

# What The Top 50 Apps Do With IAP That The Rest Of Us Don't

**Mike Hines**  
Amazon.com



**GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE™ EUROPE**  
CONGRESS-CENTRUM OST KOELNMESSE · COLOGNE, GERMANY  
AUGUST 3-4, 2015

## Today's Agenda

1. Get out of bed
2. Go to GDC
3. Learn something
4. Go to bed

Amazon Appstore

## TODAY'S AGENDA

How the Top 50 Did

What They Do Differently – Selling

What They Do Differently – Engagement

# Amazon's Large and Active Audience

Amazon Appstore reaches **FireOS, Android, and Blackberry 10** customers



**The Appstore supports a large ecosystem**

Customers are 1-Click purchase ready

Available on Android tablets and phones

The only store for Amazon devices



## TOPIC 1

How the Top 50 apps did  
vs. the rest of us



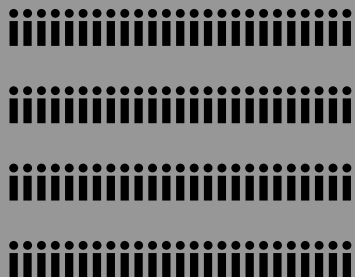
# Cohort Analysis

Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing

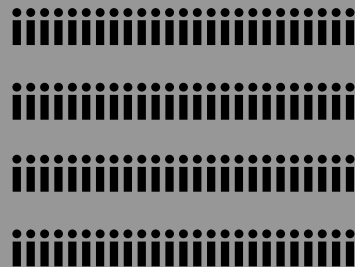
Group **B**: Rest of Freemium

# Day 1: Installs

Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing



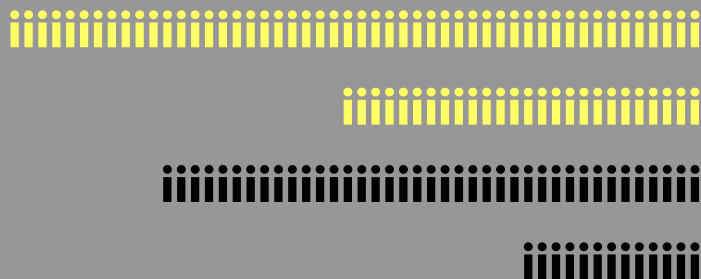
Group **B**: Rest of Freemium



100 100  
installed

# Day 1: Active Users

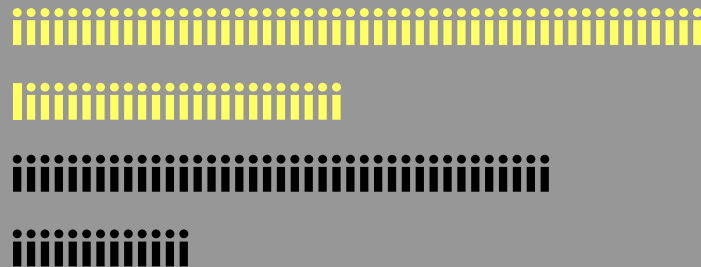
Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing



