

WINDOWS MOBILE – INSTALL SOFTWARE CAB FILE TO POCKET PC / SMARTPHONE

Most software for Windows Mobile devices (**Pocket PCs**, touchscreen **Windows Mobile Smartphones** and **non-touchscreen Windows Mobile Smartphones**) is downloaded as an executable .EXE file. These files run within **Windows**, then install themselves on your **Pocket PC** or **Windows Mobile Smartphone** via **ActiveSync**.



Sometimes, however, a program is downloaded as a **.CAB**, or cabinet, file. These files are designed to run and install themselves within **Windows Mobile**, and must be transferred to your Pocket PC or Smartphone before they can be installed.

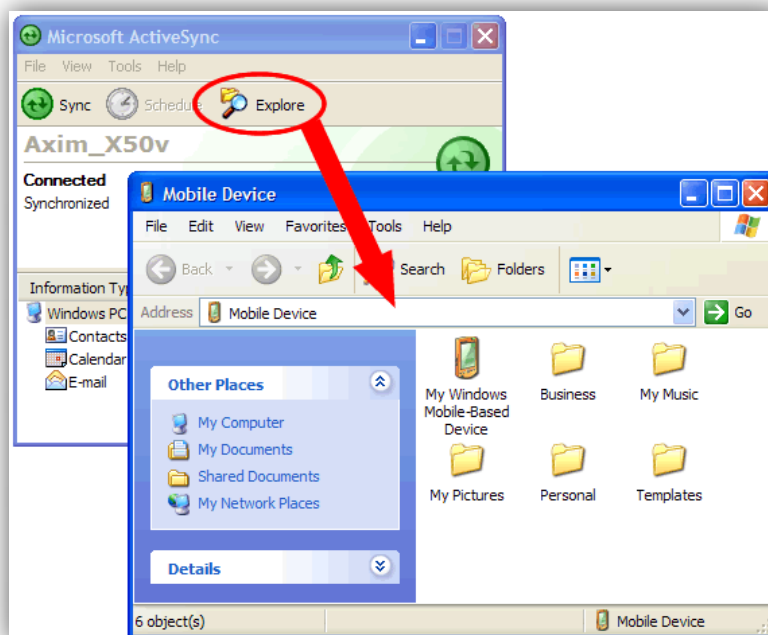
In this tutorial, we'll show you how to install applications distributed as **.CAB** files on your **Windows Mobile** device.

NOTE: For the purposes of this tutorial, we'll install Pocket Google on a Dell Axim X50v Pocket PC; however the same process works for non-touchscreen Windows Mobile Smartphones. The filename for the installer is PocketGoogle.cab.

Step 1: Moving the .CAB File to Your Windows Mobile Device

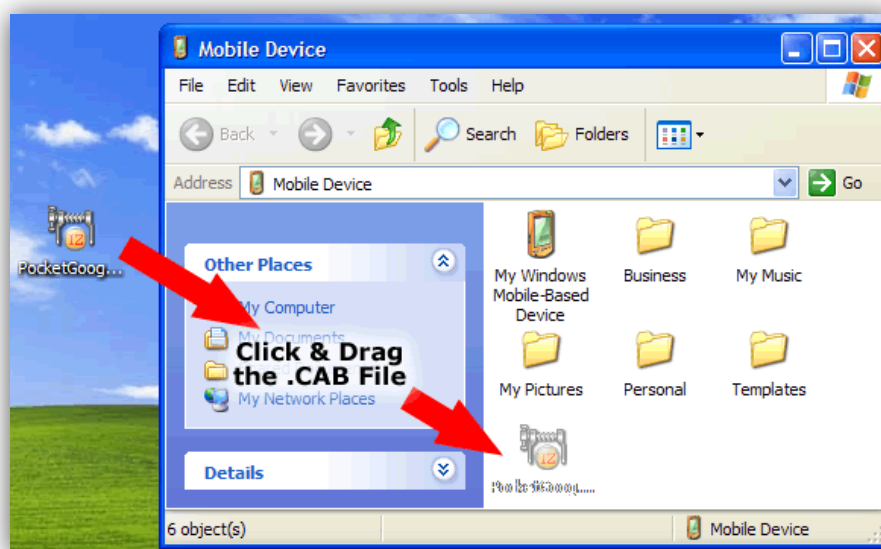
Our first step is simply transferring the **.CAB** file to the Windows Mobile handheld. The installer file PocketGoogle.cab is located on our Windows desktop.

To begin, connect the handheld to your **Windows PC** using a USB cable or cradle. Allow the synchronization process to complete. Inside **ActiveSync**, click the *Explore* button on the toolbar:



The *Explore* feature of **ActiveSync** is very useful; it provides access to the files stored on your **Pocket PC** or **Windows Mobile Smartphone** inside of the **Windows OS**.

