



XBMC Kodi *Android* Internet TV User Guide

Two Part
Guide



One Month
Email Support

XBMC Kodi User Guide



2800 Free Movie & TV Addons
Android Fire TV & Fire Tablets
Windows Apple Raspberry Linux
Plus Jailbreaking Apple Devices



Android User Guide



Beginners User
Guide for
Android TV
& Android Tablets
All Android Versions

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FOREWARD

This guide includes how to install free XBMC Kodi software, together with a beginner's user guide for Android TV units and Android tablets.

XBMC KODI USER GUIDE

This guide covers how to install free XBMC Kodi software on all Android devices, plus Amazon Fire, Windows, Apple, Linux, and Raspberry devices, providing access to over 2800 movie, music and TV show addons, enabling readers to cancel their satellite or cable TV subscriptions & save money.

Most of the information contained in this guide is available on the web, but how to navigate through all the information available and which options to choose are different matters. I spent a long time originally researching Kodi and now still spend time, almost daily, keeping up to date with developments and changes within the Kodi community.

Even if something changes *today* as you read this, you have one month's email support on which to fall back. Please see back cover for contact details.

USER GUIDE FOR GOOGLE ANDROID TV & ANDROID TABLETS

There are user guides available which are several hundred pages long. My experience of this size of guide is that beginners will probably never need to read 80% of it, but will probably have difficulty in finding the 20% they actually do need, in order to be able to navigate around the device.

This guide therefore covers the basics, so that you can familiarise yourself as quickly as possible with the important controls. After you have familiarised yourself with your device, you can then decide what *additional topics* are of interest, so please feel free to email me with any requests.

XBMC KODI USER GUIDE

XBMC / KODI INTRODUCTION

This software is free and full download and installation instructions are provided for Amazon Fire, Android, Windows, Apple, Linux, and Raspberry Pi devices. Currently there are more than 2800 channel addons available and this guide explains how to install them all, and where to find help to keep them all working. These addons allow the XBMC user to consider cancelling their satellite TV or cable subscription and save money.

XBMC started in 2003 by ten programmers, deciding to extend the original Xbox media player (XBMP) windows software to other platforms such as Linux and Apple and is an acronym for **XBox Media Centre**. Since then, around sixty software developers and around one hundred translators converting XBMC into forty different languages have made XBMC the most powerful media software available on the market.

The sole purpose of the XBMC foundation is to develop this media centre, designed to store your local DVD, music, and photo collections. Their work and how to manage the more complex issues of the XBMC software is well documented in an on line 1200 page user manual, which can be found at the website- ***kodi.wiki***.

Secondary to the work of the XBMC foundation, some unofficial developers have created additional mini-programs (addons) to run on the XBMC platform that allow for access to online content, amounting to hundreds of thousands of movies, TV shows, and music sites. Some of this content is pirated, and the XBMC foundation has washed its hands of it, which is why there is little or no help for these addons in the official online user manual.

Most but not all addons are essentially feeds to a website, and are an assembly of different codes, files, and links which are stored in a ***zip file***. The location, where the addon is stored, is called a ***repository***. Every addon developer has their own repository where they keep their addons. As soon as they repair an addon or make any changes to a file on the repository, which is stored on websites such as ***Github***, ***Google code***, or even ***Facebook***, they will change the ***version number***. The XBMC program, on your device, periodically checks all installed repositories, to see if there are any ***new version numbers***, and if so, ***it will automatically update the information on your device***.

Addon developers need a base, in order to let the public know about their work, so they need a first point of contact. Most developers achieve this by affiliating themselves to one of the main forums, and assist in answering addon queries, raised by the forum members.

There is a constant battle raging between the addon developers and the broadcasters who claim they are losing advertising revenue. The broadcaster will change their codes regularly so that the addon is broken, and regularly obtain court injunctions to compel broadband suppliers to block certain sites.

If your broadband provider is blocking certain addons, there is a solution - a VPN or virtual private network. The VPN masks your computer's IP address so that your broadband provider cannot see in which country you are located so you can then see blocked addons. You can read more about this, and where to obtain the service, which does not cost very much at website *tvaddons.ag*. Just enter **VPN** in their search box.

These are just some of the main features of XBMC-

Skinning engine - has its own skinning engine to download alternative skins.

Remote controls - accepts almost all types of remote control including your Android phone using the *XBMC remote* app.

Audio & video formats - currently plays almost all popular audio and video formats.

Home networking - controls all multimedia aspects of your home network, accessing all movies, music, pod casts, and photos from any device connected to your home network.

Internet streaming - streams multimedia content from the internet using all known popular protocols.

Audio & video playback - XBMC can play DVD's and CD's from any device connected to your network using all popular formats and even files inside zip archives.

Multimedia library - XBMC will scan all your media on all the devices connected to your home network and create a single library including titles, album covers, & artwork.

The XBMC Foundation announced on 1st August 2014 that when the next major version of XBMC, version 14.0 (codenamed Helix) is launched, the name of the software would change completely to **Kodi**. The *XBMC Foundation* name would remain unchanged. This change took place in December 2014, and for the sake of clarity, the remainder of this guide will refer to this software as **Kodi**, rather than XBMC.

For readers looking for an even easier option, there is an alternative Kodi version **TVMC**, which is simpler to use, for you to consider. This is also covered in the guide.

THE FORUMS & HELP SOURCES

The 1200 page on line manual will provide a complete user guide for the topics for which Kodi *was originally designed*. The online manual can be found at the website- *kodi.wiki*. The online manual however will provide little or no help with problems with addons. In order to keep Kodi running, you need to keep in touch with the main forums for fixes for broken addons and new addons, due out from any developer affiliated to each forum. You will also find on these sites a vast depth of knowledge, where the addon developers, themselves, contribute a high proportion of the answers to problems, which users face.

Searching on YouTube is another good source of information. Subscribing to **Totalxbmc**, **Kodihelper**, **Xbmchelper**, **Onetechgenius**, and **all thingstech xbmc**, on YouTube is useful, as they seem to be always on the ball with the latest developments. You can sign into Youtube, with an existing Gmail account, or you can create an account. Then, simply search under the above names to find *any* of their listings and click on **subscribe**. You will then receive an email when a new video is available.

INSTALLING KODI ON ANDROID DEVICES

It is ironic, but most Android users, who use this guide in order to install Kodi on their Android device, find themselves firstly uninstalling the previous version that the set top box supplier loaded, because they are having problems.

If you have already purchased an Android TV box with Kodi preinstalled, you may find that you run into problems when addons become broken. Many sellers could have installed their *own* version of Kodi plus possibly an addon install wizard and/or a third party app launcher, which will hide Android's normal interface and home screen and users may not know where to click next. Software conflicts are also a regular occurrence.

Some readers discovered that after Kodi (or the box seller's own version of Kodi) updated, some of their repositories were empty and addons had vanished. Some readers also experienced an unduly high proportion of script errors (failed addon installs), because of the software conflicts. If your supplier has chosen the Kodi install, you do not know which Kodi version he has loaded, which installers he has loaded... Xfinity, Fusion, Superrepo, or whatever, and finally which, if any addons he has enabled.

A special mention must be made of the dangers of the Superrepo super repository which holds only copies of addons. If your set top box supplier installed both Superrepo and Fusion, for example, you could end up with two different versions of a single addon installed, because the Superrepo addons, which are copies, are not always up to date, and ongoing software conflicts will be the norm.

Buying an Android set top box with Kodi preinstalled is a leap into the unknown, and because of the ease with which Kodi can now be installed, it is much safer to install Kodi and its addons yourself. In any case, sellers of Android boxes typically add up to £30 (\$50) to the price of the box, for installing Kodi.

Many of my readers have faced this issue, and I strongly recommend that if you have an existing Kodi installation and you are having problems, that you do a clean reinstall of Kodi and the addons. You must firstly uninstall the previous Kodi version and all associated data, and even for a relative novice, this will only take around 2 minutes.

UNINSTALLING KODI FROM ANDROID DEVICES



Go into Android settings >Apps or Applications> Downloaded apps> Find XBMC or Kodi and click on ***Clear data*** and ***Clear cache***. This will clear any installed addons or data belonging to your initial Kodi installation. Then, from this same small screen, click on ***uninstall***.

INSTALLING KODI ON AN ANDROID DEVICE

If you want to buy a quality Android TV box and install Kodi yourself, the ***Minix*** range, which includes Minix Neo X7 and X8, are some of the best available.

If you have bought an Android box yourself without Kodi preinstalled, or you have cleaned thoroughly an existing box of any Kodi program or data, you can now download Kodi as follows-



Before downloading and installing Kodi on an Android device, ***please do not forget*** to have ***enabled unknown sources*** under Android's ***security*** settings tab. If the box had Kodi already installed previously, you can probably skip this step.

Go to - ***Kodi.tv /download***. Click on ***Android (arm)***, to start the download. ***Please be careful not to download Android X86*** unless you know what it is and that this is the version you need.

INSTALLING KODI ON AMAZON FIRE HD & HDX TABLETS

It is currently possible to load Kodi on any Fire device but the method varies depending on your device. You can install Kodi on any Fire device without the need for rooting or jailbreaking, as Apple fans call it, which would void the warranty.



Before downloading to your Fire tablet, please click on your ***Settings*** icon, cog wheel, and then click on ***Applications***. Ensure that the first line of the following screen is set to- ***Apps from unknown sources - ON***. Then open your ***Silk browser***, and go to ***http://kodi.tv/download*** and select the ***Android arm*** version, ***not*** the X86 version, to be downloaded to your Fire tablet.

After downloading, with the Silk browser open, swipe left to right on the screen, and this will open the sub menu for the Silk browser. Click on ***downloads***, and then click on ***Kodi***, in order to install it.