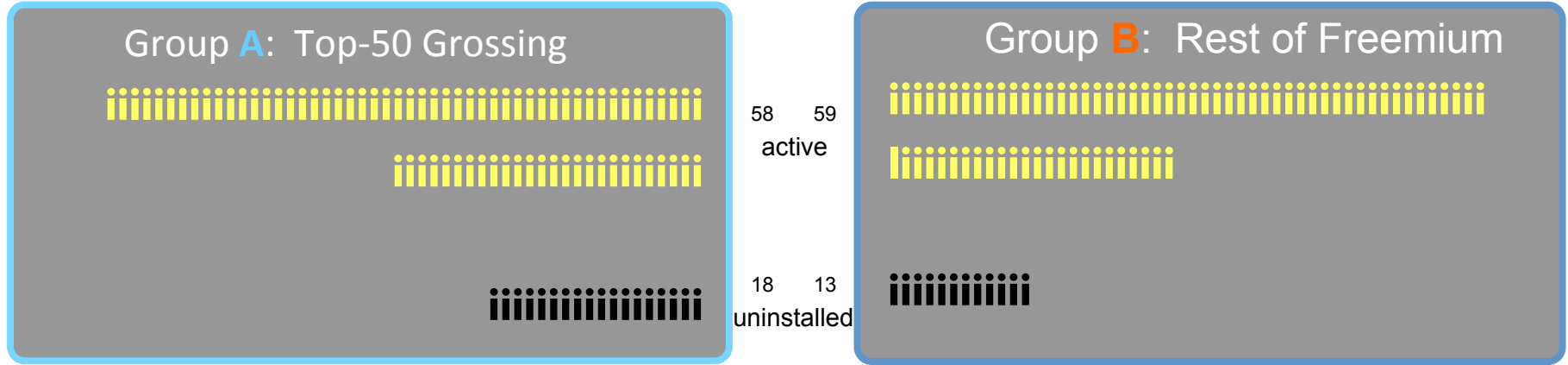
58 59  
active

42 41  
In  
active

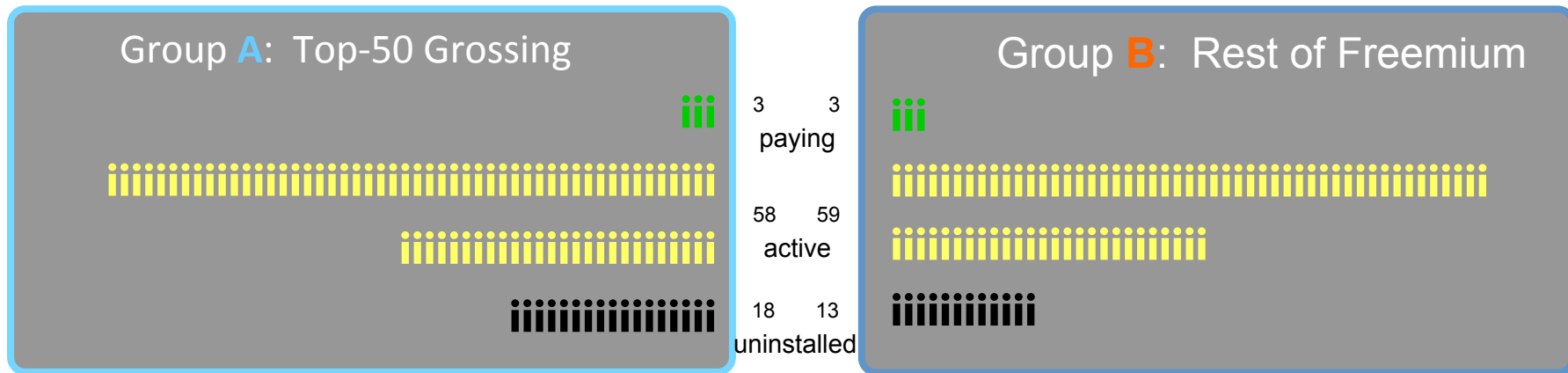
Group **B**: Rest of Freemium



# Day 1: Uninstalls

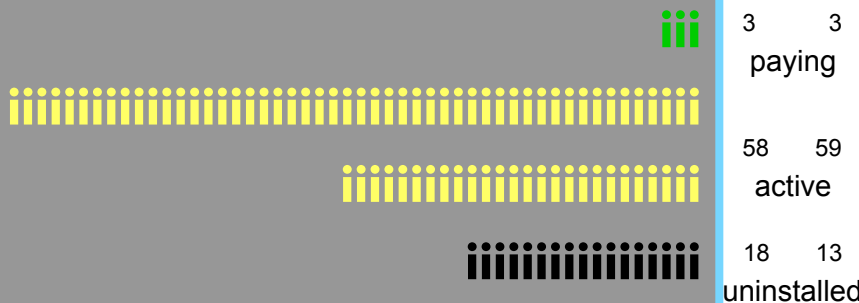


# Day 1: Paying Users

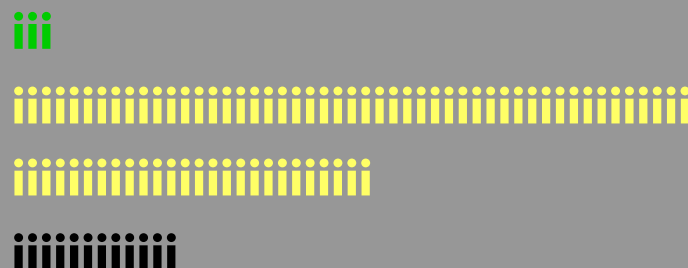


# Day 1: Engagement

Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing

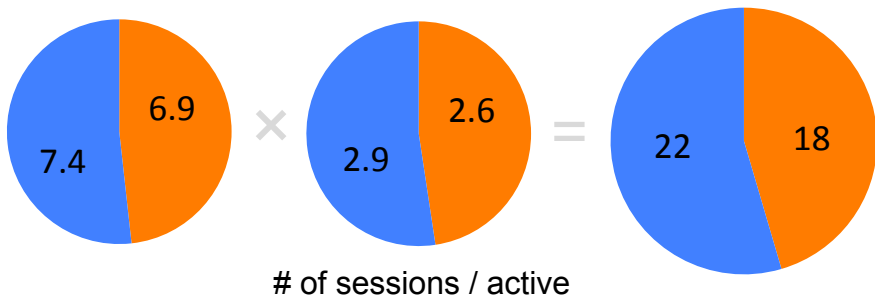


Group **B**: Rest of Freemium



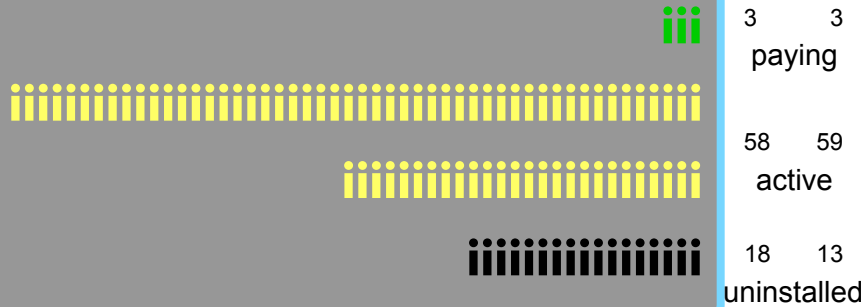
avg. session length  
(minutes)

session length / active  
(minutes)

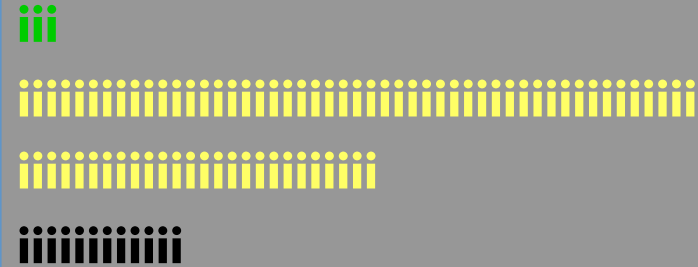


# Day 1: Revenue

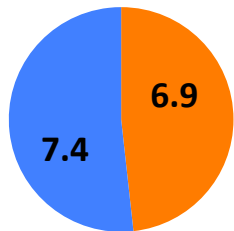
Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing



Group **B**: Rest of Freemium

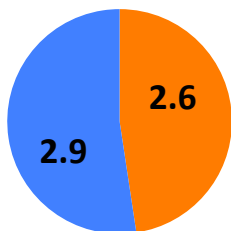


avg. session length  
(minutes)

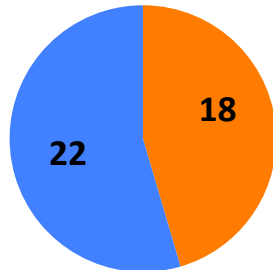


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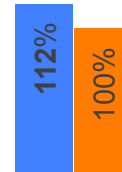
session length / active  
(minutes)



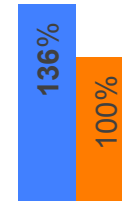
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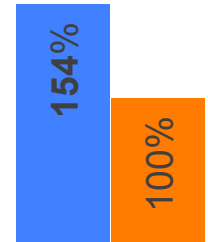
# of sessions / active



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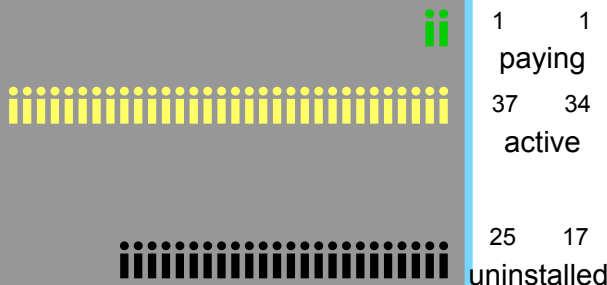
# of items / paying

avg. selling price

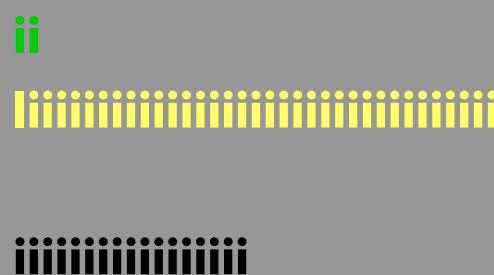
ARPPU

# 1 Day Later...

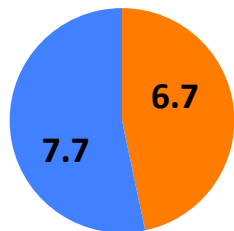
Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing



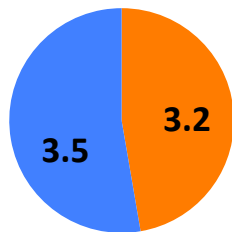
Group **B**: Rest of Freemium



avg. session length  
(minutes)

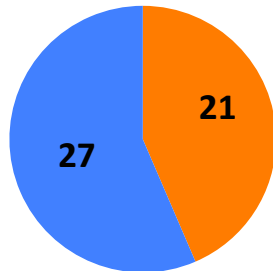


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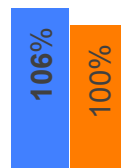


