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Introduction

This AVG study identifies the top battery, data and storage consuming apps on Android™ smartphones and tablets and includes the latest results from Q1 2015.

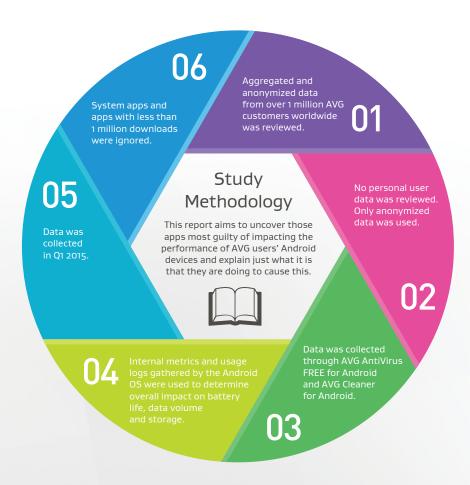
The huge choice of cool, interesting and engaging apps available today for Android handsets is what makes a phone more than just a phone.

These apps bring social networks, entertainment, educational information, and productivity tools to our fingertips, at home, in the office or on the move.

Brilliant though they are, certain apps have a tendency to eat up the battery life, mobile data and storage

of our phones and tablets without us realizing – by constantly checking for content and feed updates, pushing through notifications, streaming audio in the background, delivering high-res graphics, or simply downloading data.

If you are tired of soaring data bills, sluggish devices, and that universally hated red battery symbol, then read on.





Introduction cont...

The measured vectors - battery, storage and data plan - were normalized by calculating the percentile based on the median values of the apps, measured from when the app was installed, whether used or not.

Based on our experience with consumer preferences, AVG weighted each of the three vectors slightly differently when calculating the overall performance score for an app. The calculation was therefore:

Storage*3 + Battery*2 + Traffic

Data collected in the US, UK and Australia was statistically significant enough to be able to produce specific tables and insights for those markets. These can be viewed in the appendix.

Measurement was carried out as follows:

Battery Drain

We ranked the apps' battery consumption average based on real usage data. We ignored applications that have less than 1 million downloads according to Google Play. We also did not include core system apps but left in pre-installed but optional apps.

Storage Consumption

We ranked the apps' storage consumption average based on real usage data by measuring the size of not just the app itself but also the additional data (e.g. downloads, temp files or cache data) stored over time.

Data Plan

We ranked the apps' network traffic consumption average based on real usage data. We only took into account cellular transmitted data, ignoring the cost-free Wi-Fi traffic.



Note that our own **AVG AntiVirus and AVG Cleaner for Android** apps have been excluded because the data for this report is collected anonymously from these two apps, which would automatically have put them in first place as most installed.





Top Findings in Q1 2015

Love makes you 'appy': dating & chatting apps surge into the top 10

It seems that Android owners at the start of 2015 were trying to meet Mr or Mrs Right. **POF Free Dating** entered the Top 10 and there was a new entrant at number 6 from the chat category, **OoVoo Video & Text**, a cross platform application that's growing in popularity and also managed to make it into the Top 10 resource consuming apps that run automatically at startup.

Facebook Messenger becomes the number 1 top communication app: surpasses Skype, Gmail and WhatsApp in popularity

Facebook used to hold the number 3 spot among the top installed communication apps (see page 26), behind WhatsApp in position 2 and Google Mail, the previous number 1. Now it's the number 1 communication app, outranking Google's own Gmail and household chat apps like WhatsApp and Skype.



Screen shots from ooVoo





Top Findings in Q1 2015

Samsung KNOX, Samsung Push, and Beaming Service are the top battery drainers

Consistent with Q4 2014, Samsung's **KNOX** security service is major invisible battery drainer on your Galaxy smartphone. In addition, the built-in **Samsung Push Service** now also runs in the background, placing it in 7th position for battery drainers. This service is required for **ChatON**, a WhatsApp rival that came with almost all of the company's handsets, but the good news is that **Samsung turned it off on February 1**st. In number 1 spot for battery drainers is a background service called **Beaming Service by Mobeam Inc.**, which also comes bundled with many Samsung phones.

Tip: See our all-new <u>AVG Android Optimization Guide</u> to identify and turn off such resource-hungry apps.

