on both iOS and Android platforms without noticeable differences in performance or functionality. This seamless experience has fostered an environment where developers can easily switch from one platform to another, further emphasizing the business-driven nature of the decision.

To conclude, mobile app developers face a choice between Native and Cross Platform development. The selection is primarily influenced by business considerations, such as target audience, budget, scalability, and development timeline. Start-ups often embark on their journey using Cross Platform development to reach a wider audience quickly and efficiently. However, as businesses grow and gain deeper insights into their customers, they may opt to continue with Cross Platform development or transition to Native development for a more tailored and platform-specific experience. Regardless of the chosen approach, customers are the ultimate beneficiaries, enjoying high-quality apps that seamlessly operate on their preferred platform. The ever-evolving landscape of mobile app development ensures that businesses can adapt and innovate to meet customer demands and preferences effectively.



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