With the *Mobile Device* screen open on your desktop, left-click and hold the **.CAB** file, and drag it to the *Mobile Device* screen, then release the mouse button:



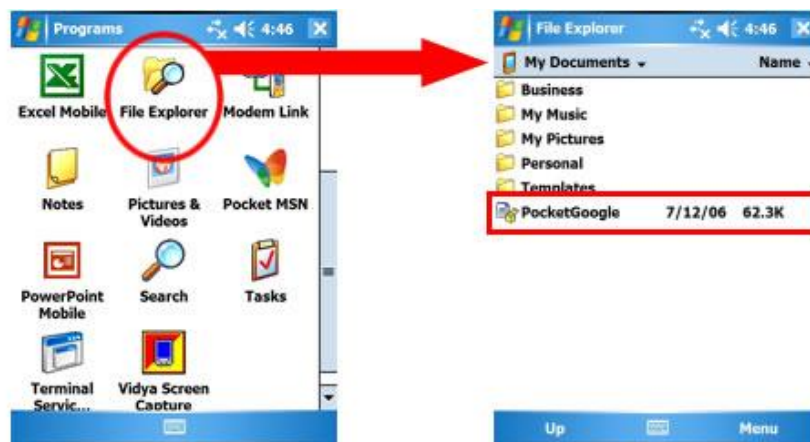
That's it. The file has now been transferred to the mobile device.

NOTE: If you copied the file to a subfolder rather than the root "Mobile Device" folder shown above, you'll need to note the .CAB file's folder location for the next step.

Step 2: Install the .CAB File's Software

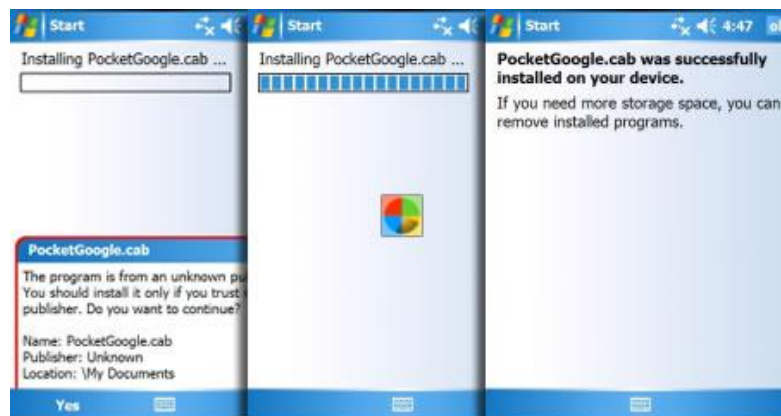
Now that the .CAB file has been copied to your Windows Mobile device, we're ready to install the program.

On the handheld, tap **Start > Programs > File Explorer**. If you followed the instructions above and moved the file to the root **Mobile Device** window, navigate to the **My Documents** folder:

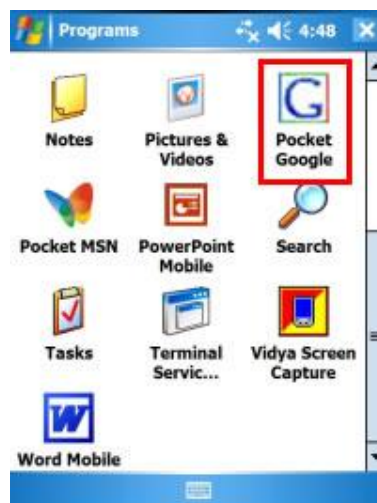


You should see the file you transferred in the **My Documents** folder. When you find it, tap it with your stylus (or, on a **non-touchscreen smartphone**, highlight the file and hit the **OK** key).

The .CAB file will begin the installation process. Follow the instructions on screen, which may vary from program to program:



Your software has now been installed and is ready to use:



Final Thoughts

In some cases, opening a **.CAB** file and installing the software contained within will cause the file to be deleted when the installation process is complete. In other cases, you'll need to manually delete the **.CAB** file using **File Explorer**. Leaving the **.CAB** file in your handheld's memory will take up space, but is perfectly safe.

If you're more comfortable moving files to your Windows Mobile device using a flash memory card and a memory card reader, feel free to do so. This tutorial covered the **ActiveSync** method of transferring files in the interests of universality (*since some users don't have card readers in their PCs*).

It is also possible to download software contained within a **.CAB** file directly to your **Windows Mobile Pocket PC** or Smartphone from the Internet. If you download the **.CAB** file directly to your device, simply begin at **Step 2** to install the software if it doesn't install automatically.