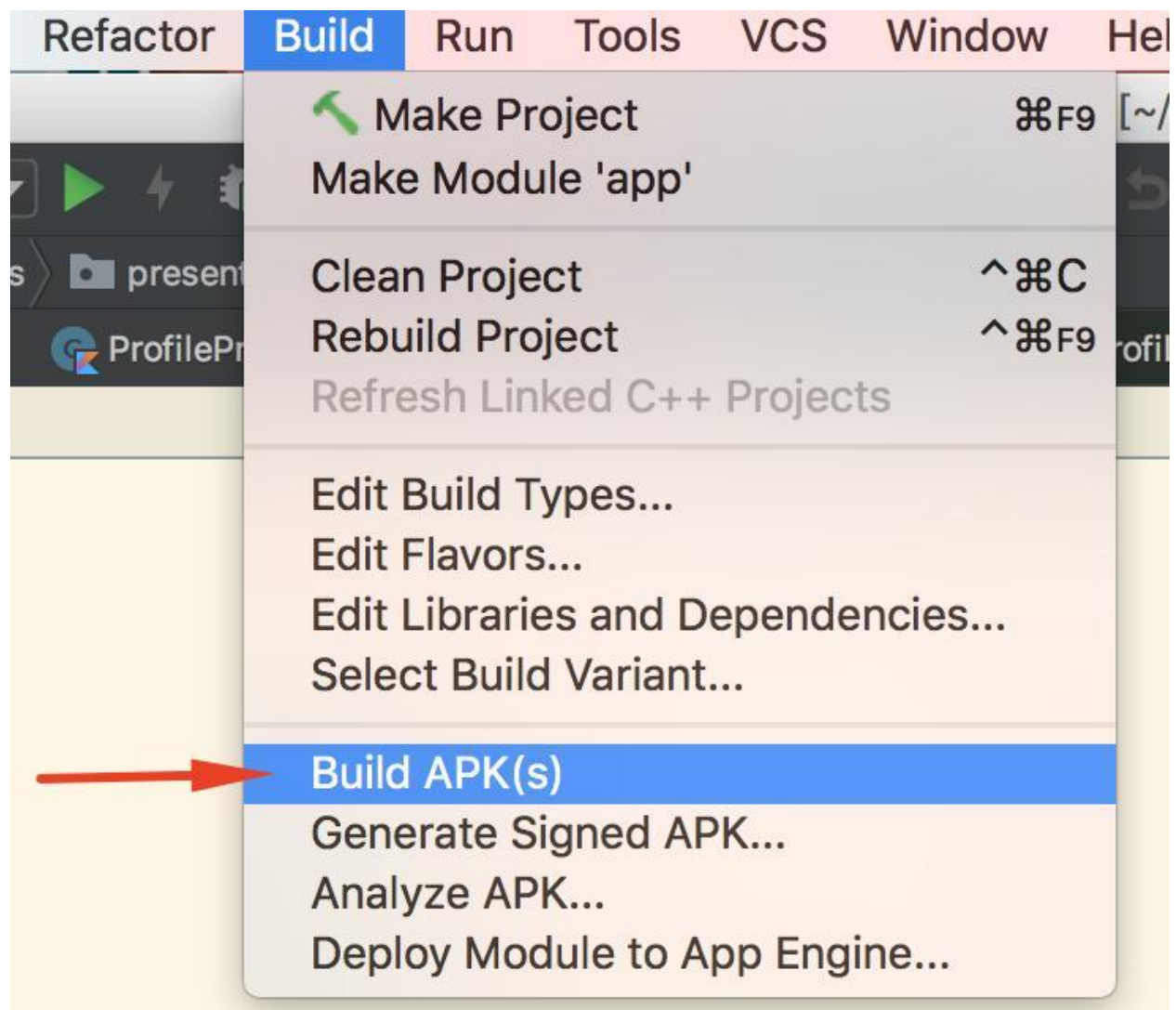


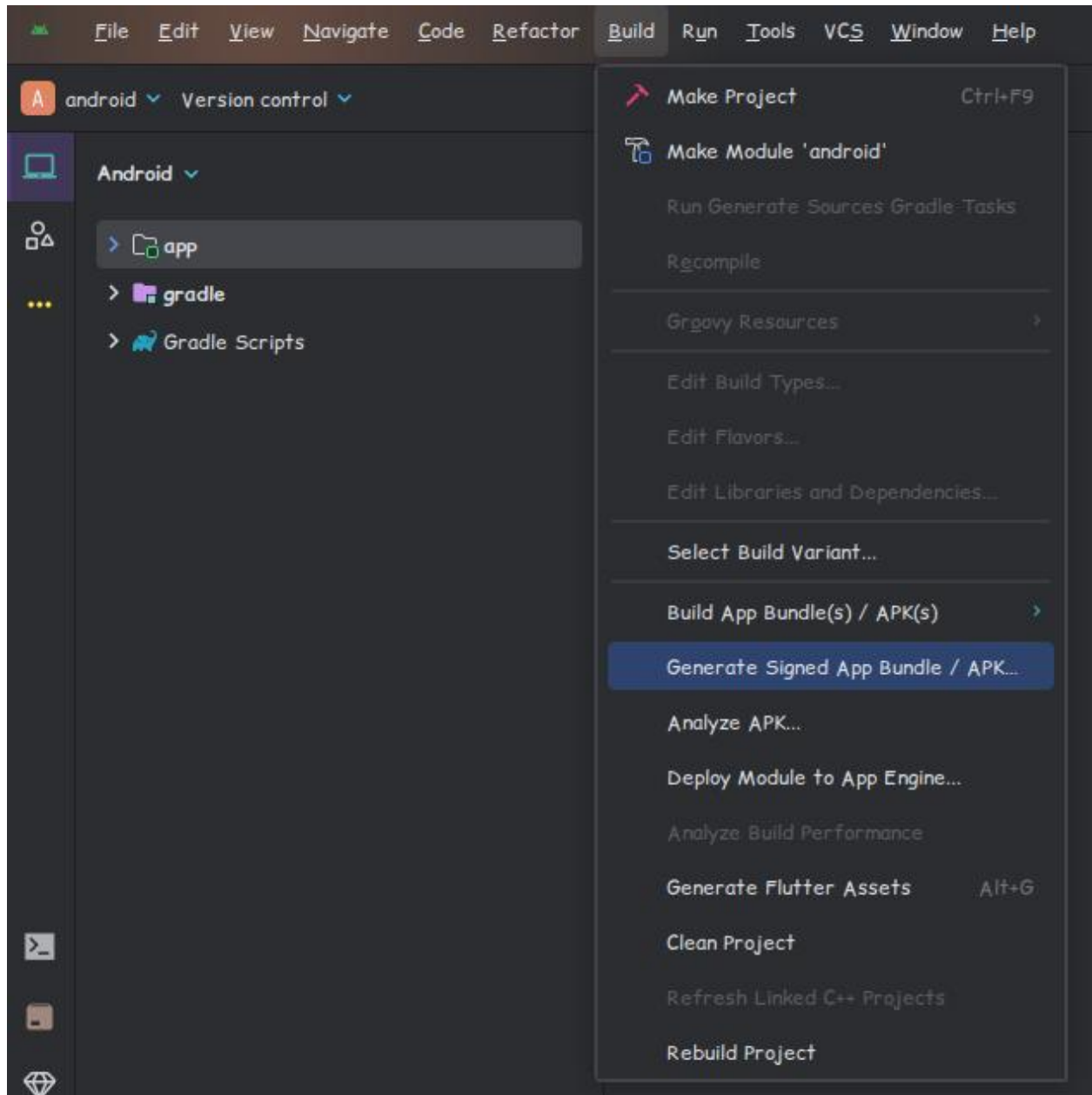
Tutorial: How to Test an Android App on Your Phone Using an APK

Testing your app on a real Android phone or tablet is one of the best ways to make sure it works as expected. This tutorial explains how to build your app, email the APK to yourself, install it, and test it.

