

Downloading and Managing Applications on an Android Tablet

Introduction

Applications play a key role on a tablet. This document will help you understand what they are and what they do.

What is an application?



An application (or “app”) is software that can easily be downloaded and installed on your device. Tablets and smartphones offer a wide range of applications for accomplishing various tasks. There are apps that help you manage email, watch videos, chat with friends, play games and follow a personal training program—just to name a few examples.

What is a native application?



A native application is software developed for a specific operating system.

Android and iOS devices therefore have different app catalogues. The most popular native apps generally offer both iOS and Android versions.

Native applications need to be installed on your tablet.



Operating System Definition



An operating system (OS) is a set of programs that make it possible to use a computer. This software handles requests to use a machine’s resources, to store information on the hard drive, or to communicate using sound or video via a peripheral device.

The most common computer operating systems are Microsoft Windows (for PCs), Apple MacOS (for Macintosh computers), Linux (for PCs and servers) and Unix (for servers). Smartphone operating systems include Google Android, Apple iOS, Symbian and Microsoft Windows Phone.

Sources: <https://techterms.com/> and <https://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia>.

What is a web-based application?

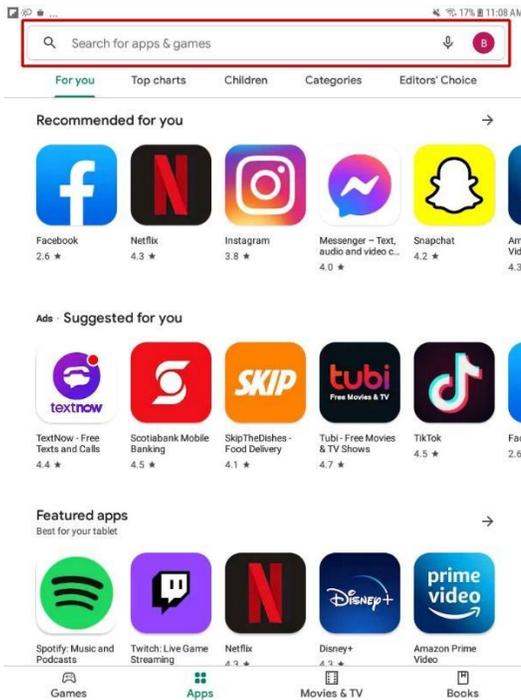


A web-based application (or “web app”) is software that runs in your web browser, as opposed to a native application run by the device itself.

Web apps DO NOT need to be installed on your tablet.

Often, you won’t even realize you’re using a web-based application. More and more websites are becoming web apps. Indeed, website content is becoming increasingly sophisticated.

The Play Store: A Marketplace for Native Applications

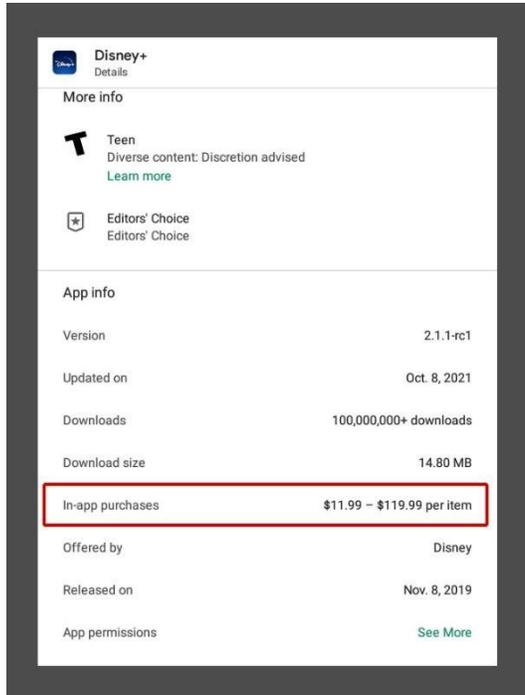


The place to find applications for tablets and smartphones running the Android operating system is called the **Play Store** (or “Google Play”). This virtual marketplace provides access to both free and paid apps!



You can search for applications the same way you search the web. When you open the **Play Store**, you’ll find the **Search Bar** at the top of the screen.