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session length / active  
(minutes)



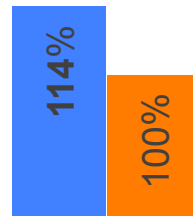
# of sessions / active



×



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# of items / paying

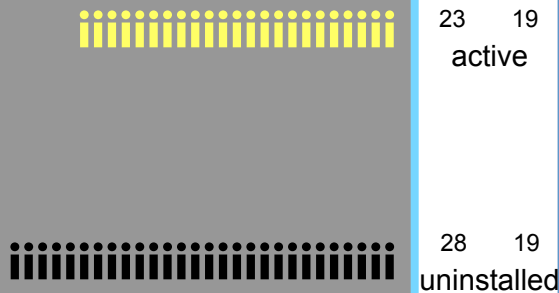
avg. selling price

ARPPU

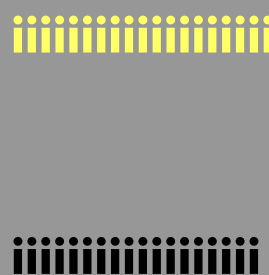


# 3 Days Later...

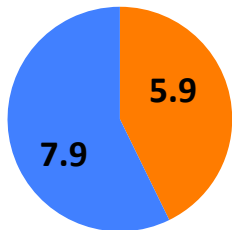
Group A: Top-50 Grossing



Group B: Rest of Freemium

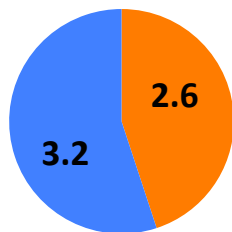


avg. session length  
(minutes)

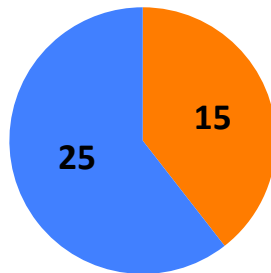


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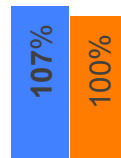
session length / active  
(minutes)



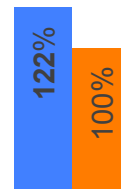
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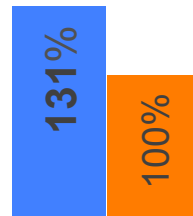
# of sessions / active



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# of items / paying

avg. selling price

ARPPU

# 1 Week Later...

Group A: Top-50 Grossing



18 14  
active

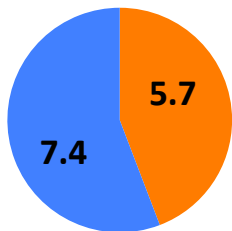


32 20  
uninstalled

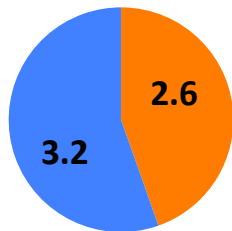
Group B: Rest of Freemium



avg. session length  
(minutes)

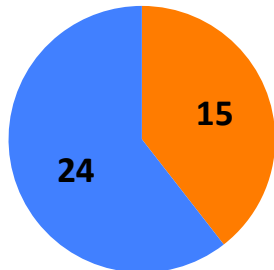


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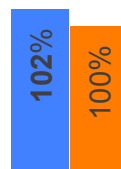


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session length / active  
(minutes)



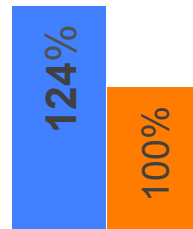
# of sessions / active



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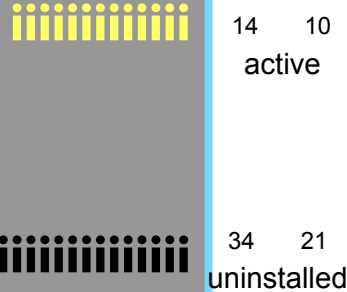
# of items / paying

avg. selling price

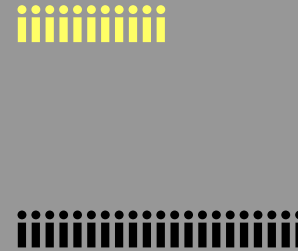
ARPPU

# 2 Weeks Later...

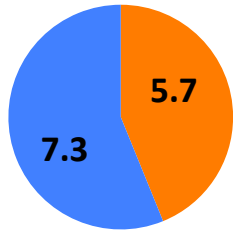
Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing



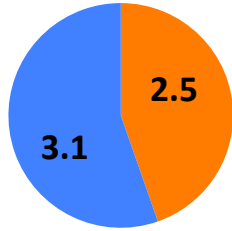
Group **B**: Rest of Freemium



avg. session length  
(minutes)

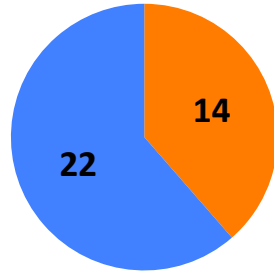


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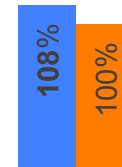
session length / active  
(minutes)



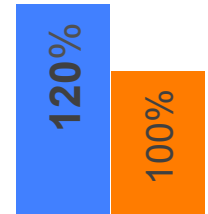
# of sessions / active



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# of items / paying

avg. selling price

ARPPU

# 1 Month Later...

Group **A**: Top-50 Grossing



8 4  
active

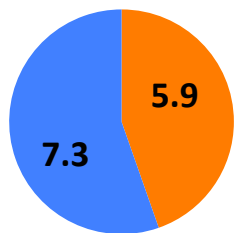


36 22  
uninstalled

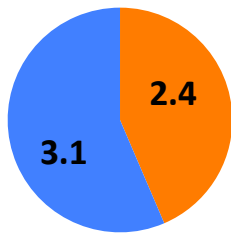
Group **B**: Rest of Freemium



avg. session length  
(minutes)

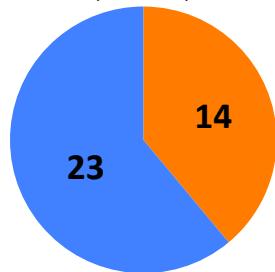


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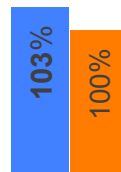


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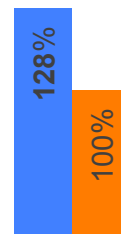
session length / active  
(minutes)



