



Parental Control and Data Usage Tips for Android

Description

-

Parental Control and Data Usage Tips for Android

This page provides basic tips on managing data and controlling the usage of your Android device. It includes the use of parental controls and “screen time” systems.



- **Simple ways to improve device usage for Android users**



- - 1 Built-in Parental controls for Android
 - Usage and parental controls are great tools for managing device access and online activity, especially for children/students. They help ensure online safety and focus, combating addictive behaviours. These controls are integral to cyber-safety programs.

While we provide guidance, it's essential to stay updated on these controls, especially with school-age children. **Social media platforms typically require users to be at least 13 years old.**

Please note that operating systems and devices vary in settings. The images and steps in the headings below are a general guide only. We advise you to research these topics on a regular basis, particularly if you have school-age children.

For more information:

- TechRadar: [Parental controls on Android: how to make a phone or tablet child friendly](#)
- Tech Advisor: [How to Use Android Parental Controls](#)
- TechJunkie: [How to Enable Parental Control on Android](#)

A note about Android parental controls:

While iPhones and iPads are controlled by Apple, Android phones are manufactured by various companies like Samsung, Nokia, or Oppo. Since each phone implements the Android system differently, providing step-by-step instructions for every setting is challenging.

Most Android phones come with built-in parental controls tailored to their specific interface. We recommend searching online for parental controls specific to your phone model to explore available options.

Further information:

- Samsung: [Using Parental Controls on my Samsung Phone](#)
- Google Play: [Set up parental controls on Google Play](#)

- 2 Other parental controls for Android

- In addition to the systems built-in to Android, there's a range of other services you could look at.
 - [Microsoft Family Safety](#). This works for anyone who has a Microsoft 365 account, can be viewed via a web page when on a computer, has apps for Android systems, and may be useful if you're trying to manage a range of



devices and computers.

- [NetNanny software](#). Available for Mac, Windows, and mobile devices.
- TechRadar: [Best free parental control software and apps in 2021: protect your kids online](#)
- Best Parental Control Apps: [Top 10 Best FREE Parental Control Apps for Android](#)
- PC Mag Australia: [The Best Parental Control Software for 2021](#)
- TomsGuide: [The best parental control apps for Android and iPhone 2021](#)
- TechViral: [15 Best Free Parental Control Apps For Android in 2020](#)





Net Nanny® Offers a Va



Parental Controls

Get peace of mind with the best parental control software on the market.



Screen Time Management

Tailor your family's screen time and set specific times of the day when your child can be online.



Website Blocker

Block websites based on settings you can tailor to the individual needs of your family member's individual needs.



- 3The Digital Wellbeing feature

- Android's Digital Wellbeing feature tracks your daily screen time, notifications, and phone unlocks. It also gives you access to parental controls, screen time, data tracking, and other usage systems.

The Digital Wellbeing feature is accessible through your device's settings. You need to turn it on. The first time you open Digital Wellbeing, you need to set up your profile.

1. Open your phone's Settings app.
2. Tap Digital Wellbeing & parental controls.
3. Under "Your Digital Wellbeing tools," tap Show your data.

For more information:

- Android: [Digital wellbeing](#)
- Google: [Digital wellbeing](#)
- Lifewire: [How to Check Screen Time on Android](#)
- Google: [Manage how you spend time on your Android phone with Digital Wellbeing](#)





2:54



Digital Wellbeing parental control



Your Digital Wellbeing

Other
Messenger

Phone

Get Connected Stay Connected

Steve Su

TODAY



- 4Set ground rules with Google Family Link

- The Google Family Link app lets you connect a child's device to your own so that you can set digital ground rules. You can use it to create a Google Account for your child, manage the apps they use, keep tabs on their screen time, and set a bedtime after which they are unable to use the device.

You can turn on Family Link in one of two ways

- Open Settings.
- Tap Digital Wellbeing & parental controls.

Or download the [Family Link app](#) to your Android phone.

For more information:

- Android: [Family Link](#)
- Google: [Family Link](#)





2:54



Search settings

Display, Accessibility, Sounds



Security & privacy

App security, device lock, pe



Location

On - 93 apps have access to



Safety & emergency

Emergency SOS, medical inf



- 5Other time-tracker apps
 - If you only need to track your time, parental control systems may be too restrictive. Consider using apps or software designed for tracking, recording, and managing your time, especially for work-related purposes.