Free Applications and In-App Purchases



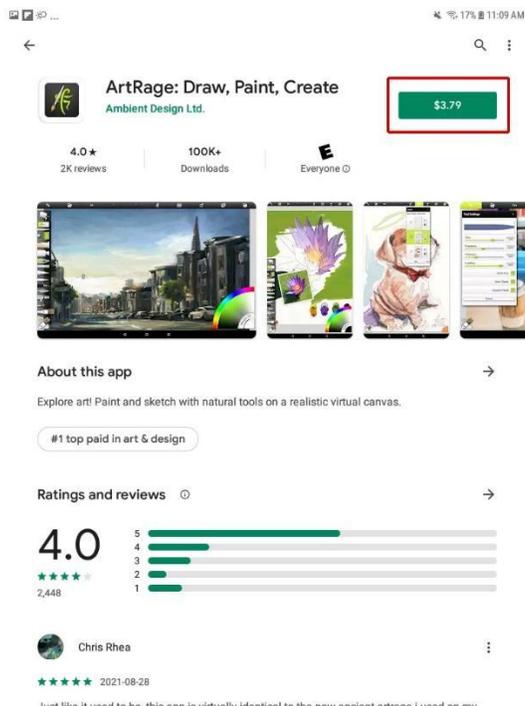
An impressive number of free applications are available.

However, many of them let you pay to access additional features or content from inside the app.

Of course, you don't have to make these so-called in-app purchases!

You can see if an application offers in-app purchases by tapping **About This App** on the app's overview page in the **Play Store**.

Paid Applications

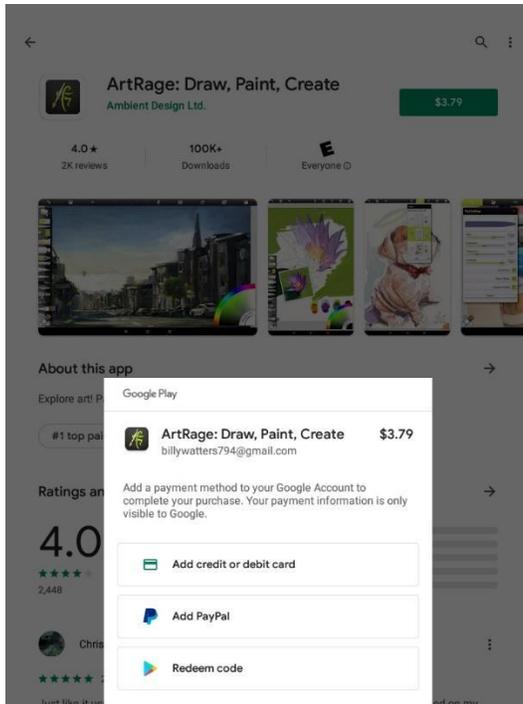


As for paid applications, they require you to pay up front, before downloading the app.

The **Play Store** will display the price of any paid apps.

Payment Information

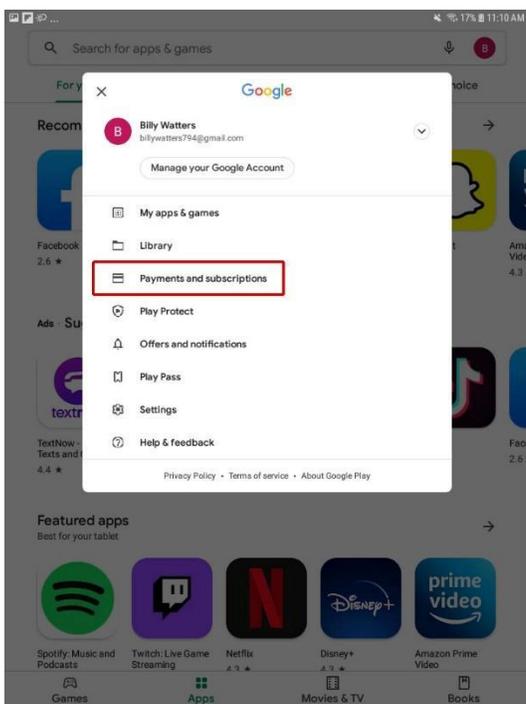
You don't have to enter any payment information if you know you're never going to purchase an app from the **Play Store**. But if you want to buy an application, there are multiple ways of entering your credit card number.



METHOD 1

To download a paid application, tap the green rectangle displaying the cost.

If you haven't already entered your payment information, you'll be prompted to enter it now.



METHOD 2

You can also enter your banking information before browsing the **Play Store**.

