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Fatfish reels in slice of Malaysian gamer

AN Australian-listed company that invests in internet ventures has bought a majority stake in Malaysian-based mobile games provider AppXplore.

Fatfish Internet Group, which has headquarters in both Melbourne and Singapore, has bought a 70 per cent stake in AppXplore through its High Joyful International subsidiary and is expecting big things from the games maker.

Chief executive Kin-Wai Lau said the company hoped to double downloads of AppXplore's products in the next year.

"Mobile games developed by AppXplore will be downloaded by more than five million smartphone users by the end of this year," he said. "With the resources and support we are throwing behind the studio, we expect these download numbers to double over the next 12 months."

AppXplore is one of a handful of mobile games "studios" in South-East Asia to have produced several games that have passed the one million downloads mark.

It developed the first ever Malaysian iOS game to be featured in Apple's App store, and its most popular titles include Mobfish Hunter, Alien Hive, Sporos and Lightopus.

Based in Kuala Lumpur, AppXplore produces mobile games for use with iOS, Android, Windows Mobile, Blackberry and other mobile devices.

Fatfish was founded in Singapore in 2011 and listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in July this year.

It invests its own funds and money from the Singapore government in companies that are just starting up, and in IT ventures that are in a growth stage. **AAP**