Xero Apps & Add-Ons

Inven


CRM Apps

Cons

The best time tracking apps

- Toggl Track for a free time tracking app
- HourStack for integrating with your team's project
- Timely for automated time tracking for large team
- Memtime for simplified automated time tracking
- TrackingTime for visualizing time differently

6 best time tracking apps in 2024 | Zapier

 zapier.com/blog/best-time-tracking-apps/

See more ▼

How do I sync them with my calendar?

How do I sh

Type a message...

6Controlling Android Mobile data usage

- There's a range of ways to prevent your Android devices from using more mobile or wifi data than you're expecting. Many of these relate to automatic or



background functions of the device or its apps.

Adjusting these settings could reduce the number of notifications, result in slightly outdated apps, or prevent news from refreshing. Finding the right balance may require toggling different features until you're satisfied. After updating your device, you may need to reapply these settings. Using an app to monitor your usage could also be beneficial.

For more information:

- Lifewire: [Top 5 Apps for Monitoring Mobile Data Usage](#)
- [Tech Commuters: 10 Best Phone Usage Tracker Apps for Android & iPhone in 2021](#)

Let's start with a few simple steps:

- 01
Use home wifi

Even if you have mobile access at your property, connect your mobile phone to your home or property Wi-Fi network, as this internet connection most likely has more included data.





2:56



Settings



Search settings



Network & internet

Mobile, Wi-Fi, hotspot



Connected devices



- 02

Disable notifications

Turn off “push notifications” for emails, social media and GPS apps.

Notifications can use just a small amount of data each time, but your device is constantly checking to see if there’s anything to be downloaded, so it can rapidly add up. This can use both battery and data. Turning off notifications varies between Android versions. Use the Android support page to find the right instructions for you, or check in the manual for your phone.

For more information:

Android Help: [Control notifications on Android](#)





2:56



Notifications

Manage

App notifications

Control notifications from individual

Notification history

Get Connected Stay Connected

Show recent and snoozed notifications



- 03
Disable autoplay

Turning off video autoplay for social media. Change your settings in apps like Facebook and Instagram so videos do not automatically start playing.