Cleaning and security apps that don't always help your phone

People looking to protect and clean their phone should know some of the top used apps, including **Lookout Security & Antivirus** and **Clean Master**, show up in the top spots of our lists of top battery drainers and traffic consuming apps. What's interesting is that 88% of all measured apps in the traffic consumption category consume less traffic than **Clean Master**, which clocked in at several hundred megabytes of data per user.







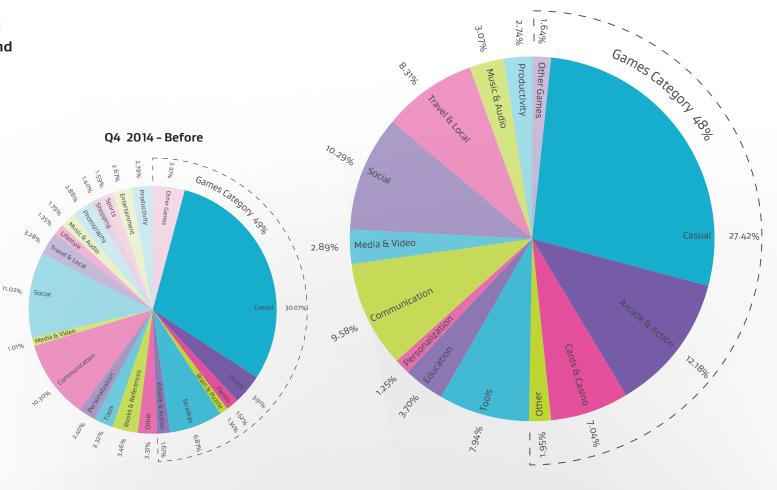
Top Findings in Q1 2015

New gaming style on the rise: casino games start a new trend

This quarter, we identified a massive spike in card and casino games as well as big blockbuster arcade games in our statistics for overall time spent per app. While the casino category didn't even exist previously due to its low usage, in the January to March period of 2015, it featured as up to 7% of usage, and arcade games also grew to 12% usage from 1.6% in the previous quarter. **Solitaire** and Zynga's **Livepoker** stood outas particularly popular.

Overall Time Spent per App Category

Q1 2015 - Latest





A Executive Summary Top Findings in Q1 2015

Ovyage around the world directly from your device: travel app usage rose by 5%

Travel and location apps, particularly the **Google Maps** app (see "Top Engaged Apps") made up a total of 8% of the time we spent with our Android smartphones. That's quite a jump from 3% previously.

Simple words chew up traffic, battery, and storage

The **New Words With Friends** game shows up in the top 10 of top traffic consumers, top battery drainers and top storage consumers – all at once.

Weather apps warning: spells of high data usage can be expected

Apps like Weather Channel, Weather & Clock Widget and Weather Bug used up a significant amount of the users' data plan in the background. Go to our list of Top Traffic Consuming Apps to see if you can spot any that you have on your device.

New apps
on the block

In this quarter, several new apps grew in popularity and made it both into the top resource consuming apps and top used apps categories. The new entries include Soundcloud, CleanMaster, ooVoo, KakoTalk, PicsArt and Crossy Road.

The true cost of preserving your privacy

Truecaller Caller ID & Block may help you be anonymous but by doing so it ruins your battery in the background. Read more in our list of Top Battery Drainers.







App Scoreboard

The following tables show the top five apps in each category which, according to AVG's study, have the most impact on your device. These tables do not include games.





App Scoreboard cont...

The tables below look at the top five games apps in each category which, according to AVG's study, have the most impact on your device.







Introduction

New versions of the Android™ operating system introduce additional features that are specifically optimized for the latest devices. But at what cost?

While new Android versions can dramatically improve the experience for those who own the latest smartphone or tablet, the same is not true for older devices, whose users may see the battery life and speed suffer.

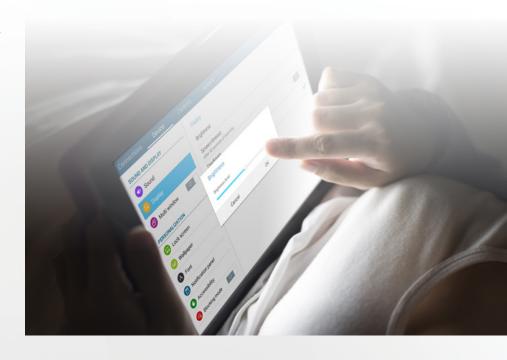
It's also the case that the more apps you install, the slower your phone or tablet will get. This is not just about the space those apps take up being on your device, but also the fact that a lot of apps, such as **Spotify**, **Skype** or **WhatsApp**, tend to be active even when not used and run quietly in the background.

