

Google says 300,000 Android phones activated daily

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This handout image released by Samsung Electronics in Seoul shows views of the Nexus S. More than 300,000 smartphones running on Google-backed Android software are activated daily, according to an engineering vice president at the Internet giant.

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Andy Rubin fired off the update in a terse "tweet" at microblogging service Twitter late Wednesday.

The news indicates that Android smartphones are building momentum in the hot mobile market, where just a few months ago Google boasted that

the rate of Android handset activations averaged 200,000 a day.

[Google](#) is fueling interest in Android devices with the release next week of a new champion on the mobile phone market battlefield, a "[Nexus S](#)" smartphone made by South Korea's Samsung.

The Nexus S, the successor to the Nexus One launched about a year earlier, will be the first smartphone on the market powered by the latest version of Android mobile software, "Gingerbread."

The Android mobile operating system surged past Apple's [iPhone](#) and Canada's BlackBerry in the third quarter to become the second biggest smartphone platform after Nokia's [Symbian](#), research firm Gartner reported in November.

Gartner said Finland's Nokia sold 29.5 million smartphones during the third quarter of the year for a 36.6 percent share of the worldwide market, down from 44.6 percent a year ago.

Sales of Android-powered smartphones soared to 20.5 million units, giving the Android platform a 25.5 percent market share, up from just 3.5 percent a year ago, Gartner said.

Apple's iPhone was next on sales of 13.5 million units for a 16.7 percent market share, down from 17.1 percent a year ago.

Canada's [Research In Motion](#), maker of the [BlackBerry](#), was in fourth position with sales of 11.9 million units. Its market share dropped to 14.8 percent from 20.7 percent a year ago.

Microsoft's Windows Mobile saw sales of 2.2 million units giving it a 2.8 percent market share, down from 7.9 percent a year ago, Gartner said.

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