INSTALLING KODI ON FIRE TV / FIRE TV STICK

If you have already purchased either Fire TV or Fire TV stick with Kodi already pre-installed and you are having problems, my advice is to do a clean reinstall but if you plan to do this, the same rules applicable to native Android, equally apply to the Fire OS. You ***must firstly*** uninstall the previous installation, as follows-

Fire TV (stick) - Settings > Applications > Scroll down to Kodi and click on it > Click on ***clear data*** and ***clear cache***. Finally click on ***Uninstall***.

Amazon omitted to equip the Fire TV units with a web browser, in order to protect their own paid services so loading Kodi is a little more difficult on these two devices. There are three methods of loading Kodi onto these two devices-

Method 1 - Upload Kodi from an Android tablet or phone

The easy way- If you have an Android phone or tablet you can upload Kodi or any other Android app to the two Fire TV models, from your Android phone or tablet.

From your Fire TV home screen, go to *Settings* > *System* > *Developer options* and then ensure that both- *ADB debugging* and *Apps from unknown source* are turned on. Then under the same *System* tag, click on *About*, and then *write down* your broadband *IP Address- 192.168 etc etc*, for use as follows.



From the Google Play app store, download to your Android phone or tablet, the app *Apps2fire*, illustrated. When installed and opened, enter the IP address of your Fire TV and click *Save*. If there is no prompt, click on *Setup* under the menu icon, top left, and enter it there.

After entering the IP address and saving, click on the menu icon, top left of apps2fire and then click on *Upload apps*. Then scroll down to find Kodi, and click on it. The apps2fire app will then upload Kodi to your Fire TV or Fire TV stick. A small screen will advise you it is uploading and then will confirm when completed.

Desktop shortcut for Fire TV / Fire TV stick after uploading via Android device.

Amazon is obsessed with protecting its paid services and recently cancelled the Android Kodi download from the Amazon app store. The Android Kodi download would not work on any Fire device anyway but it did provide an easy way of placing a shortcut on your Fire TV home screen in order to launch Kodi.

No doubt Amazon will keep trying to make it as difficult as possible to install Kodi on their Fire devices, so please do not be surprised at anything they do, in order to brainwash us into subscribing to Amazon Prime video!

The *normal* way to open Kodi for use on your Fire TV is as follows-

Fire TV home screen > Settings > Applications > Managed Installed applications > Select Kodi > Select Launch application. This is part of Amazon's software so this will continue to work, but it is a little unwieldy.

There are some alternatives for this, since hackers are continually trying to come up with a shorter way of putting a shortcut on the home screen but at the moment, installing the available alternatives is a little long winded and if you intend to use Kodi only occasionally, using the *normal* method, as described above, may be the lesser of two evils. Two such websites offering alternative fixes for this problem are below, but there are many others.

<http://www.aftvnews.com/how-to-launch-kodi-or-any-app-by-double-pressing-the-home-button/>

<http://myezsystem.com/firestarter-new-launcher-for-firetv-stick>

Method 2 - Display mirror from a Fire HDX tablet

A further way to display Kodi on your wide screen TV is to use *display mirroring*.

Fire HDX 7 & HDX 8.9 tablets have the capability to send the tablet's output wirelessly to Fire TV or Fire TV stick, using display mirroring, so that Fire TV can display your tablet's output on your TV screen.

To set this up-

From Fire TV home screen > Settings > Display & sound > Enable display mirroring
Then from Fire HDX tablet home screen > Settings > Display & sounds > Display mirroring > Click on ***Fire TV (stick)***.

Method 3 - Side load from a PC or Mac

There are various locations to obtain instructions on how to side load Kodi to Fire TV but the best place is Tvaddons, simply because they keep their instructions updated regularly.

This is the current link- <http://www.tvaddons.ag/install-kodi-amazon-fire-tv/>

This may be updated at any time, so if this link does not work, go to <http://www.tvaddons.ag>. On their home page, click on the heading ***Install***, where you should find the most current instructions.

USER GUIDE FOR FIRE TV (STICK)

Unlike Fire tablets, Amazon publishes a ***complete*** 90 page downloadable user guide for the Amazon Fire TV and Fire TV stick on their Amazon web service (AWS) site. You can find this page as follows-

Type in a Google search box - ***Amazon fire TV user guide*** - and the page below should appear in the top five results. You can then select this web page PDF and save it to your computer.

https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/customerdocumentation/Amazon_Fire_TV_User_Guide.pdf

INSTALLING KODI ON WINDOWS AND LINUX DEVICES

In order to download and install Kodi, go to- ***kodi.tv /download***, and click the correct download link for Windows or Linux, in order to download the latest stable version,

Windows XP users will need to use version ***12.2 (Frodo)***. There are many links on the web to download this. I suggest you search for the following file name below and then select a download location, which you trust - ***xbmc-12.2-Frodo-armeabi-v7a.apk***

INSTALLING KODI ON APPLE DEVICES

In order to run Kodi, an Apple device needs to be jailbroken (unlocked). Not all Apple devices can be jailbroken, in particular Apple TV ATV3. Apart from the risk of bricking your Apple device, there are the *legal aspects* and a suitable article on this subject can be found at-<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/illegal-root-Android-jailbreak-iphone/>

The following articles discuss the *pros and cons* of jailbreaking Apple devices-

http://ipad.about.com/od/iPad-FAQ/ss/Jailbreaking-101_2.htm

<http://netsecurity.about.com/od/iphoneipodtouchapps/a/Is-Jailbreaking-Your-iPhone-Safe.htm>

If you want to find out if your Apple device can be jailbroken, the following website provides information and software for this purpose.

Redsn0w - <http://www.redsn0w.us/2013/10/the-ultimate-jailbreak-wizard.html>. This site provides a wizard where you can input your device details and the wizard will then point you at the correct download, if a jailbreak is possible.

There are also jailbreak instructions on Tvaddons website- Go to- tvaddons.ag.

Scroll down the page, to find the jailbreak links for iOS (iPad and iPhone) and Apple TV ATV2, if you feel brave enough to do this yourself, but please remember that warranty is voided on Apple products, if they are jailbroken.

Because of the risks involved, it is difficult to recommend jailbreaking expensive Apple devices, when there are much cheaper alternatives to run Kodi or other media.

You could consider an Android TV box such as a Minix, the Ouya gaming console or Amazon Fire TV and Fire TV stick. These are excellent devices for running Kodi, and they are a fraction of the cost of an Apple iPad or iPhone.

If you have a suitable Apple device that has been jailbroken, in order to install Kodi, go to- kodi.tv/download and select the relevant download link dependant on which Apple device and operating system version in use.

INSTALLING KODI ON RASPBERRY PI

Raspberry Pi - Please ensure that the necessary SD card or USB flash drive, of the correct capacity, is available. Then go to- kodi.tv/download., select the relevant download link and then select one of the methods of installation. Detailed instructions are provided on the Kodi website for each installation method.

INSTALLING TVMC ON FIRE, ANDROID, WINDOWS & MAC

TVMC is a custom version of Kodi, launched by one of the leading forums <http://www.tvaddons.ag>.

This version only covers a fraction of all third party addons but the cream of their addons are some of the best available, such as 1Channel, Icefilms, Navi-X, Filmon & Genesis, and most of their leading addons are already enabled, ready for use, *so for the less technically minded, this may be a worth considering.*

There are Android, Windows, Mac, and Fire TV versions of TVMC. On the downside, if you are searching for example, Asian addons, you will only find a handful on TVMC. Please do not mention on the Tvaddon forum any addon which does not belong to them, because they only support their own affiliated addons.

When you have downloaded TVMC, you need to find it in your downloads folder. It may show up in some browsers download folder, and in the case of android you may need to go into a file manager app in order to find the downloads folder.

Then click on it to install. When you first run TVMC, it will ask you if you want to complete the installation. Please agree to this as it will enable, ready for use, the main addons.

TVMC was launched early 2015 and was based on Kodi version 14.2 (Helix). TVaddons now do not overly promote TVMC simply because Kodi has moved on from 14.2 (Helix) to version 15.2 (Isengard). Soon version 16.0 (Jarvis) will be released.

In reality, there is nothing wrong with TVMC and for the less technically minded, it is a far easier way of getting the Kodi experience.

The link to download all four versions of TVMC can be found at-
<https://www.tvaddons.ag/tvmc-cordcutters/>

TVMC on Fire tablets



Before downloading, please click on your *Settings* icon, cog wheel, and then click on *Applications*. Ensure that the first line of the following screen is set to-
Apps from unknown sources - ON.

Then open your *Silk browser*, go to **the above link** and click on the heading *Install*. Select the *TVMC for Android* install option, to download it your Fire tablet. After downloading, with the Silk browser open, swipe left to right on the screen, and this will open the sub menu for the Silk browser. Click on *Downloads*, and then click on *TVMC* in order to install it.

TVMC on Fire TV

If you have an Android tablet or phone you can of course upload TVMC to Fire TV using Apps2fire, as described earlier.

Since this is achieved wirelessly, by matching up IP addresses, in theory this should also work on the Fire TV stick.

TVMC on Android, Windows, and Mac

Before downloading and installing Kodi on any *Android* device, *please do not forget* to have *enabled unknown sources* under Android's *security* settings tab.

Otherwise, downloading TVMC to any of the above devices is straightforward using the download link above.

TVMC automatically enables the cream of their addons so these are ready to use. You can access additional addons by clicking on *Get more* at the bottom of relevant menus.

Important- TVMC is Tvaddons' own custom version of Kodi, so I recommend using only their site for anything TVMC related.

