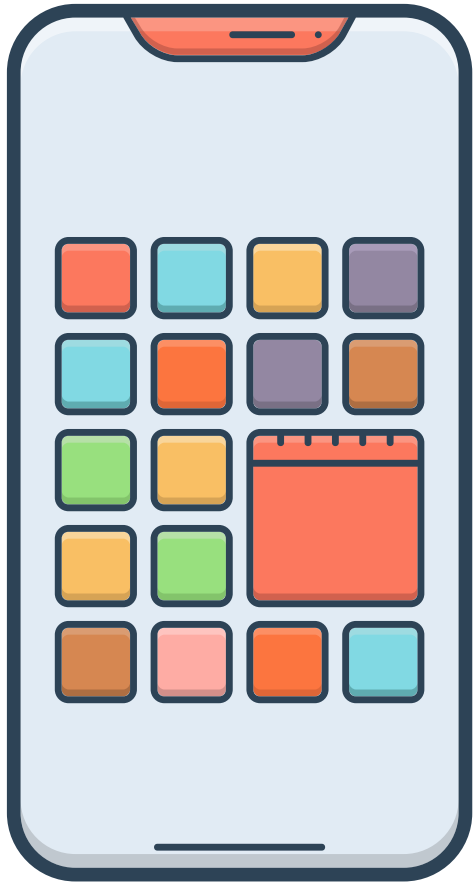


# ALL ABOUT APPS



## What is an app?

App is short for application, or another way of talking about computer programs, and they run on a computer hard drive. They allow users to do specific tasks, like read their email, write a document, or play a computer game. Another characteristic of apps is that many now require Internet access to run, or have elements that will need it.

Most devices come with some apps pre-installed. These are usually programs that are considered standard or universal, like an Internet browser or the calendar program. These standard apps can also be specific to the make of a device: Apple devices will have the FaceTime app installed because that is their proprietary program, but Android devices will not have it. Users can then customize their devices by adding specific apps that they like – games, social media programs, or even different versions of pre-installed programs. Many people use the Google Chrome app on their devices for browsing the Internet, but it isn't standard on every device.

Apps can either be free or cost money. However, be aware that free apps often contain ads, or have internal stores where you can/must make “in-app” purchases. For example, many games apps are free but will let you buy virtual coins or tokens to more quickly advance through levels.

## There are millions of apps for different uses:

**Browsing the Internet**

**Using social media**

**Messaging contacts**

**Ordering food**

**Turning on your thermostat**

**Watching tv**

Because of how popular apps are, most developers will make two versions: one for Apple devices, and one for Android or Windows devices.

# Where do I find apps?



Apps are usually downloaded from app stores online. The company that made your device will determine which store you use to purchase your apps (all computer devices, whether a mobile device or computer, has some kind of app store installed).

- **Apple = App Store**
- **Android = Google Play store**
- **Microsoft = Microsoft store (mainly on Windows computers and tablets)**

However, sometimes apps are found on company websites, especially if they are for a specific program or device (such as an app for your digital camera).

# Types of apps:

## Mobile app

These are the programs that run on mobile devices (smartphones and tablets), and are usually what people mean when they talk about apps. Most require Internet access to run.

## Desktop app

These are the programs that run on a desktop or laptop computer and do not always need Internet access. Microsoft Word, for example, can be run offline (though now you do need Internet access in order to purchase the program).



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