ANDROID WILL BECOME A LOCKED-DOWN PLATFORM IN 189D 10H 3M 56S

Keep Android Open

In August 2025, Google announced ↗ that as of September 2026, it will no longer be possible to develop apps for the Android platform without first registering centrally with Google. This registration will involve:

- Paying a fee to Google
- Agreeing to Google's Terms and Conditions
- Providing government identification
- Uploading evidence of the developer's private signing key
- Listing all current and future application identifiers

What this means for your rights

➤ You, **the consumer**, purchased your Android device believing in Google's promise that it was an open computing platform and that you could run whatever software you choose on it. Instead, as of September 2026, they will be non-consensually pushing an update to your operating system that irrevocably blocks this right and leaves you at the mercy of their judgement over what software you are permitted to trust.

➤ You, **the creator**, can no longer develop an app and share it directly with your friends, family, and community without first seeking Google's approval. The promise of Android — and a marketing advantage it has used to distinguish itself against the iPhone — has always been that it is "open". But Google clearly feels that they have enough of a lock on the Android ecosystem, along with sufficient regulatory capture, that they can now jettison this principle with prejudice and impunity.

➤ You, **the state**, are ceding the rights of your citizens and your own digital sovereignty to a company with a track record of complying with the extrajudicial demands of authoritarian regimes to remove perfectly legal apps that they happen to dislike. The software that is critical to the running of your businesses and governments will be at the mercy of the opaque whims of a distant and unaccountable corporation.

Update: Google has **not** "backed down" from developer verification

Contrary to a vague mention ↗ of a possible "advanced flow" that may eventually allow "experienced users to accept the risks of installing software that isn't verified", Google's description of the program ↗ continues to state plainly that:

> " Starting in September 2026, Android will require all apps to be registered by verified developers in order to be installed on certified Android devices "

Until such time that they have shown evidence that it will be possible to bypass the verification process without undue friction, we must believe what is stated on their official page: that **all** apps from non-registered developers **will be blocked** once their lock-down goes into effect.

How you can help

Developers: Resist and refuse

If you are an app developer, ***do not sign up*** for the early access program, perform identity verification, or accept an invitation to the Android Developer Console. Respond (politely) to any invitation with a list of your concerns and objections.

—— *It is only through developer acquiescence and capitulation that their takeover plan can possibly succeed.* ——

Discourage fellow app developers and organizations from signing up to the program. Use community forums, social media, and blog posts to spread the message. Include the FreeDroidWarn library ↗ in your code to inform your app users. If you manage a web site, consider adding the countdown banner to the top of your page.

If you are a Google employee or contractor of good conscience and have additional insight about the program, including planned technical implementation details or additional rationales for the program, please reach out to tips@keepandroidopen.org from a *non-work* machine and a *non-gmail* account. Your information will be kept in strict confidence.

Everyone: Make your voice heard

- Install F-Droid ↗ on your Android device(s). The more people that use alternative app marketplaces, the harder it will be to shut them out.
- Provide feedback directly to Google using their Android developer verification requirements survey ↗.
- Make your voice heard on social media and with blog posts, and link to https://keepandroidopen.org ↗
- Combat astroturfing: when you encounter suspect posts on community forums and social media in support of the policy ("Well, actually…"), challenge them and do not be shy.
- Help this project out by editing this page ↗ with more useful information.
- Sign this change.org petition ↗

Web Site Owners: Show your support

Add the countdown banner to your site with a single `<script>` tag — no dependencies, 20 built-in localizations, fully customizable.

Consumers: Contact national regulators

Regulators worldwide are genuinely concerned about monopolies and the centralization of power in the tech sector, and want to hear directly from individuals who are affected and concerned. When contacting regulators directly, you should be *polite* and *specific* about the harm you believe these policies will cause, both to consumers and to competition.

Complaints are especially impactful when they are authored by a citizen of that country or region, and when the language of the email is written in one of the official languages of the region's governing body. Request a *written acknowledgement* of the complaint, and consider forwarding any responses you receive to victory@keepandroidopen.org so that we might highlight and reference them.