MAIN MENU - CONFLUENCE THEME



When you have installed and then open Kodi for the first time, you will see the dark blue default Confluence theme on the Kodi desktop. The TVMC desktop will be similar in appearance. The first thing you may be tempted to do is to change the theme because there are many others. Please consider, however, that the complete 1200 page online user manual is written for this skin and if you change the skin before you get used to Kodi, you could be causing additional problems for yourself in trying to find menu items. The menu ribbon, illustrated above, will appear generally as follows-

WEATHER - PICTURES - VIDEOS - MUSIC - PROGRAMS - SYSTEM

To move right or left, place the mouse pointer or your finger to the edge of the screen on top of the menu ribbon. Your menu item will then move towards the centre of the screen, where you can click on it. You should remember that when you click on any main menu item, by default, *Kodi will open up the page, which you last viewed* so if the page, which appears, is not the one you expect, *click the back arrow (bottom right) until you reach the required start page under any particular main menu item.*

BACKGROUND TO DOWNLOADING ALL KODI 2800+ ADDONS

Years of petty squabbles and infighting have caused the Kodi community to fragment to the extent that to get all Kodi addons, you had to download from up to seven different download sites, a headache for most people. Mentioning the wrong addon or the name of a competing forum on any forum website, in most cases, usually leads to a rebuke or even the threat of a ban, as I experienced when I naively mentioned Navi-X on the Foundation forum, when I first started researching Kodi. The various forums and organisations are detailed below.

Up to June 2014, Kodi users were faced with equivalent of brain surgery, in order to successfully download Kodi and all the 2000+ addons. Some new readers of my guide advised me that they had previously spent days trying to download the addons. Some said they had just thrown their Android boxes through a window!

The following method *used to represent* the quickest method of downloading as many addons as possible- Download Fusion, Xfinity, Mashup, & Superrepo installers individually. Then install individually each separate repository within each of these four installers, and then enable each addon.....a massive headache for beginners.

In late May 2014, a new Kodi website launched- www.totalxbmc.tv. You could then download *every* Kodi addon, *en bloc*, from this one site using their **Total installer** software, eliminating the need to visit up to seven other sites to find them, but, while **Total installer** took away the pain of the previous method of addon download, it was not possible to simply ignore the rest of the Kodi community, because you needed to keep in touch with the other forums, in order to keep Kodi running well.

On 8th September 2015, the Totalxbmc site closed down and a new site- *noobsandnerds* took over. The Total installer software was still available from this new site but they renamed the installer the **Community Portal**. This is a new fledgling site which will undergo massive regular changes, and for this reason download instructions for the Community portal is covered in the enclosed supplement, since the main guide, which is reprinted 8-10 times yearly, cannot keep pace with these rapid changes.

Quite soon, it is likely that there will be in excess of 3000 addons for Kodi, and there are numerous websites and Youtube publishers out there, many of which are eager to attract your attention so they can earn advertising revenue. If you have made searches yourself, you will undoubtedly have come across the vast majority of the forums and sites described below.

It can be quite confusing to the beginner in deciding where to obtain addons. I do hope that the following background information will provide you some help in deciding where to start.

XBMC Foundation (*kodi.tv*)

When Kodi is installed, approximately 600 fully approved addons, which are hardwired in the basic Kodi software, are also installed, but these need individually enabling.

WEBSITES- *NOT* RECOMMENDED FOR DOWNLOADING ADDONS

XBMC Foundation Wiki (*kodi.wiki*)

The XBMC foundation also provides download links on its Wiki forum for over a 1000 third party addons, none of which have dubious legal content, but information on content is scarce. I do not recommend downloading from this site.

Media-Passion (*media-passion.fr*)

A France based website/forum for French speakers. Only a few addons are affiliated to this site.

XBMC4XBOX (*xbmc4xbox.org.uk*)

A UK based site specialising in Xbox related Kodi topics.

Fusion installer from Tvaddons (previously Xbmchub) (*Tvaddons.ag*)

Tvaddons have around 30 of the leading addons affiliated to their site, but include links to download some others within their Fusion installer. I do not recommend downloading the Fusion installer from within Kodi, because Tvaddons offer an alternative Kodi version- *TVMC*, which is described below.

Xfinty installer from Xunitytalk (*Xunitytalk.me*)

In 2014, there was a disagreement between some addon developers of the XBMChub forum (now Tvaddons). Some developers wanted to include adverts in their addons and XBMChub was unwilling to agree to this. Some developers broke away from XBMChub and formed this competing forum, Xunitytalk, so that they could include adverts in some of their addons, in order to attract revenue to cover their costs.

Xunitytalk launched their own installer, Xfinity but Xfinity only provides around 20 premium addons, plus some others. Furthermore, enabling the addons is a two step process, where the repository has to be firstly installed. It is quicker and simpler to download *all 2800 addons en bloc* using *The Community Portal*, as described below.

The Super repository from Superrepo (*Superrepo.org*)

This site hosts *copies* of 2000+ of the *non XBMC approved* third party addons and plug ins. Since they are *copies*, they may not be up to date. I do not recommend downloading from this site. In any case, installation is complex, more difficult than Xfinity.

After downloading the Super repository, each separate repository has then to be installed, followed by each addon being installed and enabled. For a beginner, this is a nightmare.

WEBSITES *RECOMMENDED* FOR DOWNLOADING

TVMC from Tvaddons (previously Xbmchub) (*Tvaddons.ag*)

There is no doubt that the Fusion installer would give you around thirty of the best premium addons available, but once Fusion is downloaded into Kodi, each repository would have to be installed and each addon individually enabled.

Another way to get Fusion is to install the alternative **TVMC** program created by Tvaddons because you will be up and running with a less complicated version of Kodi in less than 5 minutes, with all ***thirty premium addons automatically enabled ready for use.***

For a beginner, this provides the quickest, simplest way of getting the Kodi experience. I do not recommend attempting to download additional installers into TVMC.

The Community Portal from Noobsandnerds (*noobsandnerds.com*)

You can currently also reach the forum site by going to ***totalxbmc.tv*** which provides a link to the forum. This may be discontinued later.

This site provides the capability to download every Kodi addon available with one download. This includes all the addons available from Fusion, Xfinity and the Superrepo. Once ***The Community Portal*** is downloaded, you simply click on any addon to enable it.

If you download ***all the 2800 addon links en bloc***, using ***the Community Portal***, it will ***also install the relevant repository***, when you install an addon, ***so it will always auto update.***

SUMMARY

The XBMCX/Kodi program does not generally like duplicate installation of the same addon, so to minimise the possibility of software conflicts, I recommend installing only one of the following permutations on any single device-

Kodi+The Community Portal (Preferred option)

Kodi+Xfinity+Fusion

Kodi+Superrepo

TVMC can be installed alongside any of the above options, without software conflicts. All main TVMC addons are installed and enabled automatically with the Program.

A seasoned computer user would have no problem downloading any of the above options but for a beginner, I strongly recommend that you try TVMC and/or Kodi+The Community Portal, and if you have bought an Android TV box with Kodi pre-installed, that you give serious thought to uninstalling and carrying out a fresh install. This is covered in the guide.

DOWNLOADING AND INSTALLING ALL KODI 2800 ADDONS

Please see enclosed supplement covering installing the *Community Portal*.

KODI ADULT ADDONS

Instructions on enabling adult addons are also covered in the enclosed supplement.

ANDROID USER GUIDE

PART A - ALL ANDROID VERSIONS

THE MAIN ICONS & NAVIGATION CONTROLS

Some readers of this guide may have used Windows computers, so these are the main differences between Android and Windows.

While the Windows operating system has both left and right mouse clicks, right click of the mouse does not exist in the Android operating system. Windows *programmes* are called *apps* (applications) in Android. Windows *favourite* websites pages are called *bookmarks* in Android. Windows *software* translates as Android *firmware*.

Android has *twelve* main navigation controls. If you are a beginner, as soon as you have mastered these twelve controls, you should be able navigate freely around your device, therefore understanding these is very important. All controls described below are for a touch screen device. If you are using an independent mouse, the method may vary.

Google has changed some of the icons over the years, with new releases of Android, so where applicable, an example of both an early and a late design icon are shown side by side. On some devices, some of these control icons can be found on the device itself, below the screen.



CLICK is achieved with a single touch of the finger or a single left click of a mouse.



PRESS is achieved with a long press of the finger or holding down the left button of the mouse.



DRAG is achieved by a simultaneous long press of the finger and sliding the finger in any direction or by sliding a finger on a keyboard touchpad. If you are viewing a list, you can scroll through it by dragging up or down.




SWIPE UP OR DOWN is achieved by starting at the top or bottom of the screen and moving your finger in a straight line. This is used, mainly to open and close the notification panels on version 4.4 and later, and to unlock the lock screen.




SWIPE SIDEWAYS is achieved by starting at one side of the screen and moving your finger in a straight line. This is used, mainly to dismiss individual notifications, or to open the phone and camera apps, on the lock screen of later Android versions.




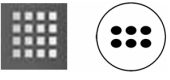
ZOOM - Place together your thumb and a finger and then drag them apart. This will increase the text size. Returning the text to normal size is the reverse process.

 **PREVIOUS SCREEN ICON** — Click on this icon to take you back to the previous screen.



 **HOME SCREEN ICON** — Click on this icon, and it will always take you back to your home screen.


 **RECENT APPS ICON** - Clicking on this icon will reveal a list of your most recently used apps so you can click and reopen one. Click again on this icon, and it will close the list.

 **SETTINGS ICON** - This opens your settings menu and you will need this to be visible on your desktop screen, so that you can connect to your wifi. If you cannot see it on any of your desktop screens, use the app drawer icon below to extract a settings shortcut onto your desktop screen.

 **APP/WIDGET DRAWER ICON** - This appears on each of your desktop screens. When you click this icon, it opens your app drawer. On earlier versions of Android, this icon also opens your widget drawer. On Android 4.4 phones onwards, the widget drawer is accessed by pressing on an empty part of a desktop screen.

Widgets are generally a means to show real time information on selected apps, which are running in the background, and are different sizes, so the space on the desktop screen that each widget needs appears below it in the widget drawer. You should select a desktop screen with sufficient space for a widget before extracting a shortcut for it.