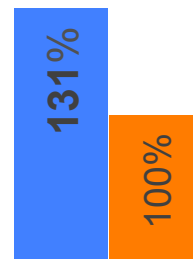
# of sessions / active



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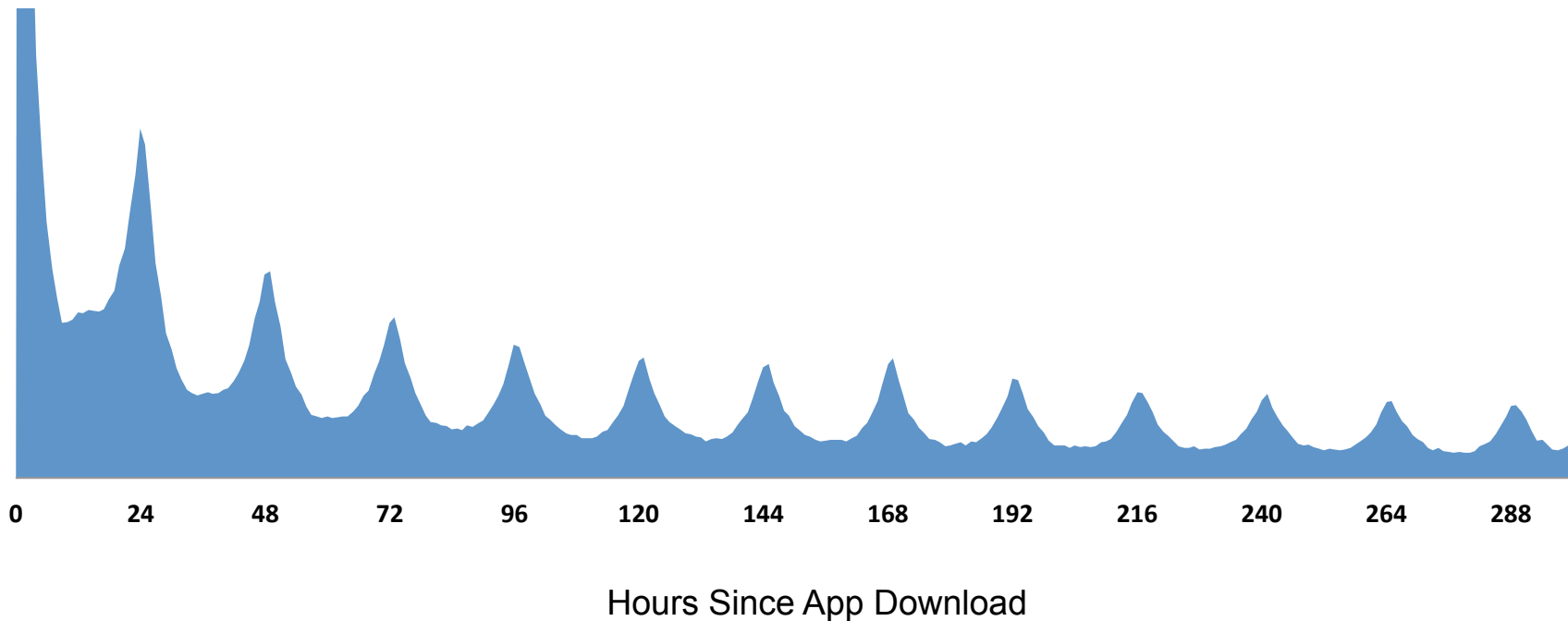


# of items / paying

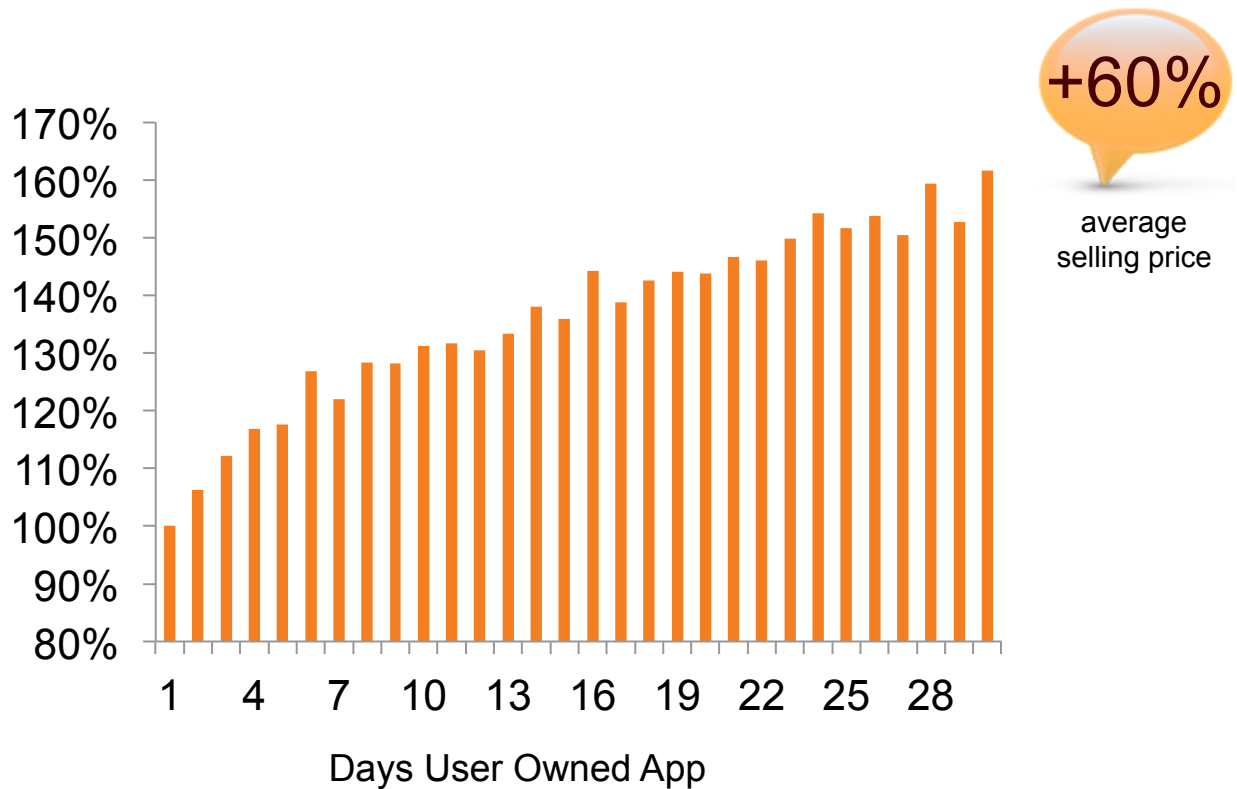
avg. selling price

ARPPU

# IN-APP PURCHASING BY HOUR



# PRICE INCREASES OVER TIME



# WHAT WE LEARNED



The top have higher average price points

You can charge more in the right place and time.



Session length and count are important

Retention is not the only important metric.