In this section, we will take a closer look at the full list of apps which ranked in the top ten for impact on battery life, device storage and data plan – as well as those with the overall highest ranking for performance when combining all three of these measurements.

The key findings are separated into two parts:

- All apps excluding games
- Games only, which we felt were significant enough to merit a separate category of their own

On page 28, we will look at possible ways to improve the battery drain, performance draw and data usage through various steps both inside the Android OS as well as in specific apps.





World's Greediest Mobile Apps

In this section, we discovered which apps had the most overall impact on mobile devices.

TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - RUN AT START UP



Analysis

In this report, we split our analysis further to identify the top apps that users actively launch in order to use, and separately, the apps that automatically start or run continuously in the background and may impact your device without you even realizing.

Facebook is unsurprisingly still the No 1 resourcedraining background app as it constantly checks for updates and messages.

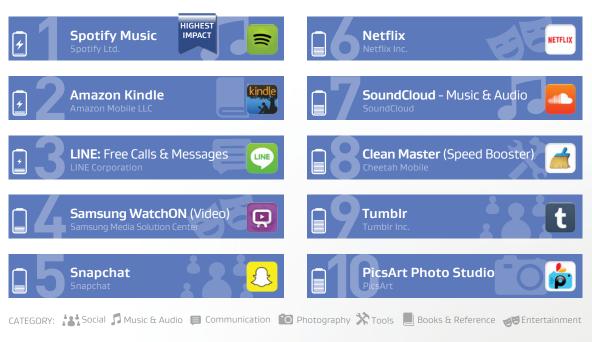
The 8 Ball Pool game was more of a surprise we would not expect a game to register itself as a startup app and to run quietly in the background.





World's Greediest Mobile Apps cont..

TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - RUN BY USER



Analysis

On the side of user-initiated apps, **Spotify**, **Amazon Kindle** and **LINE: Free Calls & Messages** took the
top slots for impact. Newcomers like **SoundCloud** or **PicsArt Photo Studio** are apps users should be aware
of using carefully.





Top Ten Battery Drainers

In this category, we split out those apps which run automatically when you turn on your smartphone or tablet and keep on running in the background all the time as part of their core functionality. This could, for example, include antivirus apps, messaging apps or social apps.

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS – RUN AT START UP



Analysis

Some surprise apps came up when we looked at those that keep running in the background. These included the Weather & Clock Widget, the barcode scanner Beaming Service for Samsung, and Truecaller – Caller ID & Block.







Top Ten Battery Drainers cont..

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - RUN BY USER



Analysis

As battery life is often the number 1 concern for smartphone users, apps that make it to the top 10 in these lists should be monitored quite closely. Some are necessary, some aren't: for example, the mobile remote app, **Samsung WatchON**, is likely to be left on while users are switching channels. Some apps like OLX Free Classifieds or Walmart shouldn't be in the top 10 of consuming apps, though.





Top Ten Storage Hogs

Your favorite everyday apps could be using up more of the precious limited storage on your device than you might realize.

TOP 10 STORAGE EATERS - RUN AT START UP



This is because the longer some apps are installed, the more storage they consume. In this section of our study, we examine which of the apps with more than 1 million installs in the Google Play store consume the most storage space over time.

Analysis

A simple 2D game **8 Pool Ball** should not need to eat up storage while chat apps like **WeChat** or browsers like **Firefox** need to be cleaned up regularly by deleting conversation logs and browser caches.





Top Ten Storage Hogs cont..

TOP 10 STORAGE EATERS - RUN BY USER



Analysis

However, apps like Amazon Shopping or NFL Mobile shouldn't consume much storage. They're not downloading massive video or audio files for offline usage, so using a cleaning app should help you get rid of the temporary data.

Seeing **Spotify** as the number 1 storage consuming app makes a lot of sense since **Spotify** officially allows 3,333 songs to be stored locally. If you're running out of storage, deleting some offline songs, albums or playlists may be a good idea.





Top Ten Data Traffic Hogs

Many of the apps you love the most can impact heavily on your data plan, which is why if you are watching your monthly bills, you might want to use these apps with care.