  Within most apps, will be a sub menu, and if you click on either of these two icons, you will be given a choice of actions to carry out. When you open any app for the first time, click on these icons, to see what actions they allow.

 Within some apps, you will also be able to open a sub menu by pressing on an item of information within the app. This is used, for example, within a file management app to move or delete an item of information.

PRACTISING SOME OF THE BASIC CONTROLS

Although a standard Windows computer generally has only one screen, an Android device has several. On these screens, in virtually any position you want, you can position app shortcuts and widgets.

You can delete, at will, any app or widget from any desktop screen, without damage to the operating system, because you are only moving and deleting shortcuts. When you eventually first switch on your device, you may like to try out the following controls.

 **PRESS** an empty part of any desktop screen opens a new screen where you can select a change to the wallpaper (desktop background), or on versions 4.4 and later, access the widget drawer.



DRAG left or right on an empty part of any desktop screen will allow you to move to any of the other desktop screens or **vertically or downwards** will allow you to **scroll through a list**.



DRAG on top of an app shortcut on a desktop screen enables moving the app shortcut to a different position on the **same desktop screen** or a **different desktop screen**.



DRAG on top of an app shortcut on a desktop screen enables deleting the app shortcut from the desktop by dragging it to the trash bin, which is normally an "X" at the side of the screen where the app will turn red & delete.



App -Open an app - Click on **any** app shortcut on your desktop to open the app.



In order to close the same app, click on this home screen icon.



Click on this recent app icon, where you should see the app, which you have just closed, and if you wish, you can click on the app to reopen it.



In order to return to your home screen, from the **recent apps** list, you could click on the **home screen** icon above , but since the home screen is the **previous screen** you saw, you could also click on this icon, the **previous screen** icon.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DEVICE

If you have a decent phone or high-end tablet, this should at least arrive with a quick start guide explaining the external buttons and controls. If however, you have a low cost Chinese tablet, phone or Google TV unit, it is likely that it arrived without a user guide or at best, a guide you could hide completely on the back of a postage stamp, in which case, the following notes may be of use to you.



Micro SD card port- Most devices equipped with micro SD card slots, usually allow cards of up to 32 GB capacity, for storing songs, photos, and documents on your device. Google did not design Android to store Google apps on an external storage device so you need to store your apps along with the operating system in your device's internal memory and store your data elsewhere, to maximise the quantity of apps, which you can store.

Charger port- It is recommended that you initially charge your device for around 5 hours, then use the device until the charge is very low and then charge for a further 5 hours to maximise battery life. After that, you can charge as required.

Reset -If your operating system goes haywire, you can go into your settings and reset the device to factory defaults, which should restore your operating system. If your screen, however, is frozen, preventing you from entering your settings menu but your device has a small system reset hole, you can reset the operating system by pushing a straightened paper clip into this narrow hole, if your device is equipped with it.

Micro USB port -Most devices are equipped with at least one micro USB port. On a tablet, where only one port is available, this will invariably be used for allowing an independent keyboard to be used and/or for charging the device, but micro USB ports on some devices will also connect to your PC so you can copy and paste songs, photos and documents etc.



OTG cable- If your device *does* have a USB port accommodating data, in order to transfer data between your device and PC, you will need an **OTG cable**. You can purchase an *on the go* cable on Amazon or Ebay very cheaply. You can then fit a full size USB cable into the OTG cable to connect to your PC, laptop or even an external storage device.



HDMI output - If your device has a HDMI output, you could connect your device to your TV providing that your TV has a HDMI input, illustrated.



A HDMI cable is needed which you can purchase cheaply on Amazon or Ebay. You can then view, on your TV, what is on your device's screen.

SWITCHING ON FOR THE FIRST TIME

To switch on the device for the first time, hold down the power button for a few seconds. You may firstly be asked to select a language and then be given the option of signing into any Gmail account you have, or creating one, if you do not have one. You do not have to do this at this stage, but once you are signed into Gmail, your calendar and contacts will be immediately synchronised to your device, and you will be able to access the app store.

In the set up process, dependent on your device type, you may also be invited to connect to your wireless network. If you are not provided with this option, how to connect to your wireless network is explained below.

If you are accustomed to earlier versions of Android, the lock screen should pose no problems for you. If you are new to Android, the lock screen may be driving you crazy, by continually sending your screen black. You can continually keep swiping from the padlock, either sideways or upwards, dependent on Android version, to unlock the screen, or you can turn off the lock screen for a while until you have set up your device.

OVERCOMING ANY SCREEN LOCK



Click on your *settings* icon, illustrated, and then on the next screen, scroll down to **Security**. Click on **Screen lock** and then select **None**. You will see on the same screen that there are several other types of screen lock, from which you can choose- pattern, pin or password. Whenever you have a screen lock activated, notifications may be visible in the body of the screen, dependent on Android version.



You can either tap twice on a notification to open it, or you can swipe sideways in either direction, in order to dismiss it.



You can swipe down from the top of the screen in versions 4.4 onwards, in order to display the quick settings menu, and then swipe up to close it.

CONNECTING TO YOUR WIRELESS NETWORK



Once you have mastered the screen lock, one way or the other, it makes sense at this point to set up your internet connection, if not already done so, and to sign in with your Google Gmail account.

Click on the *settings* icon, illustrated, to open your settings menu. Top left item is wifi. Click on the square empty box to the right of off and this will turn on wifi.



If the settings icon is not visible on any of your desktop screens, extract a shortcut opening the app drawer, and then press on the settings icon to release it onto your desktop.

The name of your home wifi router should now be visible so click on it and then enter your broadband password (SSID), if your network is security encrypted. Your device should now automatically connect to your wifi this time and on all future occasions.

Many broadband providers print the password or SSID on the base of the router so if you cannot remember how you set up your wifi originally, please check there.

ADJUSTING YOUR MOST IMPORTANT SETTINGS



Now that you have successfully connected to your wifi, you may like to consider customising your device using the settings menu. These menus can be accessed by clicking on the settings icon, illustrated. Below are just a few of the settings which you may like to consider changing.

Not all settings listed below are available with every Android version and the layout of the settings menu may be different from device to device. It may be worth quickly scrolling through your settings menus so you are aware of what is available.

Bluetooth

Pair up your Android device with other devices, such as a car.

Display

Brightness level- Set brightness level.

Wallpaper- Set the wallpaper, but this can also be done by pressing on the home screen, on later Android versions, or via the app drawer icon on earlier versions.

Sound & Notification

Media volume - Set volume for music and video output.

Alarm volume - Set alarm volume.

Ring volume - Set ringtone volume for calls.

Interruptions - Set when calls, messages & notifications can interrupt (version 5.0 only)

Phone ringtone - Set phone ringtone, either from internal storage or your own music.

Default notification ringtone - Set default ringtone for messages.

Other sounds- Set whether dial pad ,screen lock, touch and vibration on touch sounds should be enabled.

Pulse notification light - Set whether phone LED light should blink.

When device is locked - Set if notifications should appear or not (version 5.0 only)

App Notifications - Block or prioritise notifications (version 5.0 only)

Security

Main settings of interest to beginners are-

Screen lock - Set type of screen lock- Swipe, Pattern, Pin, or Password

Sim card lock - Set sim card lock to prevent unauthorised users to make calls.

OVERVIEW OF EMAIL & IMPORTING CONTACTS



Up until the arrival of version 5.0 lollipop, Google had virtually ignored any development of the stock email app, illustrated. It has very few features and is quite basic. One of its biggest failings was that where a user had more than one email address, the app did not have a unified inbox so users were forced to move between different accounts.



Google even ignored its own Gmail app, illustrated. Up until two months ago, when Lollipop was launched, the basic Gmail app was even worse than the stock email app above. Its biggest problem was that it could only handle Gmail addresses, forcing users to use a different app for non-Gmail addresses. Faced with the limitations of the stock email app, many users turned to other third party apps.



With the launch of version 5 Lollipop, an updated Gmail app arrived with a slightly different logo, illustrated.

This new app can handle non-Gmail addresses, but Google committed a major blunder in depriving this app of a unified inbox feature, which for many users, this will be a deal breaker, me included. A user still has to move between different inboxes to view all their mail, where they have more than one email account. Some users undoubtedly will find that the simplicity of Gmail will meet all their needs, even if they have to skip from one inbox to another.

In order to receive your Gmail via **Imap** method on other devices, you need to check if **Imap** is enabled in your web settings. Do this by going to Google's home page and click on the **Gmail** link. If the **Sign-in box** appears, fill in your Gmail address & password.

In your inbox, click on the **cogwheel**, near top right of inbox & then on **settings**. Then click on- **Forwarding and POP/IMAP**. Then click on **Enable Imap** (third section down) **unless Imap is already enabled**. You must **Save changes** after scrolling down to bottom of page. You can now use the Gmail app on your device.

In order to import your email contacts to your Android device, please remember that once signed into your Gmail account on your device, **Google will automatically synchronize all your Gmail contacts to your Android device**. Signing into the Google Chrome browser on your Android device will achieve the same result, as will creating a Gmail account in **any** Android email app on your device.

If you are a Hotmail or Yahoo user, you can export your contacts list to your PC desktop in **vCard** or **CSV** format and import them easily into Gmail on your PC or laptop. Google will then automatically synchronize them to the Android device, providing you have signed into your Gmail account at least once from your device.

Once the contacts are synced to your device , your chosen email app will **auto-complete** many email addresses you type in because it will **read Gmail's address book automatically** and **should also auto-complete any email address you have written to previously** irrespective of whether that contact appears in Google's contacts.

It is almost certain that you will want, eventually, to access the Google Play store from your new Android device to download apps. Whether you intend to use the Gmail app, or not, creating a Gmail account is an absolute must, if you want to access all the Android features, which are available. The other main email providers also have their own apps.



