# C:\Users\stefano.maggi.CONBIPELSPA\Desktop\prom38.png

**Date**: 16/07/2012

**Procedure:** Android – How to Extract .apk files from a device

**Source:** [**LINK**](http://mauweb.net/3.0/en/technology/17-android/100-icon-androidextracting-apk-files-from-your-android.html)

**Permalink:** [**LINK**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/android-how-to-extract-apk-files-from-a-device/)

**Created by:** HeelpBook Staff

**Document Version:** 1.0

# **Android – How to Extract .apk files from a device**

**SCENARIO (from**[**http://mauweb.net**](http://mauweb.net/)**)**

Ok, so the story behind this mini-tutorial is that I live with other people that have **Galaxies** and I upgrade their phones periodically, as part of the upgrade process I have to wipe the phones and an android backup doesn’t always work (like if you go from 1.5 to 1.6.3.4) and with the wipe some important things are lost: **APN** settings, **Hebrew** fonts, **Hebrew** Keyboard, etc.

I have to install the keyboard, fonts, script utility, etc. every time on every phone; some of these apps are in the market, but to use the market you need to do the setup wizard to add your **Google** account to the phone.

And sine sometimes the owners of the phones aren’t around, I need to have the **.apk** files with the apps I need to install so I can do it without downloading them from the market.

Hence, I had to figure out a way to extract the**.apk** files from my phone so I could install them on theirs. Here’s how it’s done:

There are two ways of extracting**.apk** files from your device:

 Using a file manager like "**EStrongs File Manager**" or "**ASTRO File Manger**" (downloadable from the Market), or …

 Manually extracting**.apk** files through the **Android SDK**.

**Method #1 – Using a file manager**

**Prerequisite**: Rooted device;

**Using ES File Manager**

 Open **ES File Manager;**

 Click on the menu button of your device;

 Click on "**Manager**";

 Click on "**App Manager**";

 Long press on app you want to extract;

 Click on "**backup**";

 Extracted **.apk** files will be placed on the "**backups**" directory of your sd card;

**Using ASTRO**

 Open **ASTRO File Manager;**

 Click on the menu button of your device;

 Click on "**tools**";

 Click on "**Application Manager/Backup**";

 Choose apps to backup and click on "**backup**" to finish;

 Extracted .apk files will be placed on the "**backups**" directory of your sd card;

**Method #2 – Using the Android SDK**

**Prerequisites**:

- Rooted phone;

- [Android SDK](http://developer.android.com/sdk/download.html?v=android-sdk_r05-windows.zip);

- [Android USB driver](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/wp-content/uploads/filebase/01/samsungADB.zip);

To extract a .apk file from your device using the **Android SDK**:

 Plug your “**Rooted**” Android device into your computer via the included USB cable;

 From your **adb** command line (usually C:\android-sdk-windows\tools\) type **“adb shell“**and press **Enter;**

 Switch to root user, type **“su“**and press **Enter;**

 type **“cd data/app“**and press **Enter;**

 List all the installed apk files, type **“ls“** and press enter (find the one you want to extract);

 In another command window, pull one of the files on to your computer by typing:

“adb pull /data/app/application.apk name.apk”

and press **Enter;**

Example:

“adb pull data/app/com.mauri.aplikeishon.apk aplikeishon.apk”

You can find the extracted **.apk** files in the **/tools/** directory of your **SDK** (usually **C:\android-sdk-windows\tools\**).