

Google races past Microsoft to number two tech firm

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Google shares gained 0.96 percent to end at \$761.78, giving the [Internet giant](#) a [market capitalization](#) of \$249.1 billion. Microsoft meanwhile fell 0.91 percent to \$29.49, translating into a market worth of \$247.2 billion.

Both remained well behind Apple, which shed 1.16 percent to \$659.39, meaning its market cap is just above \$618 billion.

Google's stock price has climbed steadily this year as the California-based company bolstered its positions in key Internet growth areas with

its dominant search engine, Android mobile operating system and YouTube video venue.

The shares got a boost last week from a Citigroup note advising investors that the Google stock price could "rise significantly in the 12 months ahead."

A note Monday from Trip Chowdhry at Global Equities Research said both Google and Apple have "strong momentum" in the mobile Internet sector while "developer interest in [Windows Phone](#) is almost non-existent."

Chowdhry added that [Google's](#) "innovation velocity far exceeds any other company."

Enthusiasm for Microsoft has been lukewarm, despite its upcoming launch of the Windows 8 operating system and a push into the tablet and phone markets.

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