Yahoo! mail - This app is Yahoo's own app. It also works with **sky.com** email addresses.



Outlook.com app - Microsoft email addresses - **Hotmail**, **outlook.com**, and **msn.com** are covered by this app which is Microsoft's own. It has a high number of downloads but only has a 2.5 / 5.00 satisfaction rating. It is not in the same class as Google or Yahoo's own apps and seems a little slow, but there are other suitable apps in the Play store.

If you find that neither Gmail, Yahoo mail nor the Hotmail apps are suitable, you are left with a third party app, such as ***K-9 mail*** or ***Maildroid***.



K-9 mail - K-9 mail is undoubtedly the most popular free one, and if you need an email app, which has a ***unified inbox***, K-9 is an excellent choice.



Maildroid, a paid app, is easy to use but costs in excess of £12 (almost \$20).

PART B - APPLIES TO ANDROID 4 ONLY

LOCK SCREEN - ANDROID 4

The battery status, wifi, and mobile signal strengths are generally shown at the top right of the screen on the notification panel.

Prior to Android 4.4, the lock screen showed only the padlock, in addition to the notification panel, at the top.



Swiping up from the padlock at the bottom of the screen will unlock the screen and show your home screen. On very early versions of Android, you have to swipe right from the padlock to open the home screen.



On Android 4.4, on some devices, a ***camera icon*** is visible and by swiping on this icon, you can start the camera, without having to unlock the screen.



QUICK SETTINGS MENU- ANDROID 4



On earlier versions of Android, swiping down from the top of the lock screen only expanded the basic notifications shown in the taskbar at the top of the screen.

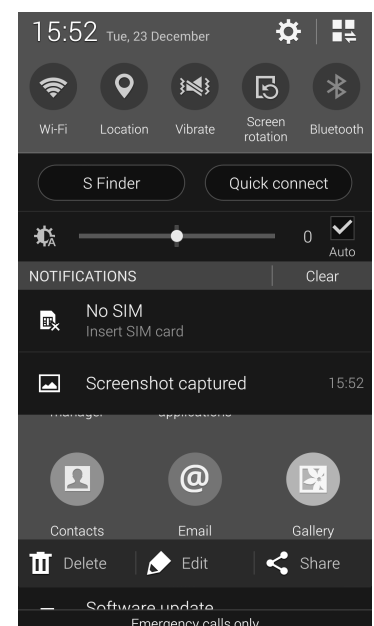


On Android 4.4 KitKat, you can open this quick settings menu, by swiping down from the top of the above lock screen or any other screen. From this quick settings menu, you can adjust and/or turn on/off some of the main settings, as illustrated to the right.

From this screen, you can also adjust the brightness.



To close this screen, simply ***swipe up*** from the bottom of the screen.



DESKTOP SCREENS - ANDROID 4

Prior to version 5, *on most devices*, there are usually five or seven desktop screens and your home screen is usually the middle screen.

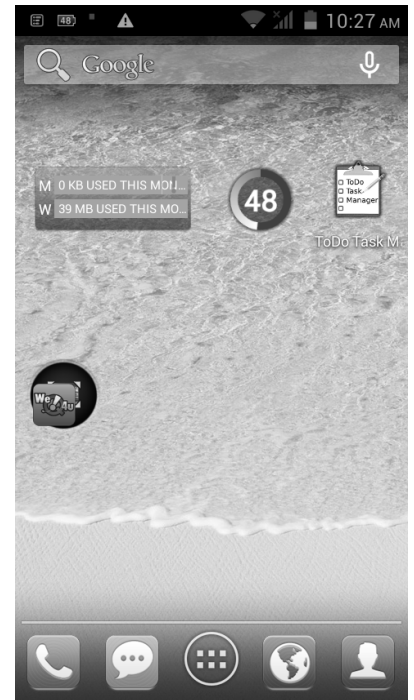
You can organise the *favourites tray*, at the bottom of the illustration, with whichever five app shortcuts you prefer.



You can choose and *drag* any four or five icons to fill up your *favourites tray*, but the central *app drawer icon* is sometimes static and cannot be moved from its central position. No matter how many desktop screens you have, the favourites tray will be identical on every screen.



On 4.4 KiKat devices, it is possible to give Google spoken search commands by clicking on the microphone, on the right hand side of the Google search box at the top.



Although icons can be shown individually in any position, you can create a *folder* of similar icons, by dragging one icon on top of another. On the left hand side of the above illustration you can see a circular folder with one shortcut dragged on top of another to form a folder. You can dismantle the folder by simply dragging out the icons one by one.



Press on an empty part of a desktop screen and a new screen appears, illustrated.



You can change the wallpaper or desktop background, using the icon on the left of this screen.



On *some* devices running Android 4.4 KitKat, the *widget drawer* is also accessed in this same manner, as illustrated.

You need to know how to access your widgets because of the two possible methods, which are a) the above method or b) accessing the widget drawer using the app drawer icon on earlier Android versions.



CUSTOMISATION - ANDROID 4

While Google was modifying the main control icons with each new release of Android, they also changed the appearance of some of the key apps.



To compound this, the device manufacturers followed suit and made their own changes, with the result that there were variations of variations. This illustration shows the *favourites tray*, the bottom row of icons, from three different phone screens.








Despite all these variations, it should be relatively easy to work out which icons are which on your own device.

The contacts, phone and messaging apps for Android 4 are far simpler than the corresponding apps for the latest version, Android 5.

CONTACTS APP - ANDROID 4



The appearance of the opening screen of the contacts app varies greatly from device to device. A typical example from an earlier Android version is below-

 ALL CONTACTS SCREEN	   			
	SEARCH	NEW	EDIT	SETTINGS
Doug Frazer Doug Smith	DOUG SMITH EMAIL dougsmith@yahoo.com			
E Ed Clancy				

If you have signed into your Google account from your Android device, you should see, in this app, any contacts, which have been synchronised from your Google account. Furthermore, if you have copied any telephone numbers from your sim card to your phone, you will also see these in the contacts app.

In practice, you should not need to open the contacts app very often, simply because you can generally access the contacts list from your *phone app*.

PART C - APPLIES TO ANDROID 5 ONLY

LOCK SCREEN - ANDROID 5

The battery status, wifi, and mobile signal strengths are shown at the top right of the screen. The battery capacity is also shown as a notification in the body of the screen and remains there permanently unless you switch off some or all the notifications, if that is what you prefer.

Any other notification can be dismissed by swiping left or right, or can be opened by tapping on it twice.



Swiping left to right, near the bottom of the screen, will unlock the screen and open up your *phone app*, to enable you to make a call. **Swiping right to left**, near the bottom of the screen will unlock the screen and open the *camera*.



Swiping up from the padlock at the bottom of the screen will unlock the screen and show your home screen.



NOTIFICATION SETTINGS - ANDROID 5

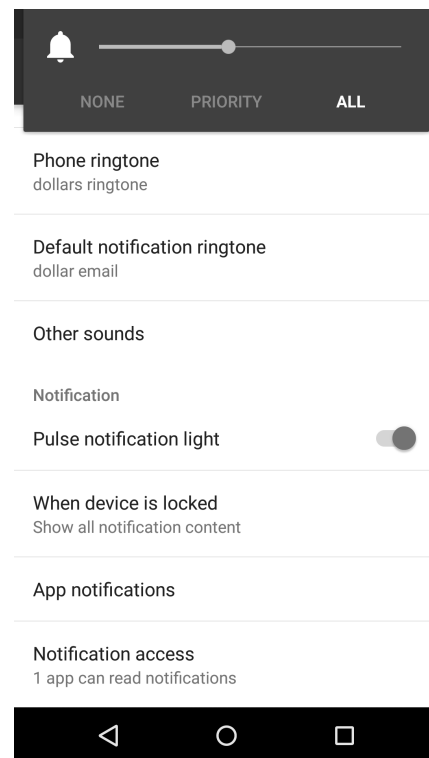
It is possible to choose whether you see notifications or not. You can also decide for each individual app, if you want to block notifications or make that app a priority notification.



Click on your *settings* menu, then on the following screen, scroll down and click on **Sound & Notification**.

Then click on **When device is locked**, illustrated on the right, and choose **Show all notification content** or **Do not show all notification content**.

Go back one screen and then click on **App notifications** to reveal a complete list of your apps. Click on any app and you can then choose, for that particular app, to **block notifications** or make the notification a **priority notification**.



After setting up the notification for each app, when pressing the volume button **at any time and on any screen**, a new small screen appears at the top, as illustrated, allowing you to change when notifications appear. You can choose **None**, **All**, or on a **Priority** basis.

QUICK SETTINGS MENU- ANDROID 5



You can open this quick settings menu, from **any** screen including the lock screen by swiping down once to open your notification panel, illustrated near the bottom of the image , or swipe down **twice** to show both the notification panel and quick settings menu.

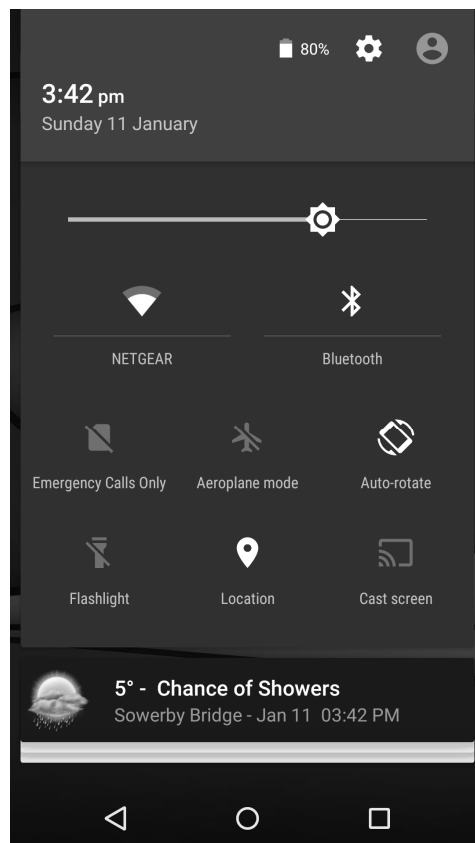
You can also open the combined screen by swiping down **once**, using **two fingers side by side**.