2:56 ● Instagram App Store Messages ●

← Settings

General

Account preferences, notification

Network preferences

Data usage for downloads, auto

App download preference

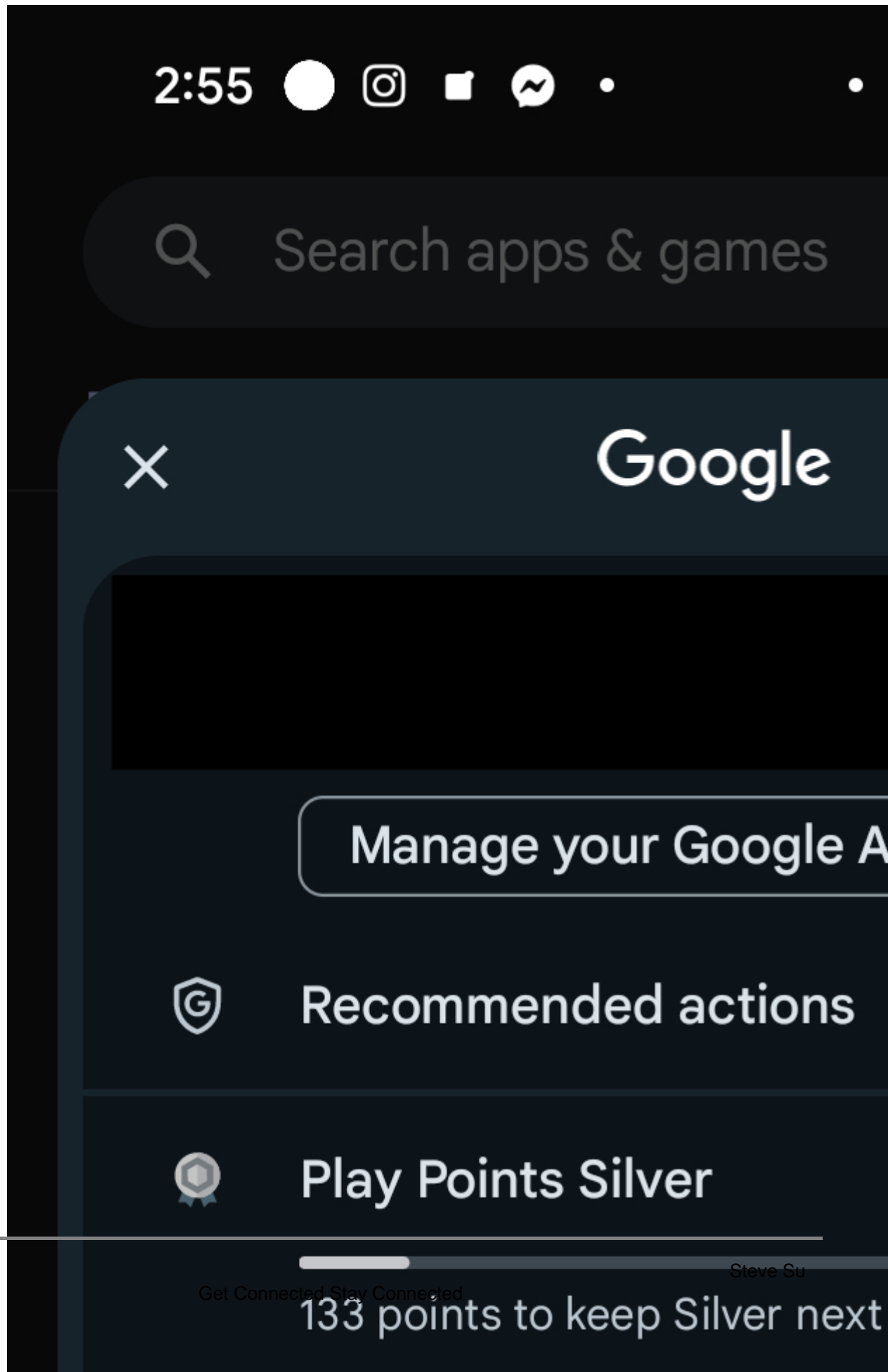
Over any network



- 04
Use SMS

Using SMS messages rather than apps like WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, because these apps use data to send text messages.







■ 05

Disable or defer automatic updates

By default, your phone or device will automatically download and install updates to the operating system when it's night-time, plugged into power, and connected into a wifi network. Updates can take up a lot of data, however. They're not counted in data usage on an nbn® Sky Muster® Plus plan, but they are counted as data on any other home internet connection.

To manage this, you can turn off automatic updates in Google Play, until you're connected to a less-restricted network by:

1. Opening the Google Play Store app on your Android device.
2. Tapping the three bars at the top-left to open a menu, then tap "Settings."
3. Tapping the words "Auto-update apps."

Select "Don't auto-update apps" and then tap "Done."





2:56 ● Instagram App Store Messages ●

← Settings

General

Account preferences, notification

Network preferences

Data usage for downloads, auto

App download preference

Over any network



■ 06

Stop apps using your mobile data

Firstly, check what data is being used by apps.

These instructions may vary slightly between different Android devices. If in doubt, find the user manual for your phone and find the instructions for turning off background data.

1. Open Settings.
2. Find the “Mobile network” or “Network” setting.
3. Find the “Data” or “Data usage” setting.
4. Look through your apps to find out how much data they’re using.
5. Tap the “Use background data” button to stop individual apps from using data when you’re not actively using the app.

For more information: [How-to Geek: How to Stop Android Apps from Using Background Mobile Data](#).