TOP 10 DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - RUN AT START UP



Analysis

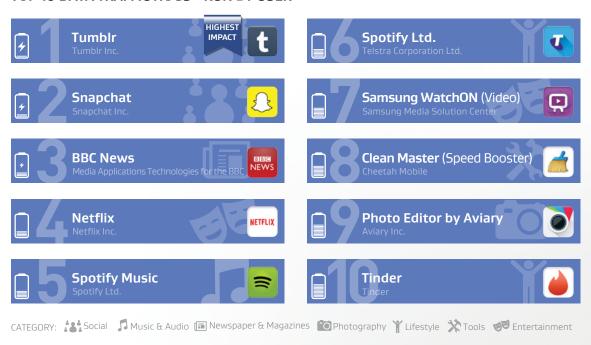
If you're not on an unlimited 3G or 4G plan, it's useful to be aware of the main apps in this category as every unnecessary megabyte of traffic will impact your data plan. Even when it's not running, **Facebook** is still the number 1 traffic consuming app because it keeps on loading data to give you all the latest notifications, contact requests, and messages. You can help by turning off all the **Facebook** notifications (see more in our AVG Android Performance Guide).

Surprisingly, we've also got no less than 4 different weather apps in the top 10 of invisible traffic eating apps. One particular example is **Weather & Clock Widget Android** as it is set to download weather information every hour over your mobile connection. To use this more effectively, you could switch this to Wi-Fi usage only if your data plan is limited.



Top Ten Data Traffic Hogs cont..

TOP 10 DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - RUN BY USER



Analysis

In the user-run apps department, text and photo driven apps, including **Snapchat** and **BBC**, strangely consume more traffic than **Spotify**, even with its data-heavy video and music consumption requirements.





Mobile Gaming-What Gamers Should Know

Many of the games you love the most can impact heavily on your device performance, so if you are watching your battery or storage levels, you might want to choose when to use these apps.

TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - GAMES



Analysis

Games tend to consume more phone resources and have greater impact on performance than any other app category as they require lots of graphic and processor power. Constant holders of the top spots are games like **Hay Day**, the various **Saga games** and **Clash of Clans**. New in this category for Q1 2015 is a game called **Crossy Road**.





Mobile Gaming-What Gamers Should Know cont...

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - GAMES TOP 10 STORAGE HOGS - GAMES Candy Crush Soda Saga HIGHEST IMPACT 3 **Boom Beach** Despicable Me **Crossy Road** Farm Heroes Saga Subway Surfers My Talking Angela **Hay Day** Pet Rescue Saga **Crossy Road Hay Day** Farm Heroes Saga **Candy Crush Saga** Solitaire My Talking Tom Temple Run 2 **Clash of Clans** Bubble Witch 2 Saga Candy Crush Saga **Boom Beach** CATEGORY: 1 Strategy Casual Action The Family Card CATEGORY: 1 Strategy Casual Action in Family Arcade