From this screen, you can also adjust the brightness.

The user icon in the top right corner, will open the user account settings where changes to approved users of the device can be made. To the left of that icon is the icon to open your main settings menu.



To close this screen, simply **swipe up** from the bottom of the screen.

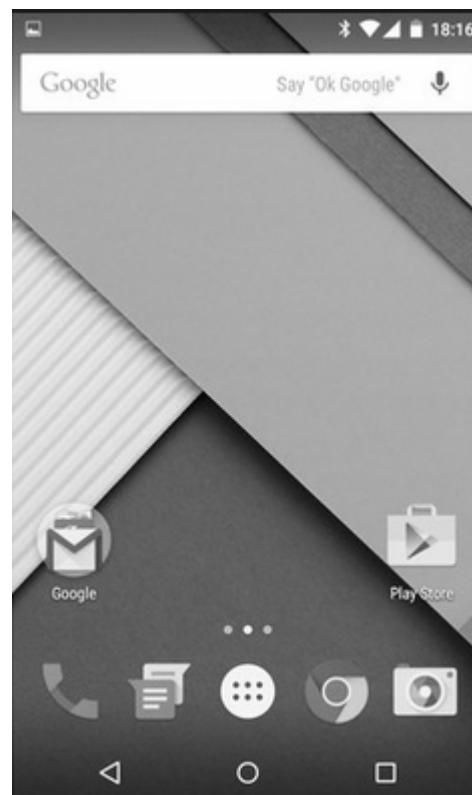


DESKTOP SCREENS - ANDROID 5

Prior to version 5, **on most devices**, there are usually five or seven desktop screens and your home screen is usually the middle screen.

Android 5 is slightly different. Generally it will **first start with two screens**, and on your home screen will be the left one of the two.

You can however have **one screen only** to the **left of the home screen** but on Nexus devices, this is reserved for **Google Now**, which can be optionally enabled when first starting up your device. Other manufacturers may choose a different app, to suit their own ends, since this sole left screen provides a means for the manufacturer and/or Google to spam you with tailored adverts, based on how you use whatever fixed app is there.



Google now provides a limited amount of information on nearby places, the weather, travel to your work location and a few other topics.

If you turn off Google now, this left screen will vanish completely and cannot be used for anything else.

On Android 5 devices, it is possible to give Google spoken search commands by clicking on the microphone, on the right hand side of the Google search box at the top.

Although icons can be shown individually in any position, you can create a **folder** of similar icons, by dragging one icon on top of another. On the left hand side of the above illustration you can see a circular folder with one shortcut dragged on top of another to form a folder.

In order to **create a new right hand screen on Android 5**, you simply drag any desktop icon to the top right position on its existing screen, and then drag it to the right. A new desktop screen will appear onto which you can then release the icon.

On all Android versions, you can organise the bottom **favourites tray**, illustrated above, with whichever app shortcuts you prefer . The central **app drawer icon** is static and cannot be moved from its central position.



You can choose and **drag** any other four icons to fill up your favourites tray. No matter how many desktop screens you have, the favourites tray will be identical on every screen.

The procedure to disable **Google Now** or any substitute app, that a different manufacturer may load, is as follows-



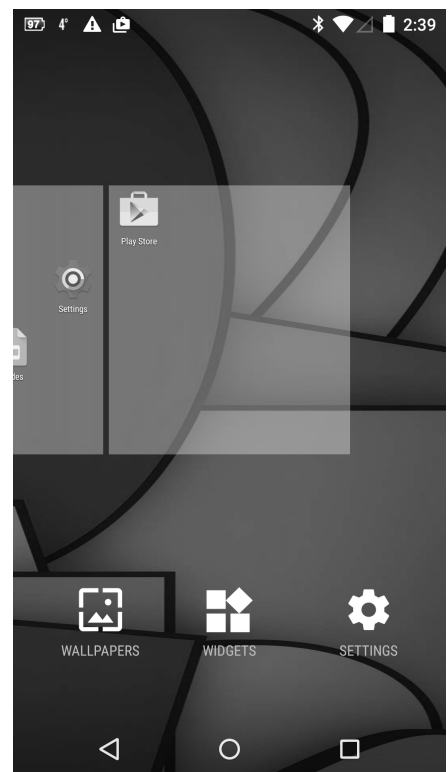
Press on an empty part of a desktop screen and a new screen appears, illustrated. The **Google now settings icon** is in the bottom right hand corner of this new screen. Click on it and then click on the Google now on/off icon at the top right of the next screen, to turn it on or off.



Having pressed on an empty part of any desktop screen, you can also change the wallpaper (desktop background), using the icon on the left, which is illustrated.



By clicking on the centre **widgets** icon, you can open the widget drawer, in order to move a widget to the desktop, by pressing on it and releasing it on your desktop.



CONTACTS APP USER GUIDE - ANDROID 5



Any phone contacts on your existing sim card should automatically appear within any app on your device, which allows you to make calls or send text messages. If you wish to copy them from your sim card en bloc to your device, open up your contacts app, illustrated, and follow the *import/export* instructions below.

SCREEN 1 - CONTACTS

- Clicking on this sub menu icon, opens up this menu-

Contacts to display- Select from which of your accounts your contacts should be displayed.

Import/export - Import contacts from sim card or internal storage. Export contacts to internal storage.

Accounts - Manage accounts

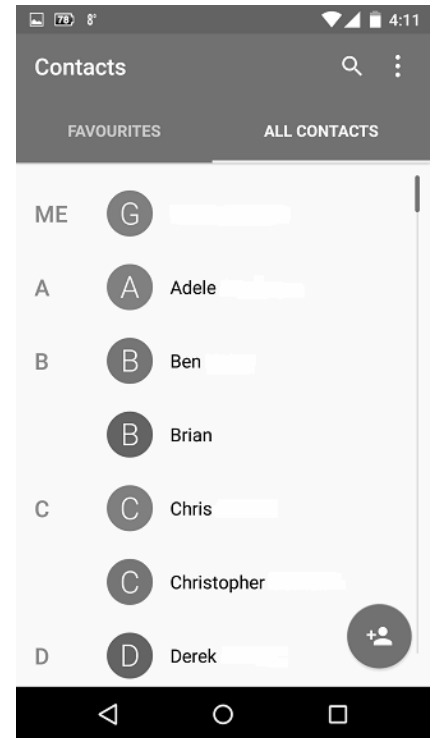
Settings- Sort by- how to sort and **Name format-** how each contact's name should appear.



Click on any icon to the left of any name to open a contact summary screen, screen 3 below. from which you can open the full contact edit screen, or make a call.



Click on this *add new contact icon*, in order to open a screen to create a new contact.



SCREEN 2 - CONTACTS

On screen 1, above, click on *Favourites*, in order to open this screen.

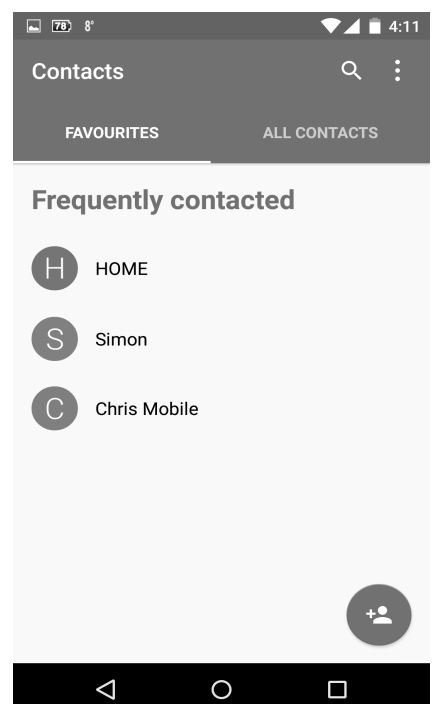
- Clicking on the *sub menu icon*, top right, opens up the
- same menu as screen 1, with the addition of *Clear frequents*.



Click on any icon to the left of any name to open up screen 3 below.



Click on this *add new contact icon*, in order to open a screen to create a new contact.



SCREEN 3 - CONTACTS



Clicking on the **star** will mark or unmark that contact as a favourite.



Clicking on this **edit contact icon** will open the main contact screen where you can amend details for that contact - See screen 4 below.

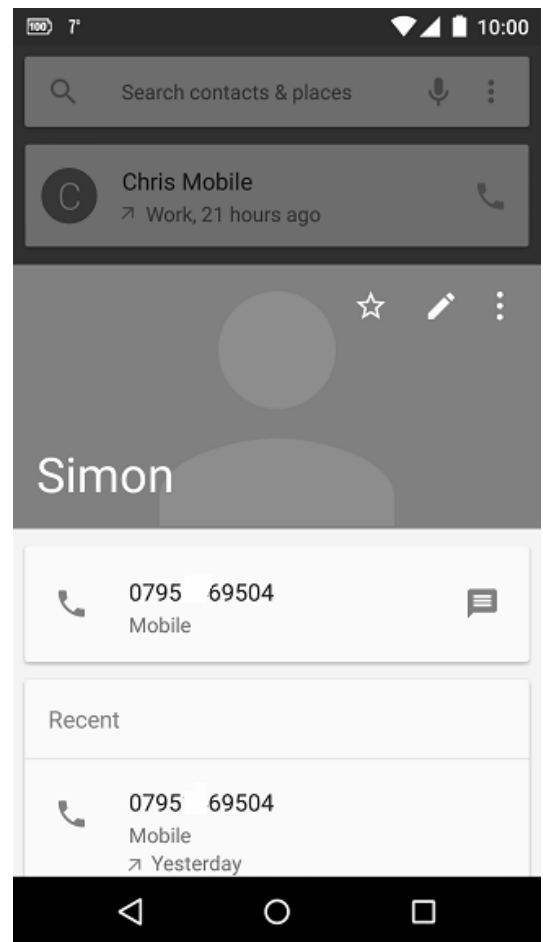
Clicking on the **sub menu** icon, to the right of the edit contact icon, brings up the following options- **Share** (contact) & **Place shortcut on home screen** (for that contact).