## TOPIC 2

What the top 50 do differently  
-- Selling



GIVE THEM A  
REASON TO  
COME BACK



64% of revenue comes from 3rd order +  
74% of revenue occurs after first 7 days  
56% of revenue occurs after first 30 days

MAKE IT  
EASY TO  
COME BACK



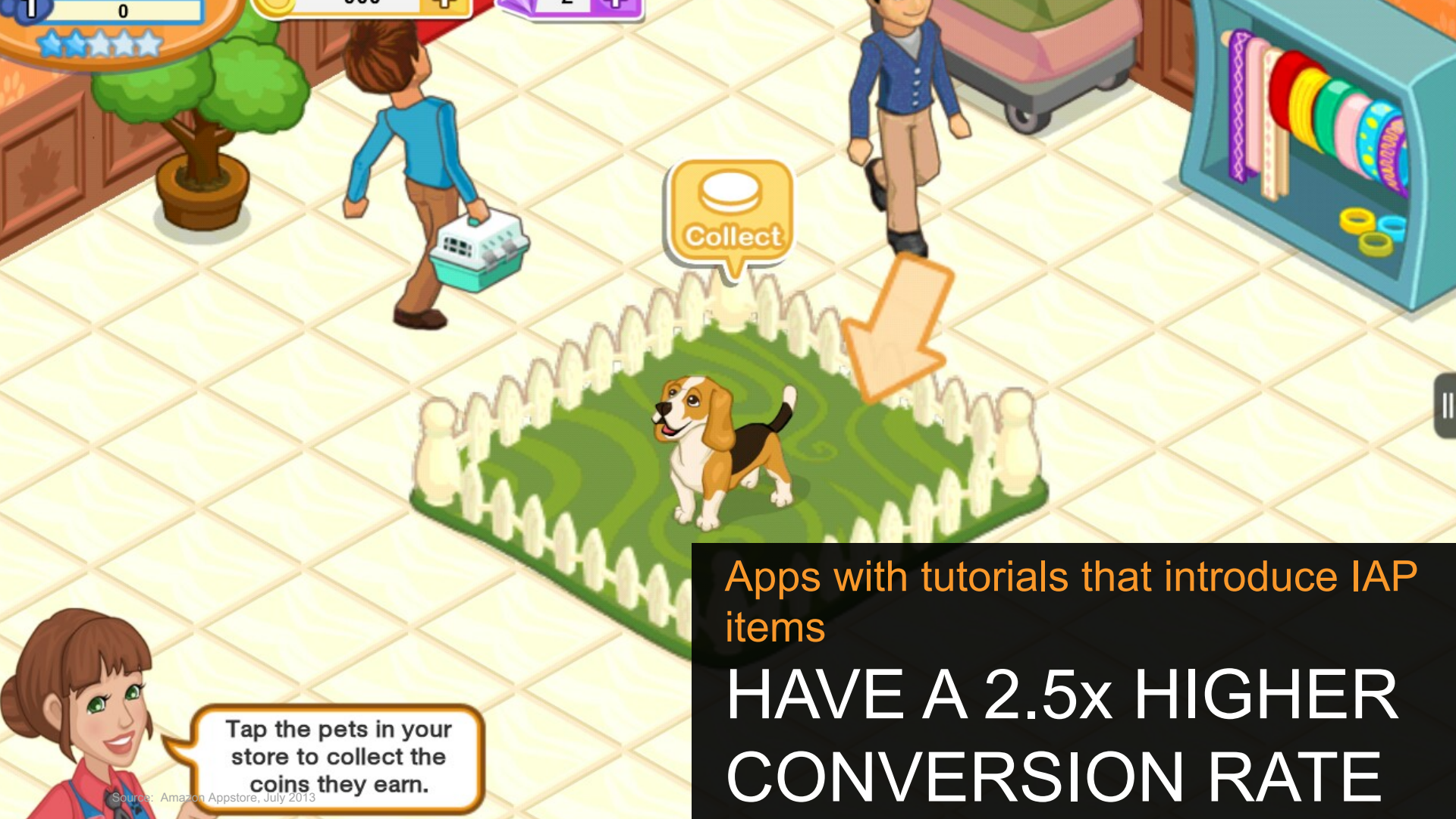
48% of repeat purchases happen within one  
hour of a previous purchase

ENGAGE  
CUSTOMER  
EARLY



37% of users who will purchase, purchase  
on the first day

THE TOP DEVELOPERS KNOW THE NUMBERS

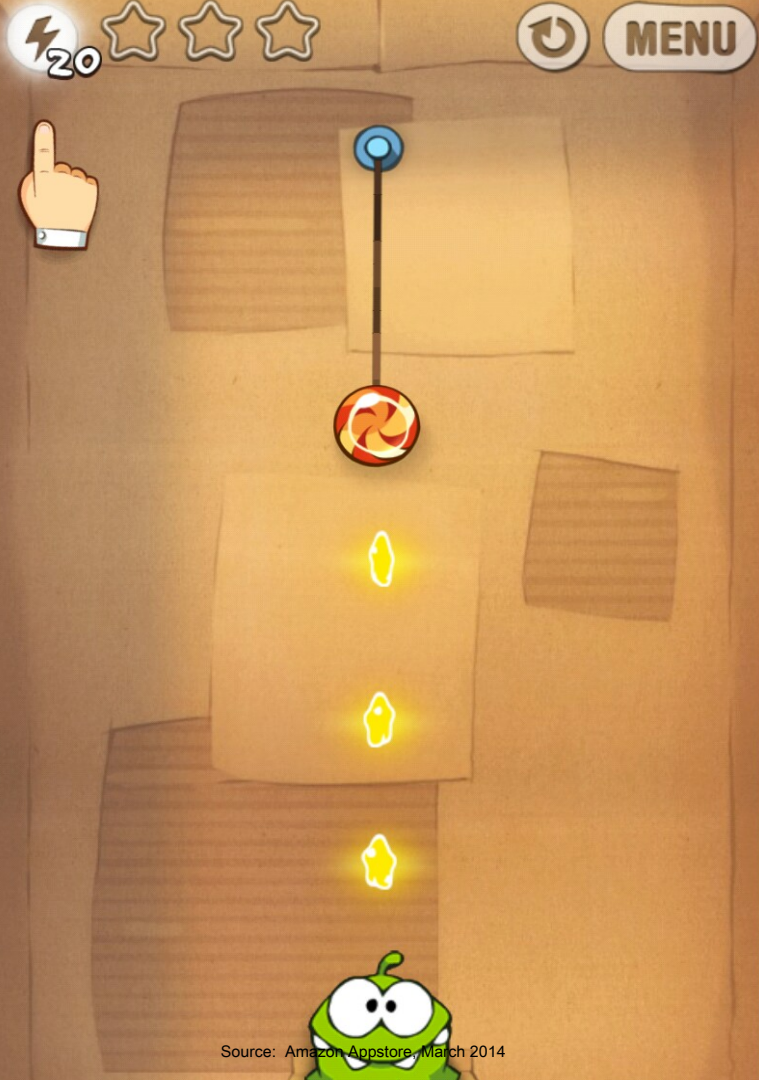


Tap the pets in your  
store to collect the  
coins they earn.