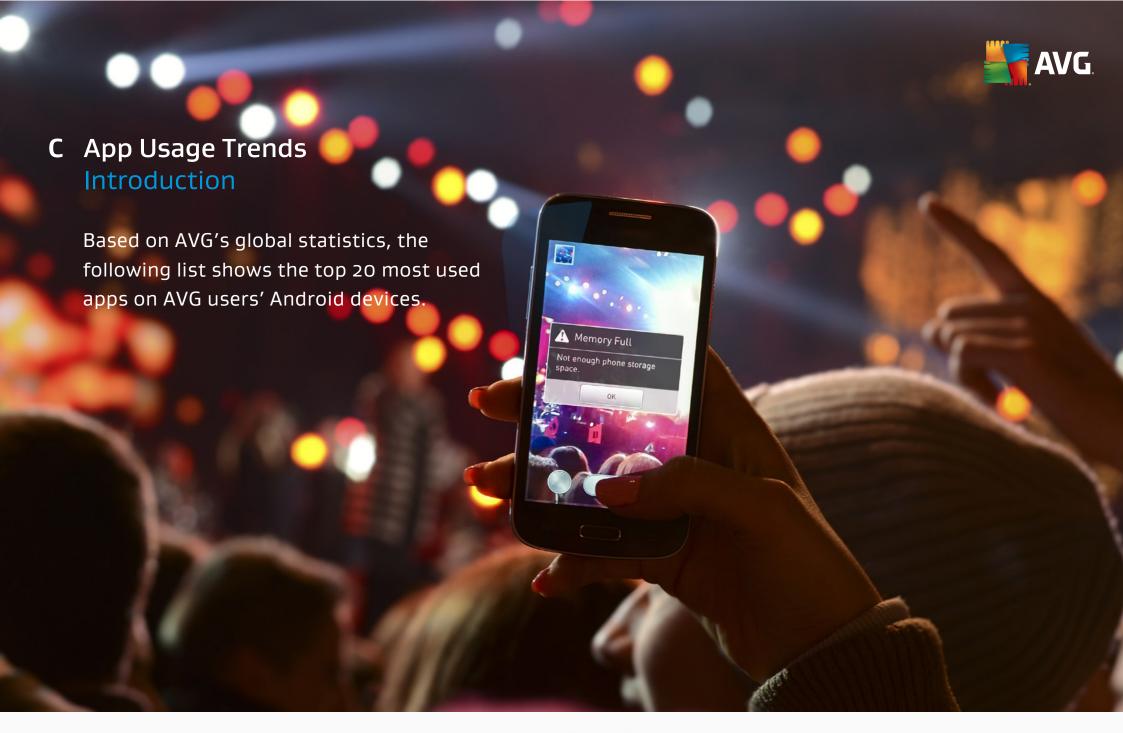


Mobile Gaming - What Gamers Should Know cont...

TOP 10 DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - GAMES



Looking at these tables which outline the impact on battery, storage and traffic individually, it's particularly puzzling that a simple word game like **New Words**With Friends would consume far more traffic than a blockbuster game like **Clash of Clans. Despicable Me**'s applications cache tends to grow out of control, so performing a regular clean on your device will help keep this under control.





Apps Users Spend the Most Time On

This quarter, instead of **Candy Crush Saga** being the most used app, it's now **Google Maps**. The new messenger service **Kik** also made it into the top 20, and may be threatening **WhatsApp**, **WeChat** and **Viber** in the popularity stakes. The latter is now in position number 8 of the most used league, but still behind other messenger apps **Facebook** and **WhatsApp**.

TOP 20 APPS USERS SPEND THEIR MOST TIME ON





Installed Tools

TOP INSTALLED TOOLS



Last quarter, **Tiny Flashlight + LED** was the number 1 installed tool across our measured user base of 1 million but has now been pushed down to 6th position. Top spots now go to a selection of cleaning and security tools showing users are trying to manage their devices – but they should note that some of these tools have a heavy impact on battery life, storage and traffic.

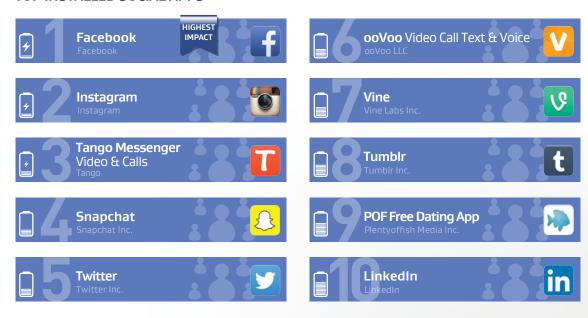






Installed Social Apps

TOP INSTALLED SOCIAL APPS



The top 5 apps in the social world have not changed from quarter to quarter. What's new is **ooVoo Video Call Text & Voice** which has been around for years but which now seems to be getting more traction. Also new is the **POF Free Dating App**, while apps previously included in this list, such as magicApp, have now dropped out of the top 10.

CATEGORY: Social



Installed Communication Apps

TOP INSTALLED COMMUNICATION APPS



The previous king of communication apps, WhatsApp, has now been dethroned by Facebook Messenger.
Facebook, however, as the owner of both apps continues to dominate the communications space.



D Addressing the Issues

Insights into Android Device and App Optimization

Android devices have to walk a fine line trying to restrict the resource consumption of apps but not limit their functionality too much. We all love our apps and we don't want to stop using them. 🛕 Memory Full Not enough phone storage





D Addressing the Issues

7 Ways to Boost Battery Life, Free Up Storage and Reduce Mobile Data Traffic

Here are 7 easy steps to help you boost battery life, stop storage eaters and save mobile traffic. We've put together a comprehensive guide for all consumers and businesses looking to address the issues outlined in this report.

Click <u>here</u> to download the full PDF guide.





Limit notifications to save battery life, performance and mobile data:

Phone notifications are one of the most useful mobile inventions, giving users information they need to know about new appointments or messages at a glance. But not all of them are useful and they can consume resources.