Clicking on this icon opens your default messaging app, where you can see the thread of messages for this contact, send a new message to that contact or make a phone call, using the phone icon.



Clicking on the **phone icon** will make a call to that contact.



SCREEN 4 - CONTACTS

Clicking on the **sub menu** icon, will open the following menu-

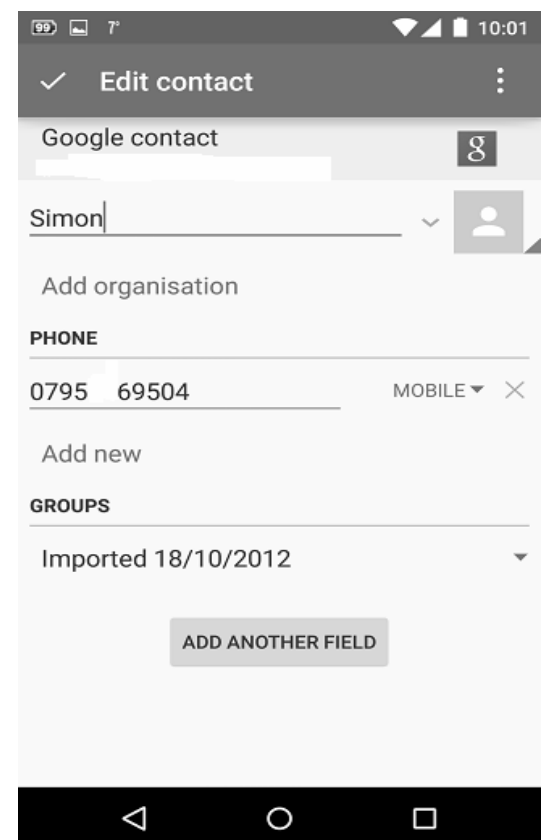
Join

Discard changes

Delete

Set ringtone

All calls to voicemail



PART D - APPLIES TO ALL ANDROID VERSIONS

TRANSFERRING DATA FROM WINDOWS PC TO YOUR DEVICE

You may want to transfer or access some of the photos, videos, music or documents on your PC, laptop or other devices.

MICRO SD CARD (WHERE FITTED)



Micro SD card –Almost all devices are equipped with a micro SD card reader slot. Normally a capacity up to 32GB is possible which would be sufficient for up to 8000 songs. The micro SD card would fit into its holder and then inserted into the full size SD card slot in your PC or laptop. You can then copy and paste the data to the SD card for use on your Android device.

Please do not forget that before taking a SD card out of your device, to go into the device's *settings* menu , click on the *storage* tab and then put a tick in the box saying *unmount the SD card* to avoid corrupting the card and losing data, when you take it out.

Please remember that Google designed Android so that apps could *not* be stored on external storage such as an SD card. It pays therefore to store data on the micro SD card or other external storage devices, and leave the *internal memory of your device free for downloading & storing apps*, particularly if your device has a small storage capacity.

CLOUD STORAGE

There are numerous cloud storage companies, which offer free storage of your data on their servers. It has two main purposes- It provides wireless backup of your files for security but also allows wifi synchronisation of your data between your main computer and other devices. The following website provides a comparison chart for around thirty different cloud storage companies- <http://www.cloudwards.net/comparison>.

On Windows devices, cloud storage data is automatically uploaded and downloaded between your various PC's and laptops.

Normally data will download to a mobile device *only* when you tell it which files to download so that your precious storage capacity and data allowance are protected.

Free cloud storage is also bundled when you purchase selected phone or tablet packages, however, most companies provide a free amount of storage with extra costs for extra capacity.

Dropbox, the perceived market leader, has endless programming options so with Dropbox, automatic full synchronisation is possible on mobile devices if you select this in the settings.

One drive by Microsoft and **Google drive** also work well and include a free online editing facility for Microsoft Word and Excel files.

You can find details of these three providers as follows-



Dropbox(www.dropbox.com).

Online MS Office document editing – Yes



Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com>)

Online MS Office document editing – Yes



Onedrive (Microsoft) (<https://onedrive.live.com>)

Online MS Office document editing – Yes

FILE MANAGEMENT

Unlike Windows, data in Android, is held within the relevant app (program). Your photos are located in the Photo app in your device's internal memory and so on.

You may need to move photos or other data to an external storage device, in order to free up internal storage space on your phone or tablet. You can normally do this by using a **file management** app, which is similar in function to Windows **My computer**.

Some manufacturers may preload a file management app on your device but not everyone does. When first opening any file management app, you need to recognise which **drive** is your **device's internal memory** and which is the external **micro SD card**, or **other external storage device**.

While Windows presents a simple way of determining which drive or storage area, you are viewing by giving each one a letter- C drive , D drive etc. this is not so in Android.

The device's internal memory generally appears as **/mnt/... or /local/...** but sometimes you will see **/mnt/sdcard** yet you are still looking at the internal memory.

External storage such as micro SD cards usually but not always appears as **/removable**.

When you first browse through any file management app for the first time, it pays to establish what the internal storage and any external storage units are called by the app, and, if possible, **rename them** for future reference. If you do not like any file management app preloaded on your device, you could consider the following alternative apps.

Total Commander and **File wrangler** are two of the leading apps, and each has a reasonable online user guide, which you can access, via a **help** icon in the app's **settings**.



Probably the most popular, well known, app is ***ES File Explorer File Manager***.



You can access a link to a user guide, from within this app, by clicking on the sub menu icon, illustrated, at the top of the opening screen. You should then click on the ***settings*** icon, which is a cogwheel in the bottom right hand corner of the next screen, and finally click on ***help***.

For a beginner, if the data you want is on a PC or laptop, copying and pasting the data, using a USB cable, is by the simplest, easiest method, and will cause you the least grief.

GOOGLE PLAY STORE



There are around twenty online stores where you can download apps. The largest by far is the Google play app store. Every time you read about how many apps Google has, the figure is different but it could be up to 1 million.

The chances of downloading malware on apps from the Google play store is significantly less than using the more obscure sites and with such a big choice and hundreds of thousands of them being free, there seems little incentive to use other sites.

Google Play apps fall into four main categories-

-Free with full features.

-Full feature app, ***free for limited time for trial*** and ***then paid licence to buy*** later.

-***Initial download missing some extra features*** but ***free to use for life*** if you can live with reduced versatility. Pro version or similar can be purchased later with full features.

-***To pay in full before download*** as no free version is available.

It is sometimes confusing as to whether any ***apparently free*** app you download will be truly ***free for life*** and sometimes you ***only realise later that it is a time limited version and a payment has to be made***.

When you download for the first time any app, which needs an immediate payment, the Play store will then invite you to store a credit card or similar so that future app payments are automatic. If you have lodged a credit card at the time you created your Google play account, when signing in on your Android device, it will simply use your existing details.

If you want to try an app, which requires a full prepayment, you can download it and the Play store will take payment but if you do not like it if you uninstall it within 15 minutes, your payment is refunded immediately. The way that Google's app store works means that you never lose the apps you have paid for, even if you have deleted them from your device and, you can reinstall them later as many times as you like.

THE GOLDEN RULE- For every 20 apps which require some sort of payment, there will probably be a free equivalent for 19 of them *so it pays to take a long look at what is available before purchasing anything.*

You must sign into the Google Play store at least once from your device, otherwise you will *never be able to download apps*. You can download apps via PC/laptop *after this one time* if you prefer.

If you did *not* sign into the play store, when you first set up your device, but you have a Gmail account-



Click on your *settings* icon. Then scroll down and click on *Accounts*. Then click on *Add account*, and then select *Google* on the next screen. Fill in your Gmail address and then your password on the following screen. Then click on *next* on the following two screens.

Signing in by creating a *new* Gmail account-



Click on your *settings* icon. Then scroll down and click on *Accounts*. Then click on *Add account*, and then select *Google* on the next screen. Click on *Create new account*, and then follow the instructions appearing on each screen.

It is easier to create a Google account, initially using a PC or laptop, if have a Windows machine, but you can do it from your Android device, as described above. If you do use your PC, you *must then* sign into Gmail or Chrome or any other email app on your device, *at least once*, in order to be able to access the Play store, from your device.

DOWNLOADING & INSTALLING APPS

Before downloading a new app, please firstly check that it is *not* already on one of your desktop screens or in the app drawer, already preloaded on your device.



Finally if you are certain that you do not already have it, you can then download it from the play store. You may find it useful to scroll through your app drawer to see which apps were preloaded, for future reference.



Having opened the play store and searched for the desired app, simply click on the *install* button and you will see it automatically downloading on the taskbar of your device. Android will automatically put a shortcut onto your desktop for any downloaded app, and Google's server will record/back up the apps you have downloaded providing you have told it to do so, when you created the account.

Any available widgets will download with each app and a shortcut placed in the widget shortcut drawer so it is worth checking if any widgets have downloaded, each time you download any new app.

UNINSTALLING APPS

Sometimes, if too many apps have been downloaded, and your device has a low internal storage capacity, you may need to ***uninstall*** some of the apps you no longer use in order to make way for new ones.



Click on the ***Play store*** icon on your Android desktop. The play store will then open.