European Union

- Email Digital Markets Act team: EC-DMA@ec.europa.eu
- Contact DMA team: https://digital-markets-act.ec.europa.eu/contact-dma-team_en ↗
- ~~Send feedback on EU interplay between DMA and GDPR: Consultation on joint guidelines on the interplay between DMA and GDPR ↗ until December 4.~~
- Email Antitrust: COMP-GREFFE-ANTITRUST@ec.europa.eu
- Complain to the EU Competition Policy ↗
- ~~[EXPIRED] Send feedback on EU Digital Fairness Act: EU Digital Fairness Act: Have Your Say ↗~~

United Kingdom

- Email: general.enquiries@cma.gov.uk
- Make a report to the UK Competition & Markets Authority ↗

United States

- Make a report to the US Department of Justice Antitrust Report Online ↗
- File a complaint with the US Federal Trade Commission: Antitrust Complaints ↗
- ~~Email (DEFUNCT): antitrust@ftc.gov~~
- ~~Email (DEFUNCT): antitrust.complaints@usdoj.gov~~

Brazil

- Email: superintendencia@cade.gov.br
- Reach out to Procon (depends on your state) and Senacon ↗
- *Note: Brazil is slated to be one of the initial 4 countries ↗ where developer registration will be enforced*

Singapore

- Email: cccs_feedback@cccs.gov.sg
- Contact the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS) ↗
- *Note: Singapore is slated to be one of the initial 4 countries ↗ where developer registration will be enforced*

Thailand

- Email: saraban@tcct.or.th
- Contact the Office of Trade Competition Commission (OTCC) ↗
- Email: info@etda.or.th
- Contact the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) ↗
- Email: contact@tcc.or.th
- Contact the Thailand Consumers Council (TCC) ↗
- *Note: Thailand is slated to be one of the initial 4 countries ↗ where developer registration will be enforced*

Indonesia

- Email: infokom@kppu.go.id
- Contact the KPPU for Competition Complaints ↗
- *Note: Indonesia is slated to be one of the initial 4 countries ↗ where developer registration will be enforced*

Switzerland

- File a report with the Competition Commission ↗

Australia

- Email: international@accc.gov.au
- File a report with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) ↗
- Send a request to Australian Consumers' Association (CHOICE ↗). Ask them to lodge a designated complaint to the Australian Competition & Consumer Comission (ACCC).
- Contact your local Member of Parliament or State Senator. If you don't know your electorate, you can find it here ↗, and you can search for your Parliamentarians or Senators here ↗.

Japan

- Email: intnldiv@jftc.go.jp
- Contact the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) ↗

South Korea

- Email: kftc@korea.kr
- Contact the Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) ↗

India

- Email: cci-chairman@nic.in
- Contact the Competition Commission of India (CCI) ↗

Canada

- Email: info@competitionbureau.gc.ca
- Make a complaint to Competition Bureau Canada ↗
- File a report with the https://competition-bureau.canada.ca/en ↗

Taiwan

- Email: ftc@ftc.gov.tw
- Contact the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) ↗

Turkey

- Contact the Rekabet Kurumu / Turkish Competition Authority (RK) ↗

Argentina

- Email: cndc@produccion.gob.ar
- Contact the Comisión Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia (CNDC) ↗

Mexico

- Email: denuncias@antimonopolio.gob.mx
- Contact the Comisión Nacional Antimonopolio ↗

Philippines

- Contact the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) ↗

Poland

- Email: uokik@uokik.gov.pl
- Contact the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (Urząd Ochrony Konkurencji i Konsumentów - UOKiK) ↗

Czech Republic

- Email: posta@uohs.gov.cz
- Contact the Office for the Protection of Competition (Úřad pro ochranu hospodářské soutěže – ÚOHS) ↗

Ukraine

- Contact the National Commission for the State Regulation of Electronic Communications ↗
- Contact the Ministry of Digital Transformation ↗
- Contact the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine ↗

Chinese Mainland

- Contact the State Administration for Market Regulations (SAMR) ↗ by calling 010-88650000.
- Calling your local 12315 hotline. Note this may take extra time, as monopolies are usually dealt with by the State Council directly. They are required to respond by law.
- Online at 12315.cn ↗. Platform only accessible in the Chinese Mainland to prevent cyber attacks.

Contact These Consumer/Digital Rights Groups

- April (France) ↗
- Bits of Freedom (Netherlands) ↗
- Digital Freedom and Rights Association (Sweden) ↗
- Digital Rights Ireland ↗
- Digital Rights Watch (Australia) ↗
- Electronic Frontier Foundation ↗
- Euroconsumers ↗
- European Digital Rights ↗
- Free Software Foundation ↗
- Free Software Foundation Europe ↗
- Free Software Movement India ↗
- IT-Political Association of Denmark ↗
- Korea Consumer Agency ↗
- La Quadrature du Net (France) ↗
- Open Rights Group (UK) ↗
- Software Freedom Conservancy ↗
- Swecha Andhra Pradesh ↗
- China Consumer Association (Website only to be accessed within the Chinese Mainland) ↗

References

Overview

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- Opposition recommendations ↗

Contact

Email: info@keepandroidopen.org

Mastodon: @keepandroidopen@techhub.social

Problems: Report Site Issues

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