Limit apps battery & performance drain:

Reduce background features, refresh intervals, location usage or in-app notifications.



Free up space:

Apps collect clutter over time. Use <u>AVG Cleaner</u> <u>for Android</u> to get rid of temporary files.



Reduce data traffic:

Turn off background data transfers or any offline reading features within your app if you don't want it to consume mobile traffic.



Turn off Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and GPS:

To save more battery life, turn off all the hardware features you don't need at any given moment.



Turn down brightness:

If you're not in bright sunlight, we recommend turning the brightness levels down to 50-70%. Why? On many of today's big phones and tablets, the display is responsible for up to 80% of the entire power consumption.



Get rid of performance-sapping apps:

Our AVG Cleaner for Android analyzes the top battery, storage, and traffic hogging apps on your device. If you don't need one of these apps, you can easily uninstall it and look for more resource-friendly alternatives.





D Contact Information

For further information, please visit:.

Our blogs, press information and resources on how to get the most out of your connected devices at AVG Now: http://now.avg.com

Our website for details about our performance products: http://www.avg.com/performance

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App Resource Consumption Analysis

In this section, you can find the app resource consumption analysis for the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. We used the same methods to calculate the rankings as before but this time only took into account performance data of users from these specific countries.





USA

TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - EXCLUDING GAMES



TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - GAMES ONLY



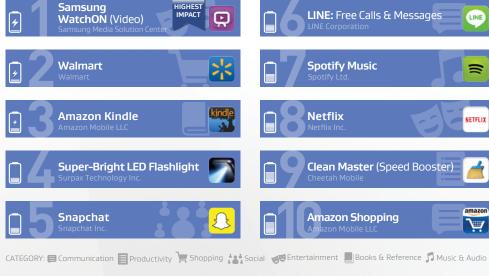


USA

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS – RUN AT START UP



TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - RUN BY USER





USA

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - GAMES ONLY



TOP 10 STORAGE EATERS – EXCLUDING GAMES





USA

TOP 10 STORAGE EATERS – GAMES ONLY



TOP 10 DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - EXCLUDING GAMES





USA

TOP DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - GAMES ONLY



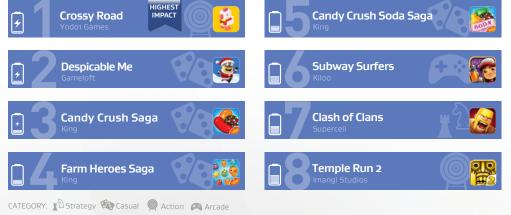


UNITED KINGDOM

TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - EXCLUDING GAMES



TOP PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - GAMES ONLY





UNITED KINGDOM

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - RUN AT START UP



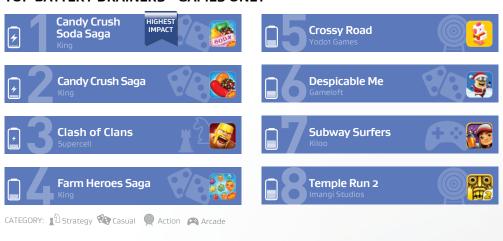
TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - RUN BY USER





UNITED KINGDOM

TOP BATTERY DRAINERS - GAMES ONLY



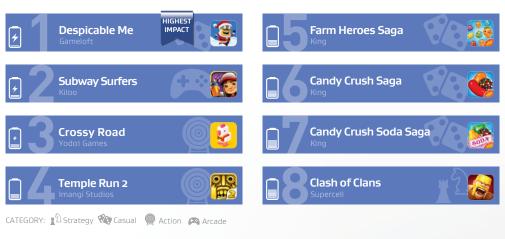
TOP 10 STORAGE EATERS - EXCLUDING GAMES





UNITED KINGDOM

TOP STORAGE EATERS - GAMES ONLY



TOP 10 DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - EXCLUDING GAMES





UNITED KINGDOM

TOP DATA TRAFFIC HOGS - GAMES ONLY





AUSTRALIA

TOP 10 PERFORMANCE DRAINING APPS - EXCLUDING GAMES



TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - RUN AT START UP





AUSTRALIA

TOP 10 BATTERY DRAINERS - RUN BY USER



TOP 10 STORAGE EATERS





AUSTRALIA

TOP 10 DATA TRAFFIC HOGS