Source: Amazon Appstore, July 2013

Apps with tutorials that introduce IAP  
items

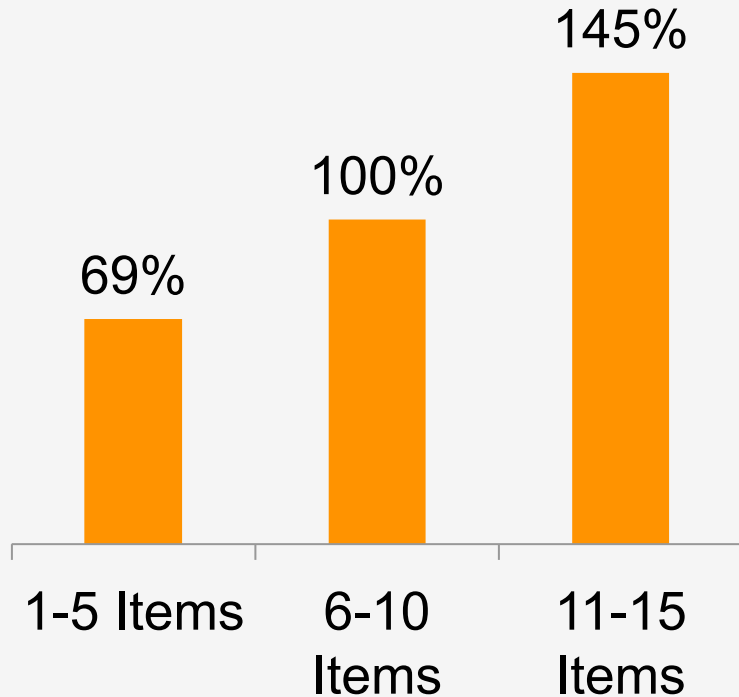
**HAVE A 2.5x HIGHER  
CONVERSION RATE**



Apps showing users how to “consume”

# GET MORE REPEAT ORDERS

Games that providing a post-purchasing tutorial generated **65%** more repeat orders than the market average.



**ARPPU by # of IAP items for sale**

Games with bigger selection

## RECEIVE MORE ORDERS PER CUSTOMER

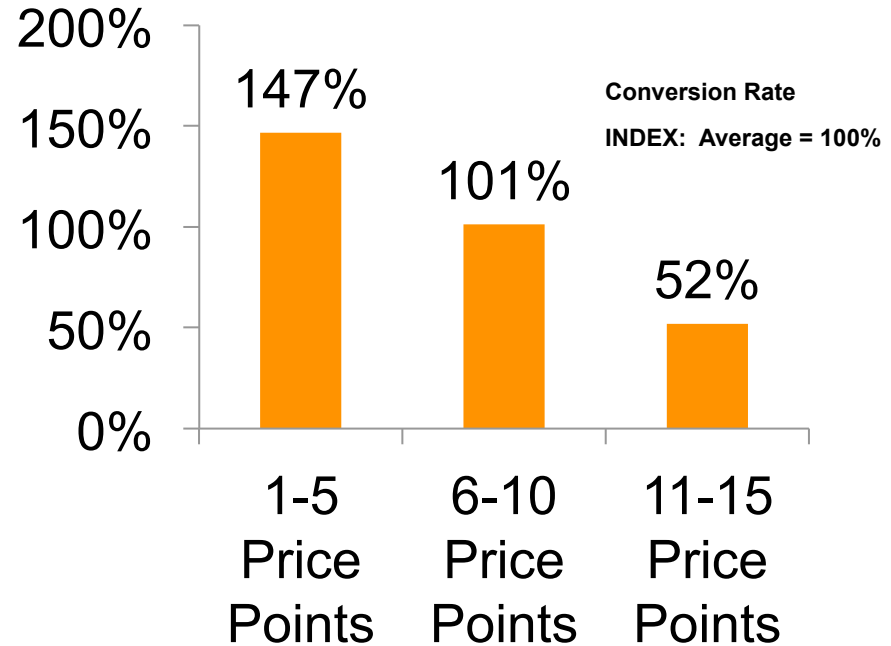
Developers that add new items regularly are able to re-engage their paying customers. 1.14% of the customers generate 30% of sales.





Don't confuse your customer

# OFFER VARIETY, BUT NOT TOO MUCH





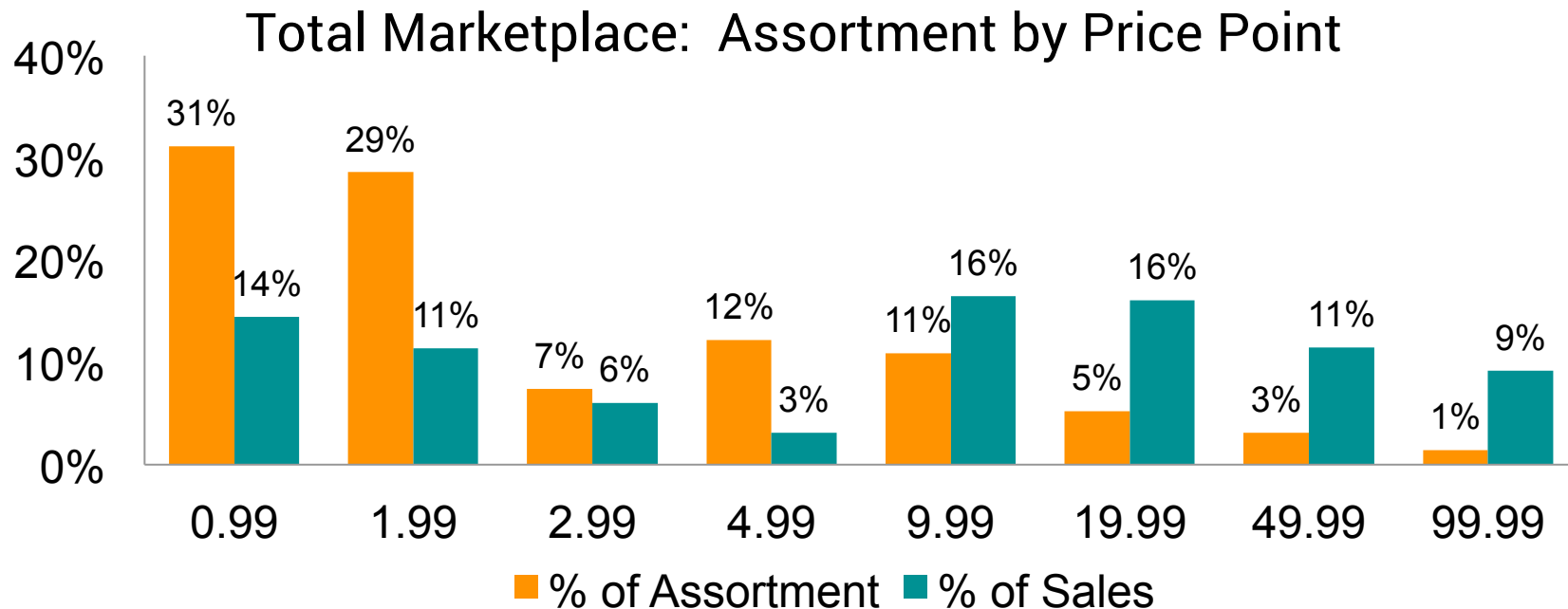
To sell more IAP items,

## BE CLEAR ABOUT VALUE

Make it obvious what the benefit is for buying different price items. Confused customers don't buy anything.

