Free as in Freedom!

You do not have to pay for the apps from F-Droid. And a lot of applications from Google Play or Apple’s App Store are also free of charge. Free Software is not about price though, but liberty.

When you do not control a program, the program controls you. Whoever controls the software therefore controls you.

For example, nobody is allowed to study how a non-free app works and what it actually does on your phone. Sometimes it just doesn’t do exactly what you want, but there are also apps that contain malicious features like leaking your data without your knowledge.

Running exclusively Free Software on your device puts you in full control. Even though you may not have the skills to directly exercise all of your freedom, you benefit from a vibrant community that is enabled by freedom and uses it collaboratively.

Consider showing your appreciation by paying app developers voluntarily. This way you also ensure that you are the customer and not the product.

What is Free Software?

1. **Use:** Everybody is allowed to use the software without restrictions as they please.

2. **Study:** Everybody is allowed to inspect and to adapt the software as needed.

3. **Share:** Everybody is allowed to help each other by sharing copies of the software.

4. **Improve:** Everybody is encouraged to publish improved versions of the software, so that we all can benefit.

Only if we can make use of all four freedoms, it is in fact Free Software.

About the FSFE

Free Software Foundation Europe is a charity that empowers users to control technology. Software is deeply involved in all aspects of our lives; and it is important that this technology empowers rather than restricts us.

Free Software gives everybody the rights to use, understand, adapt and share software. These rights help support other fundamental freedoms like freedom of speech, press and privacy.

The FSFE helps individuals and organisations to understand how Free Software contributes to freedom, transparency, and self-determination.

It enhances users’ rights by abolishing barriers to Free Software adoption, encourages people to use and develop Free Software, and provides resources to enable everyone to further promote Free Software in Europe.

https://fsfe.org/contribute

Support Our Work

Donations are critical to our strength and help us to act autonomously. Support our work and enable us to continue fighting for software freedom wherever necessary:

fsfe.org/join

You can order this and other leaflets at no charge from:

fsfe.org/promo

Did you find a typo or you like to give feedback?

contact@fsfe.org

Get Free Apps
- No Ads
- No Spying
- No Tracking
- No Google Account
F-Droid – A Free App Store

F-Droid is not the typical store where you buy something. Instead, it is a catalogue (or repository) of Free Software apps. You can easily browse, search and install these apps on your device. The F-Droid app also keeps track of updates for you.

Installing F-Droid

Before you install F-Droid, please make sure that you have allowed the installation of apps from “unknown sources”.

You can allow this in:
Settings --> Security --> Unknown sources

Download and install F-Droid. Before installation you will be shown which permissions F-Droid will require. Please grant them, as they are necessary for F-Droid to work.

In order to install F-Droid, use the QR code on the left or enter the address below in your browser:

f-droid.org/FDroid.apk

Using F-Droid

At the top you can see three tabs – one for available apps, one for installed ones and one for possible updates. Below there is an option to filter the displayed apps by category.

Using F-Droid (continuation)

When you click on an app, the screen on the right appears, showing you a description and several versions. The recommended version has a star behind it. Clicking in the version line will download and install the app.

In the top right corner, you can search for apps and find other features such as adding more app repositories or swapping apps with other people.

Pressing the “Links” button on an app screen gives you additional information such as a changelog or how to donate. Developers of free apps also like to eat, so please consider donating.

Contribute to F-Droid

The F-Droid initiative is entirely developed and maintained by volunteers. You can also contribute in a variety of ways: report problems, translate the F-Droid app, add new apps to the repository or help with its development.

Contributions are greatly appreciated, and the community is very open and friendly. Don’t hesitate to get in touch, more information is available at:

f-droid.org/contribute

Liberate Your Phone

Even though Android is mostly Free Software, your Android device usually comes with additional proprietary software and services that prevent you from using your device in an independent and autonomous way.

Do you want a mobile device under your control and that does not spy on you? The FSFE’s “Free Your Android” campaign collects information about running an Android operating system as freely as possible:

FreeYourAndroid.org

Some Example Apps

- **K-9 Mail** is an email app for Android. It supports multiple accounts, folders and hundreds of other options such as encryption.
- **DAVdroid** lets you synchronize your contacts and calendars with any server that supports CalDAV and CardDAV.
- **Transport** is a public transport companion that works in many countries. It finds connections, nearby stations and next departures. It also supports favorites and maps.
- **OsmAnd** is a maps (turn-by-turn) navigation app that uses OpenStreetMap. It works completely offline after the initial map files are downloaded. Multiple plugins are available.

Conversations is an easy-to-use chat app. It works with any XMPP server and has outstanding support for modern encryption.

FReader is an e-book reader. It also allows you to download books from online libraries such as Project Gutenberg.

2048, the well-known puzzle game and many other Free Software Games like Gloomy Dungeon or Browser Quest are available in F-Droid.

Twidere is the app you want to use if you are into microblogging with services like GNU Social or Twitter.

NewPipe is a lightweight YouTube frontend that makes it easy to view and download videos/music from YouTube. No Youtube account needed.