What are apk installation files

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What Are APK Files? APK is an acronym for "Android Package Kit" which is the file format used by Android to distribute and install files on supported devices. APK files are executable package files that install applications on your Android device. Depending on the purpose of an APK file, the package may ask users for permission to gain access to the Android device's internal functions. How to Allow APK Files to Install from Other Sources To allow APK files to install from sources other than Play Store, follow these steps: 1.Go to your Home screen. 2.Swipe to pull down the Notification Center. 3.Tap on the Settings icon to get to your phone's settings. 4.From Settings, open the Lock Screen and Security option. 5.Tap on the switch button for Unknown Sources to allow apps to install from sources other than Play Store. 6.Confirm the action by tapping on OK. You can now install APK files from other sources. You are done. How to Transfer APK Files to Android To install APK files on Android, you need to have the files on the phone first. There are different ways to move data to Android devices. These are the most common ways: ● Download APK files directly from websites. Make sure that you are downloading from a safe site. To be sure, check the comments section, and do some research about the site from which you are downloading. ● Get APK files via email. Anyone can send and receive APK files from email. ● Transfer the APK files to a memory card. Using a card reader, transfer the APK files from your computer to your memory card. You can then insert the memory card into your phone to access the APK files. ● Transfer the APK files to your phone via a USB cable. You can move files from your computer to your phone using a USB cable to connect both devices. ● Transfer the APK files using a wireless connection. You can transfer APK files from one device to another using Bluetooth and other file-sharing apps. Now that you have the APK files ready and you have set up your device to install files from unknown sources, you can proceed with the next steps to install APK files on Android. 1.Go to your Home screen by pressing the Home button once. 2.Open any file management app. You can search for a file management app on Play Store and then download and install it on your phone. 3.Go to your Internal Storage. 4.Open the Download folder. 5.From the list of files in the Download folder, tap on the APK file that you want to install. 6.The next screen will show you the permissions that the app needs. Go over the permissions needed and if you are fine with what the app can access on your device, tap Install. 7.Wait for your phone to complete the installation process. 8.After the installation, you can tap DONE or OPEN. 9.You can then check your app drawer to confirm that you have successfully installed the app on your device using an APK file. You are done. You now know what an APK file is, how to transfer APK files to Android, how to allow files from other sources to be installed, and how to install APK files on your Android devices. If you have questions with any of the steps above, let us know in the comments section. Doesn't matter if you are not a power user. If you own an Android phone, you must have come across the word "APK file". So what really is it and how do you install APK on Android. Normally every Android user installs a ton of apps from the play store or another app distribution platform on their phone without even knowing that in fact, at the core of every application, there sits an APK extension. Read on to know everything about what it really is and how can you install it on your phone. What is an APK file? Whenever you install an application for the Play store, you don't get to see the APK file. Instead, an application is installed automatically with a single tap but there may come a time when you manually need to do that for some apps, and for that you need to understand what is it so you can easily install APK on Android. The letters APK stand for Android Package Kit. It is essentially a file format made for Android-based devices for distribution and installation of mobile apps because Google's Android does not support any other format. Just like Microsoft Windows require a .exe file for installing software, APK does the same for Android. How to View the contents of an APK file? Before you install APK on Android, if you wish to see the contents of an APK file, it's quite easy. Such files can be opened up by Zip compression tools like WinRAR or WinZip. So if you want to explore the contents of such a file, all you have to do is rename the file to any name and change the extension to ".zip". There! you are good to go now. You can also open the file directly by opening a zip app on your phone and through that, you can navigate to the APK and tap to open it without installing it on your phone. What does an APK file contain? The Android Package Kit contains all the necessary files and data to install and run a single program. The data inside an APK file is elaborate and extensive but here are some strands of the most important data present in an Android package. META-INF/: Contains the manifest file, the certification of the application and a list of resources in the archivelib/: The directory contains the code that is specific to a software layer of a processor e.g. the code may be different for x89, ARM and ARM v7 types of processorsresources.arsc: The compiled resources, such as strings, used by the appres/: Resources, such as images, that were not compiled into resources.arscassets: a directory containing applications assets, which can be retrieved by AssetManager.AndroidManifest.xml: Describes the name, version, and contents of the APK fileclasses.dex: These are the compiled Java classes to be run on the device in .dex format How to install APK on Android? One of the main differences between Android and iOS is that Android easily allows you to install third-party applications, thus helping you in customizing it as well as yielding your needed productivity out of it. Whenever you download and install the APK file, Android recognizes is instantly, hence all you need to do is tap on the file to install. However, it's not that easy, because, for the security of your device, your OS blocks the apps from third-party sources so you have to manually toggle the option off. Here's how to do it: First, go to the settings of your deviceLook for the Security and Privacy option and tap on itThere you'll find a toggle for the "unknown sources" Turn it on and you'll be prompted by a warning, stating the risks of downloading third-party apps and how they can affect your phone with malicious content. Once you have allowed the installation of apps from unknown sources. Open file manager on your phone and go to the folder in which you have downloaded your APK fileTap on the