2:55



Search apps & games



Google

Manage your Google A



Recommended actions



Play Points Silver

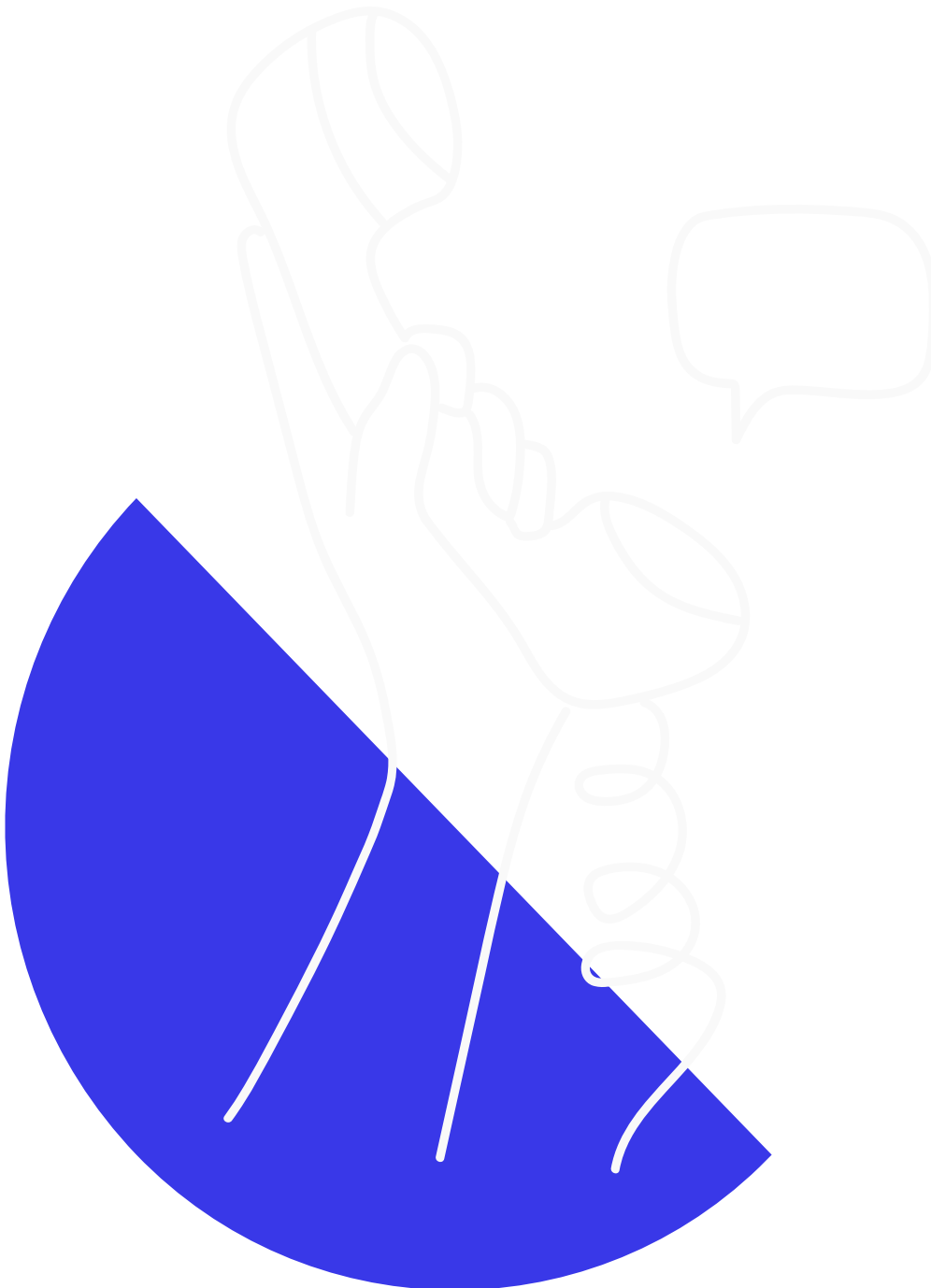


- ## Explore more of our resources

- - News
November 4, 2024
Telstra 3G shutdown is now complete
 - News
October 25, 2024
Phones using the 3G network to call triple zero will be disconnected on 28 October 2024
 - News
October 25, 2024
NBN Co accelerating higher speed tiers in September 2025
 - Guides
October 17, 2024
Connectivity definitions
- [Back to resources](#)



•



Didn't find the answers you were after?

Chat to us on our hotline with one of our team members and let's get the conversation



started. If we don't answer, we'll get back to you in no time at all.

[1300 081 029](tel:1300081029)

Category

1. Tech Tips

Date

16/08/2025

Date Created

13/03/2024