Most of us have too much

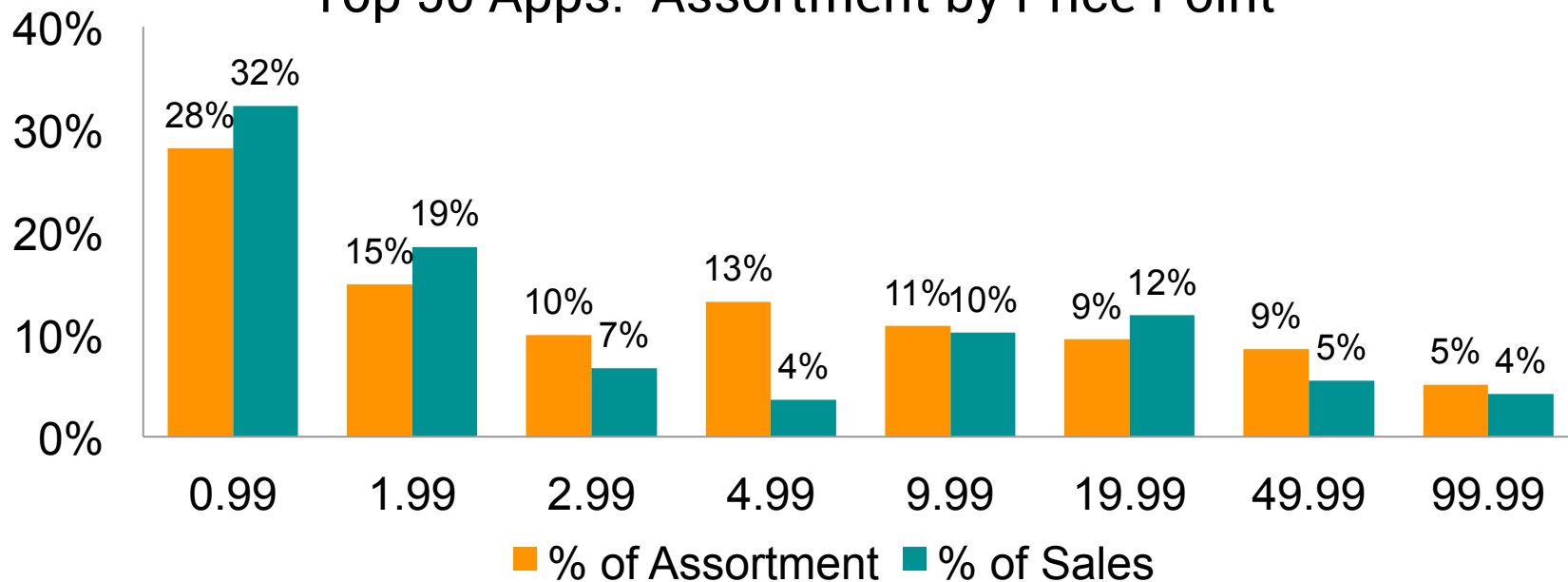
# CONCENTRATION ON LOW PRICES



We find that the

# TOP GAMES ARE MORE BALANCED

Top 50 Apps: Assortment by Price Point





# WHAT WE LEARNED



of paying customers generate  
30% of sales

Games with bigger selection  
**RECEIVE MORE ORDERS**

Tutorials that introduce in-app items  
**HAVE HIGHER CONVERSION**

Showing users how to “consume”  
**GETS REPEAT ORDERS**

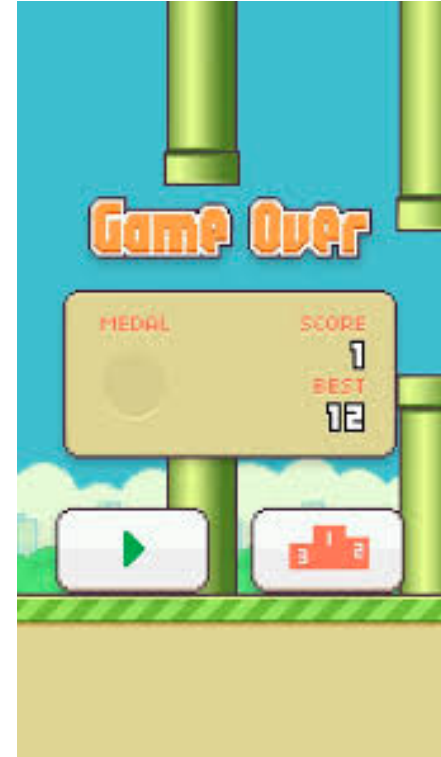
Treating in-app items like a catalogue  
**MAKES IT EASY TO SHOP**



## TOPIC 3

What the top 50 do differently  
-- Engagement

# REDUCE BARRIERS TO FREQUENT USE





Tuning Game Difficulty

# WILL ENCOURAGE LONGER SESSIONS

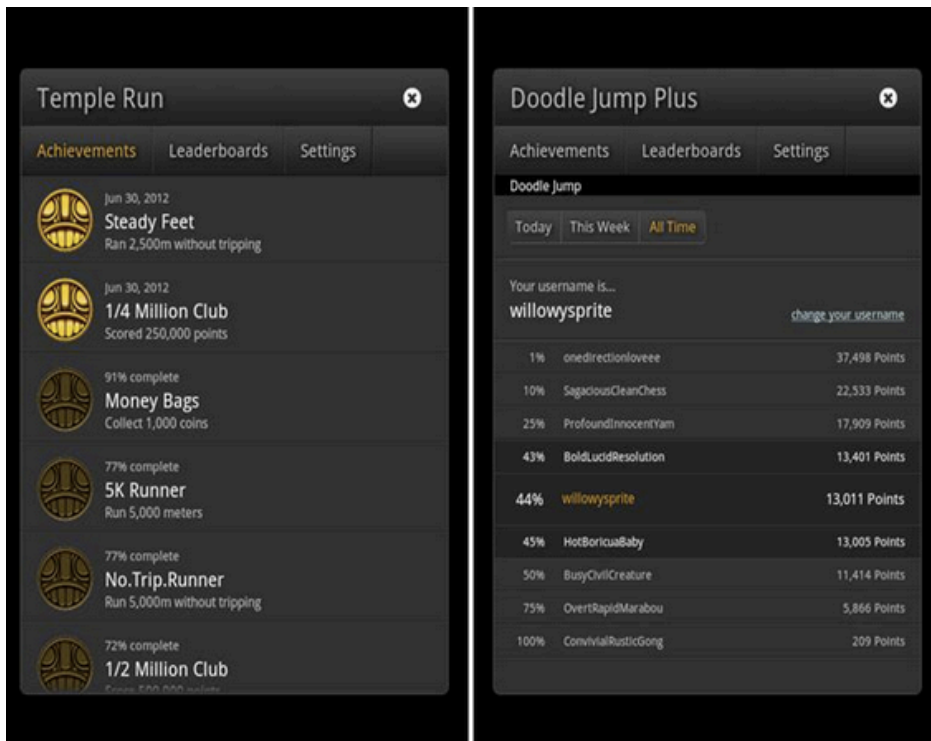
Too hard, and users will abandon. Too easy, and they can get bored. Just right, and it becomes addictive!



Adopting Social

## CAN CREATE BUZZ AND KEEP USERS ENGAGED

This will result in more friend-to-friend marketing as players share their achievements and ranks. Players will also compete with friends and leaders and stay engaged.



Leaderboards and Achievements  
are

THE MINIMUM BAR FOR  
SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Everyone has a game services SDK.