file and it will ask for your permission to installOnce you allow the app, the installation will continue and viola! Head to your home screen and there you can see that your desired app is installed. Make sure that you really trust the app you are installing. Because once you install APK on Android that is corrupted, it may badly affect your phone. Android is, for the most part, an open platform. You can use the Google Play Store to install apps and games or you can go off the reservation and install APKs on your own. It's not a practice we recommend. Google Play has so many security measures that it's actually difficult to mess up your phone while using it.That said, some folks may want to do it anyway for various reasons. There are currently two methods to install third-party apps without the Play Store. The first is through third-party app stores like F-Droid, Amazon's App Store, and others. We have a list for those here. The second is to download and do it yourself. Here's how to do both. Read next: How to install and install the Google Play Store How to install third-party APKsJoe Hindy / Android AuthorityThis is the current method for installing APKs on your Android phone. Google changed the method upon the release of Android 8.0 Oreo and aside from some tweaking, it remains the same to this day. It may vary slightly from phone to phone, but this is how it works.Before we start, here's how Google does this. It requires you to give specific permission to install APKs from the app initiating the install. So, for example, if you use your browser to download the app and then tap the download notification, you'll need to give your browser permission to install the APK. Similarly, if you use a file browser, you'll need to give permissions specifically for the file browser. Find the APK you want to download and then download it. Initiate the install either through the download notification or a file browser. Any file browser will do. You'll receive a warning at the bottom of the phone letting you know that you need to give that app permission to install the file. Take note of the app name at the top of the the warning box as it's the one you'll need for the next few steps. Tap the Settings button to proceed. On the next page, find the app from the previous step and toggle it on. A prompt should pop up giving you the option to install the app. Go ahead and follow the instructions to install. Note — Sometimes you may need to initiate installation again. For example, if you tap the notification and use your browser to do it, you sometimes need to tap the notification again to get the install prompt after giving the app permission. From there, it works like any other app. You'll find it in your app drawer where you can open it and use it as you normally would. Some apps may not install due to device compatibility issues and there isn't much we can do about that. Otherwise, it's pretty straightforward. How to revoke installation permissionsJoe Hindy / Android AuthorityYou may want to revoke permissions after installing a third-party app so no additional apps get installed without your knowledge. Most apps, like Firefox or Amazon, generally don't abuse the privilege, but it's better to be safe than sorry. Here's how to revoke permissions for app installations. Open your phone's settings menu. Tap the Search bar and type in "Unknown" without the quotes. You should see the option pop up on the search. Tap it. On the next screen, tap Install unknown apps. Fine the app you want to revoke the permission for and then revoke it. It may look different on some devices. Samsung lets you toggle it straight from the app menu whereas stock Android makes you click on the app individually. Note — We recommend using the search function because the process is in every Android phone, but OEM customizations may place the menu somewhere different. Using the search function ensures you get there the first time. Pro tip — This is how you turn the installation permissions off. However, you can also use this method to turn them on as well. How to install and use third-party app storesJoe Hindy / Android AuthorityThird-party app stores are the easiest way to install third-party APKs from outside the Google Play Store. Unfortunately, you'll need to install a third-party app store in order to do it, but after that, it's remarkably easy. Download the third-party app store of your choice and install it using the above method. It is a third-party APK so you have to install it like one. Once the store is installed, open it up and surf for an app you want. Download the app and install it. When you click install, you'll get the same warning from the previous steps about granting the app permission to install other apps. Hit the Settings button, find the app store on the list, and toggle the box to give it permission. Return to the app and attempt to install an app again. This time it should work. You only have to go through this setup process one time. The app store should download and install apps without issue as long as you have the permission enabled for the store. How to install APKs pre-Android 8.0 OreoTechnically, this method is outdated. However, we wanted to preserve it just in case someone shows up here with a very old Android phone. If your phone runs Android 8.0 Oreo or later, this method will not work. Download the APK you want to install and make sure you have a file browser installed. Navigate into your phone settings. Tap on the Security option. Scroll down until you see Unknown sources and check the box. Open your file browser and navigate to your download folder where the APK is. Tap the APK and follow the instructions to install the app. Once done, return to your settings and untick the Unknown sources box to prevent any additional unwanted installations. Up next: The best third-party app stores for Android and other options too FAQ The app I installed isn't working. Why?Not every Android device can run every app. Most apps should work fine. However, for example, you can't just install Samsung's App Store on any phone. It requires a Samsung phone. Does this work for Android TV?Actually, yes. Use the app Send to TV (Google Play) to get the APK from your phone to your TV. Then, use a file browser on your TV to install the APK. You'll need to grant permission to install unknown files just like on a phone. Why is it saying my installation failed?The most likely answer is that the app isn't compatible with your device. Check your source to make sure there isn't a different version you can try. Are third-party app stores as good as Google Play?Not really, no. You trade the quality of Google's ecosystem for freedom from Google's ecosystem. A few app stores do better in some ways. For instance, F-Droid is great for open-source apps. However, by and large, Google Play is tied into Android and works the best with it.

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