Tap the letter on a coloured background to the right of the **Search Bar**.

Then, select **Payment Methods** under **Payments and Subscriptions**.

Why do applications ask for permissions?



To work properly, some mobile apps need access to other features or information on your device.

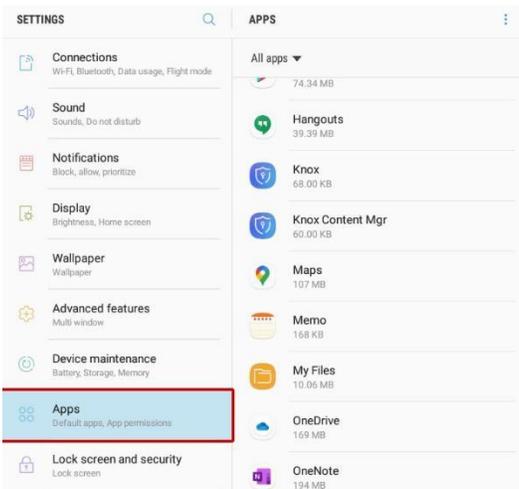
For example, **Maps** can only provide GPS navigation if it has access to your location. And a chat or discussion app like **WhatsApp** can only access your **Contacts** with permission.

You can configure access rights—another way of saying “permissions”—for each application on your device.



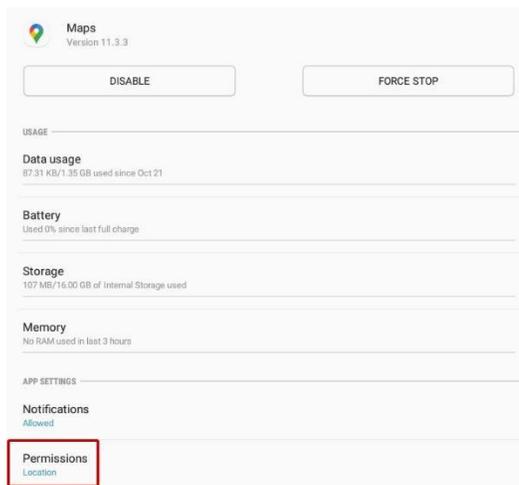
Don't forget that some applications require certain access permissions to work properly!

How to Enable or Disable Permissions



In **Settings**, select **Apps** on the left.

Scroll down to find the application whose permissions you want to configure.



In the lower part of the screen, you'll see options for both **Notifications** and **Permissions**.

Under **Permissions**, you can restrict what features the application can access on your tablet.



Let's use **Maps** as an example. You can give the app access to your camera, your contacts, your location, your microphone and your storage (internal memory).

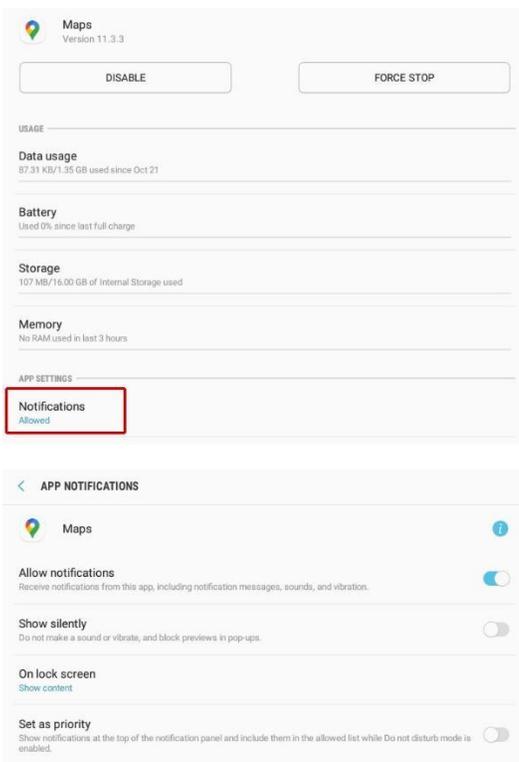
However, we've only given it permission to access our location.

What is a notification?



A notification is a message sent to you from an application. Normally, you don't interact with an application unless you decide to open it. However, if you enable notifications, an app can alert you whenever something interesting happens.

How to Enable or Disable Notifications



The same menu that lets you configure **Permissions** also lets you enable or disable an application's **Notifications**.

Simply tap **Notifications** with your fingertip.

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