Click on the sub menu icon, top left, and on the next screen, click on ***My apps***.



Then click on the ***Installed*** header at the top of the next screen. You will then see every app installed on your device.



If you want to uninstall an app, click on it and then click on ***uninstall***. It will ask you ***Do you want to uninstall this app***. Click ***OK***.

REINSTALLING APPS



To reinstall apps, follow the uninstall procedure above but having clicked on ***My apps***, click on the ***All*** header at the top of the next screen. You will now see every app which is either currently installed on your device ***or has been installed*** at some time previously.



If you want to reinstall a specific app, click on it and then click on ***install***. Then click on ***Accept & download***. The app will download automatically & a popup screen on the taskbar will confirm the app has been successfully installed.

None of these apps accessed in this way are critical to the system operation and can be uninstalled and/or reinstalled at will in around half a minute each.

HANDLING APPS FROM YOUR PC OR LAPTOP

You can if you prefer, handle the Play store from your PC or laptop, once you have signed into Google at least once from your device.



On your PC or laptop, from Google's home page, click on the menu icon on the right hand side of the screen (icon with 9 small squares), and then click on the Play store icon, illustrated.



When you are signed into the play store from your PC, you can click on the ***cogwheel*** on the right of the screen .You can then select ***settings*** and choose which of your Android devices are ***current*** and should be displayed when you are about to download an app.

You can also give a ***nickname*** to any device by clicking on ***edit***. This is useful where you have two identical devices since the Play store, although recognising there are two devices, will give them the same name if they are the same model number.



From the cogwheel, click on ***my orders***- you will see a list of every app you have ever ordered, free of charge or not.



From any of the above screens you can then click on ***Apps*** (top left) and then on ***My apps*** (same position on the next screen) - this will also show a list of every app you have ever ordered, free of charge or not.



If you then want to download any app to another of your devices or download again to your only device, ***click on the relevant app***, and then click on the green word ***installed***. By clicking on ***installed***, you can now select to which of your devices, you want to download this particular app.

SOME OF THE BEST APPS

The following apps are some of the best available. In almost all cases, the app contains a user guide or there may be a link to a website containing a decent user guide for that particular app. You could try these out, if there are stock apps preloaded on your device that you do not like.

ANTIVIRUS



AVG - Android is way behind Windows in commercial usage, so there is less incentive for hackers to cause mischief on Android devices as they do on Windows. The need therefore, for anti-virus protection is not critical, particularly if you only use the Google play store to download apps. If you prefer to have Antivirus protection, AVG offer a choice of Android antivirus app versions, and I recommend these because of the pedigree of the Windows version.

GOOGLE CALENDAR



Google calendar -There are several apps with Google calendar in the name but below the title, you will see the developer's name ***Google Inc.*** This app will automatically synchronize to your Google calendar account.



The app contains its own user guide. When opened, click on the sub menu icon, illustrated, and then on ***Help & Feedback*** at the bottom of the next screen.

MICROSOFT OFFICE

Microsoft had to be dragged, kicking and screaming into releasing Microsoft Office apps for Android. I do not think they did it willingly. Although you can create new documents with these apps, you are likely to be nagged to death to subscribe to *Office 365*, to unlock other features and this is not cheap!

These are the most recent apps and are suitable for Android 4.4 Kitkat and later versions-



Microsoft Word



Microsoft Excel



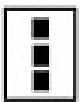
Microsoft Powerpoint

You can access an online user guide for any of the above apps as follows-

Open a new Word or Excel file and then click on- File> Settings > Online Help & Support.



Microsoft Office Mobile - This app is only suitable for smart phones running Android 4.3 Jelly Bean and earlier.



You can access a short online User guide for Microsoft Office mobile, by clicking on the menu icon, illustrated, and then on *Settings* and then on *Help & Support*.

If you use *free* cloud storage such as *Dropbox*, *Google drive* or Microsoft's *Onedrive*, all three have apps in the Play store. All three also have an online Microsoft document editing tool so you could use one of these apps to view and edit your documents *online*. If you want all your documents actually stored on your device and you need an app that can edit them, I recommend the above apps.

MUSIC PLAYER



Google Play music - This is another Google app. Not only will it let you play your own music, you can subscribe to Google's library of millions of songs for a monthly subscription.



There is a link to a user guide for *Play music*, by clicking on the *sub menu* icon, illustrated, and then clicking on *Help*.

PHOTOS



F-stop - This app has its own *user guide* at the following link - <http://www.fstopapp.com/tutorial>.

You can take a photo of whatever is on your Android device screen, generally by holding down *simultaneously* the *on/off button* and the *volume down button*. Some manufacturers do it differently. Samsung, for example usually uses simultaneous pressing of the power and home buttons, in order to take a screen shot.

PRINTER



Google cloud print - Google cloud printing is free & relatively easy to set up with any printer. Instructions can be found at- <http://www.google.co.uk/cloudprint/learn/>.

VIDEO PLAYER



MX Player - This is, without doubt, one of the very best video players in the app store. Within the app's *settings* menu there are links to their *website* where the *apps features* and *frequently asked questions* are listed. I recommend however-



GPlayer - This app is also one of the leading video players in the app store but it also has a very comprehensive user guide on the developer's website- http://www.gpcsoft.net/web/files/gplayer_manual.pdf



Play movies & TV- This is Google's movie & TV show player for media purchased in the Google play store.



By clicking on the *sub menu* icon, illustrated, in the top left corner, you can access the *Help & Feedback* menu for *Play movies & TV*.

WEB BROWSERS



Google Chrome -This browser is generally preloaded by default. Once you have signed into your Google account on your device via- Gmail, Chrome browser or any other email app, Google will synchronize all your Chrome web page favourites from your PC to the Google Chrome browser on your device.



Firefox browser- Google Chrome is not everyone's first choice browser, and Firefox is one of the leading alternatives. This web browser also has a sync facility, which is in Firefox settings on both your Windows and Android devices. You can now sync using only your Firefox email address and password.

CREATING WEB PAGE DESKTOP SHORTCUTS

It is possible to create *desktop bookmarks (shortcuts)* to your favourite web pages on your home screen and how to do this using **Google Chrome** is as follows.



Below we are creating a bookmark to open the **Amazon UK website**, using the Chrome browser. Click on **Chrome** icon on the desktop, and in the search bar at the top type- **www.amazon.co.uk** and click enter. Amazon UK home page will open.



Click on the sub menu icon, top right, to open the next screen.



Click on the white star (bookmark or favourite icon), in the top middle of this screen, and a new screen will appear allowing you to **rename** and **save the page as a Chrome bookmark**.

You then need to access your widget drawer by using either the app drawer icon on earlier Android versions or by pressing on an empty part of the desktop screen on later Android versions.



Press on a widget called **Bookmark**, which is a yellow star on a white background, and release this widget onto an empty part of a desktop. This will **automatically open your existing Chrome bookmark folder** where you can **click on the Amazon bookmark**, which will now become a **named desktop shortcut**.

NAVIGATION CONTROL ICONS SUMMARY



App -Download - From the Google app store, click on ***Install***



App -Open an app - Click on app



App -Close an app - Click on this home screen icon.



App- To open app shortcut drawer - Click on app drawer icon.



App - Move a shortcut to the desktop - From the app shortcut drawer, press on an app to deposit it on the desktop.



App - Move it around the same screen - Drag on any app to move it to a new position on the same screen.



App - Move to another screen - Drag on any app to move it to a new position on another screen.



App - Delete shortcut from desktop screen - Drag it to the trash bin, which appears as an "X" at the side of the screen where the app shortcut turns red and is deleted.



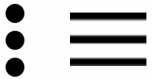
App - Delete completely from device - Click on Play store, then click on submenu icon, then on ***Installed*** top left and then select the apps to delete.



App- Reinstall on device - Click on Play store, then click on submenu icon, then on ***All*** top left and then select the apps to reinstall.



App - Show or hide recently used apps - Click on this icon



App - sub menu - Click on either of these two icons.



App - sub menu - Press, where allowed, on an item of information within an app to open the submenu.



Desktop icons for previous screen, home screen, and recent apps - Show when hidden temporarily - Click on the area where they usually are, to reveal them.



Google now - Activate- Press on an empty part of a desktop screen and click on the Google now settings icon, on the right.



Network - Connect to wireless network - Click on settings icon and then at top of next screen, click on box to the right of wifi off, in order to turn it on.



Notification - Open - Tap twice on notification



Notification - Dismiss - Swipe left or right.



Quick settings menu - Open - Swipe down once or twice from top of screen, dependent on Android version.



Quick settings menu - Close - Swipe up from bottom of screen.



Screens - Move from one desktop screen to another - Press on an empty part of one screen and drag to reach another screen.



Screens - Scroll up / down any single screen - Drag up or down on an empty part of any screen to scroll.



Screens - Move back to previous screen - Click on this icon.



Screens - Move back to home screen - Click on this icon.



Settings menu - Open - Click on this icon.



Wallpaper - Change wallpaper - Press on an empty part of a desktop screen, to open wallpaper change menu.



Widget - Open widget drawer - Press on an empty part of a desktop screen and then click on widget drawer icon, centre or access via app drawer icon on earlier Android versions.



Widget- Move shortcut to desktop - From widget drawer, press on widget to put it on desktop, having chosen a screen area with sufficient space.



Widget - Delete widget from desktop - Drag the widget to the trash bin but it will only delete completely from your device when you delete the corresponding app from your device.

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING THIS GUIDE.

In evaluating the worth of this guide, I hope you will take into account the email support offered.

My contact email address is on the back of this guide. Please use this email address *only*, since Amazon & Ebay both restrict what file types can be attached to emails, in case I need to send you any additional information. If you require additional help on *installing Kodi*, please contact me.

Please email support queries to Geoff - Tech-Guides

email address.....techguides123@gmail.com

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