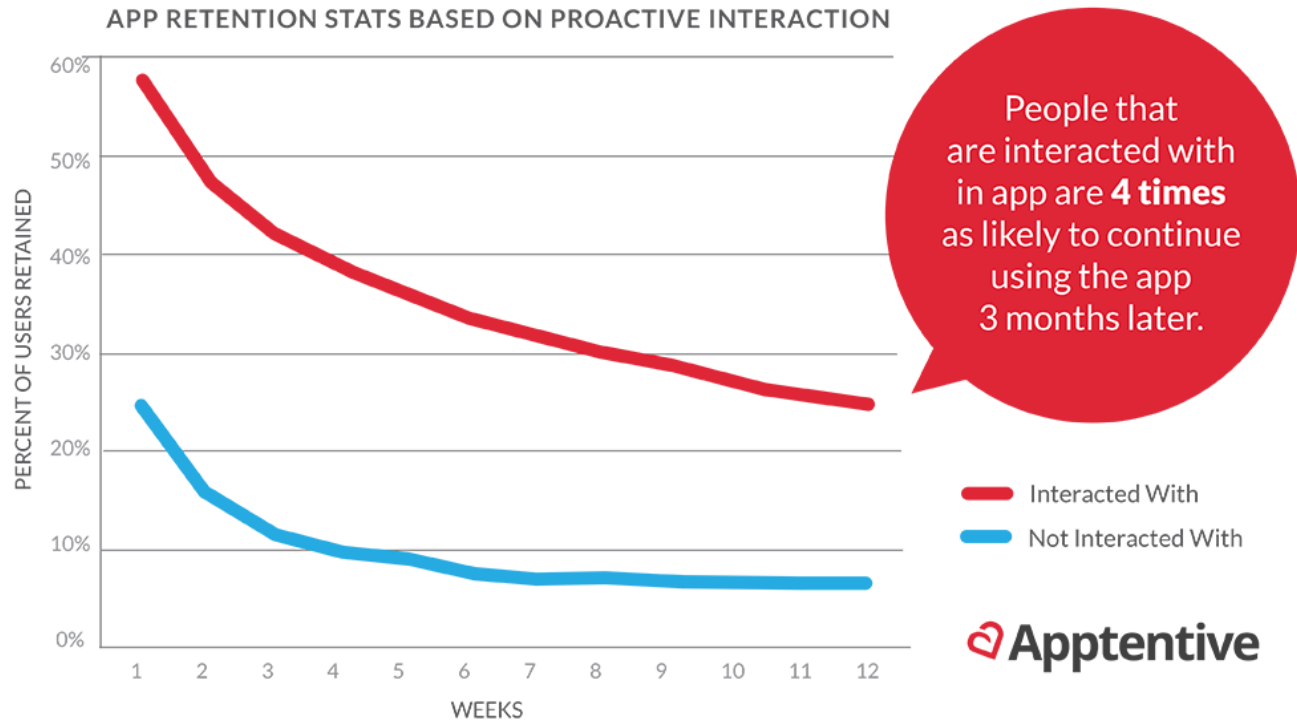
Amazon (compatible on all Android)

Google Play (Google Play store compat.)

Apple (iTunes store compat.)

# TOP DEVS INTERACT WITH CUSTOMERS

Active listening and interacting





# SUPPORT ADVOCATES WITH PROMOTION

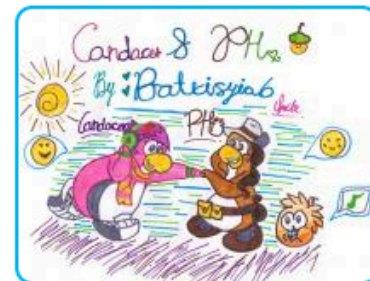
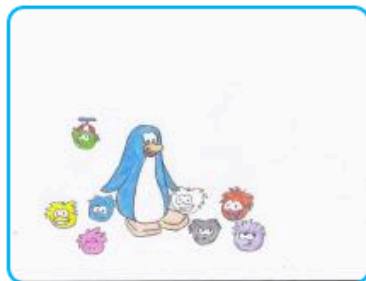
Give customers a place to show their love for your app



[Membership](#) [Blog](#) [Safety](#) [Parents](#) [Products](#) [Apps](#) [Help](#)

**Play Now!**

## Fan Art





# BUILD ADVOCATES THROUGH INTERACTIONS

Example of streaming during development



Vlambeer - Nuclear Throne Development stream - Subscribe to get the game!

Vlambeer playing Nuclear Throne



Subscribe

\$12.99

Share



8,225,332



11,583

Sorry, we were unable to connect to chat.  
Reconnecting in 4 seconds.

Welcome to the chat room!

**Devilazite:** based shields

★ **Thesteelgamer:** gotta be ice bolts

**Culukeh:** lol

**Sprinkle\_farts:** Cursed Disk gun hype!

**Dixego:** isn't this the song from maverick bird?

**Darkthedarkguy:** Cursed weps from the start tho

**Collen\_n:** cursed disc gun CONFIRMED

**Davidpd5:** good question

★ **Rodrigorok:**

**Devilazite:** taking cursed disc gun cause balls are beach ball HEUG

✓ **Gieron666:** should be easy to do, same sprites just add some modifier and change the outline color + some particle effect on the weapon

**Centmare:** who am I watching?

**Dr\_pootis14:** hi peoples

**Collen\_n:** The hype is real

★ **Shackes:** is there always a cursed chest on 1-1?

★ **Thesteelgamer:** heavy bullets, flame shotguns, lightning energy, energy melee

**Sprinkle\_farts:**

✓ **Gieron666:** and suddenly 100 guns become much



Design IAP into the fabric of your game

## MAKE IT EASY TO BUY

Offering ways to buy your IAP items when they are needed will increase conversion.

Apps that made it easy to shop

# INCREASED REVENUE 75% (ARPPU)



To be in control,  
**HAVE A LOT  
OF LEVERS**

Use A/B Testing to fine-tune everything from game difficulty to IAP menu choices.



# MORE STORES



Market your app to all customers  
**BE IN ALL THE STORES**

If you've invested in building an Android app,  
sell it everywhere.

# WHAT WE LEARNED

Add social, interact with customers, and tweak game difficulty to  
**INCREASE TIME AND COUNT OF SESSIONS**

Cater to your best and longest customers with clear value  
**DIFFERENTIATE YOUR IAP CATALOG**

Give yourself control of your game in the wild  
**IMPLEMENT A/B TESTING**

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING...

Cater to your best and longest customers

**DIFFERENTIATE YOUR IAP CATALOG**

IF YOU ONLY DO TWO THINGS...

Cater to your best and longest customers

**DIFFERENTIATE YOUR IAP CATALOG**

Make sure your IAP catalogs are

**CLEAR ABOUT VALUE**



# Get This Presentation:

<http://bit.ly/Top50IAP> (Why Isn't My Game Doing Better)

<http://bit.ly/gdceurope> (How did we do today?)

# Contact me:

Tweet: @MikeFHines

# Follow us:

 @AmazonAppDev

 /AmazonAppstoreForAndroid

 [developer.amazon.com/blog](http://developer.amazon.com/blog)