Step 1: Build Your APK

Open your project in **Android Studio**.





1. Click **Build**.
2. Select **Build APK(s)**.
3. Wait for the build to finish.
4. When you see **APK(s) generated successfully**, click **Locate**.

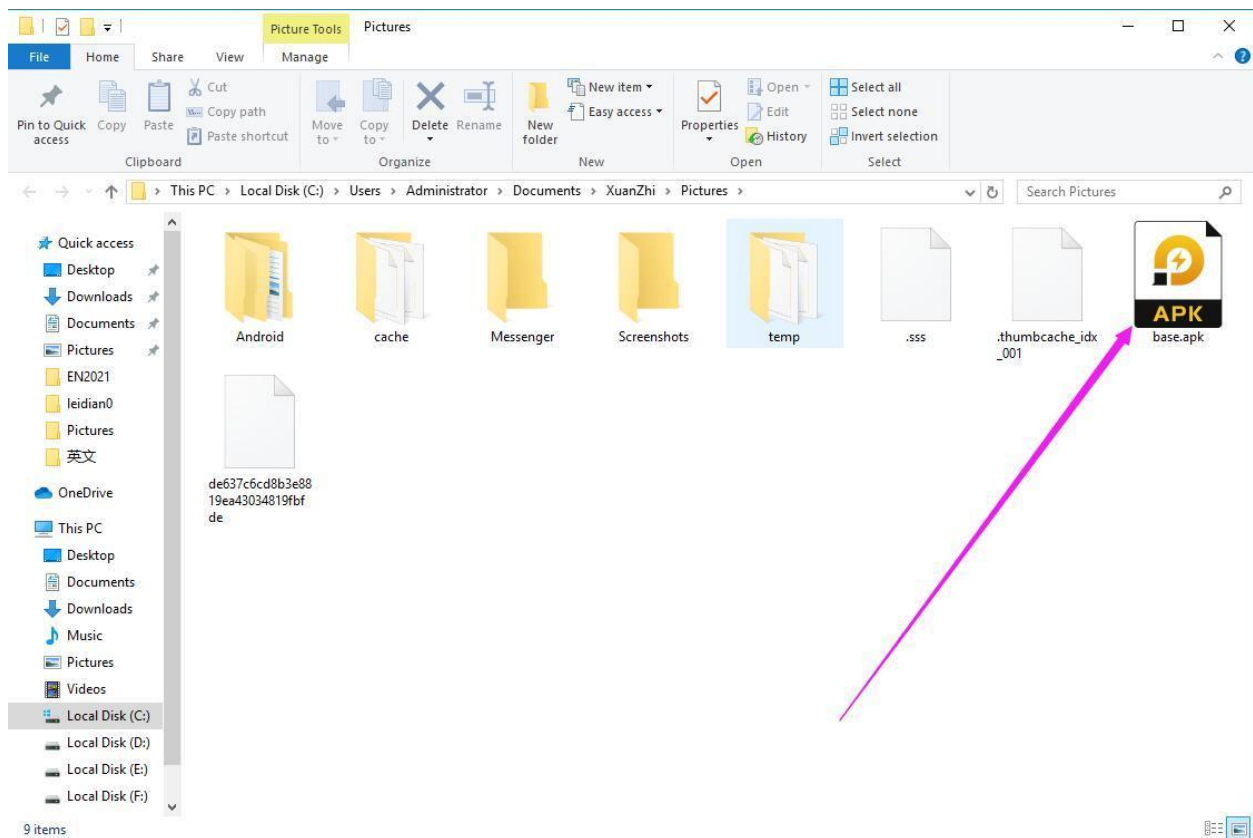
Your APK is usually found in:

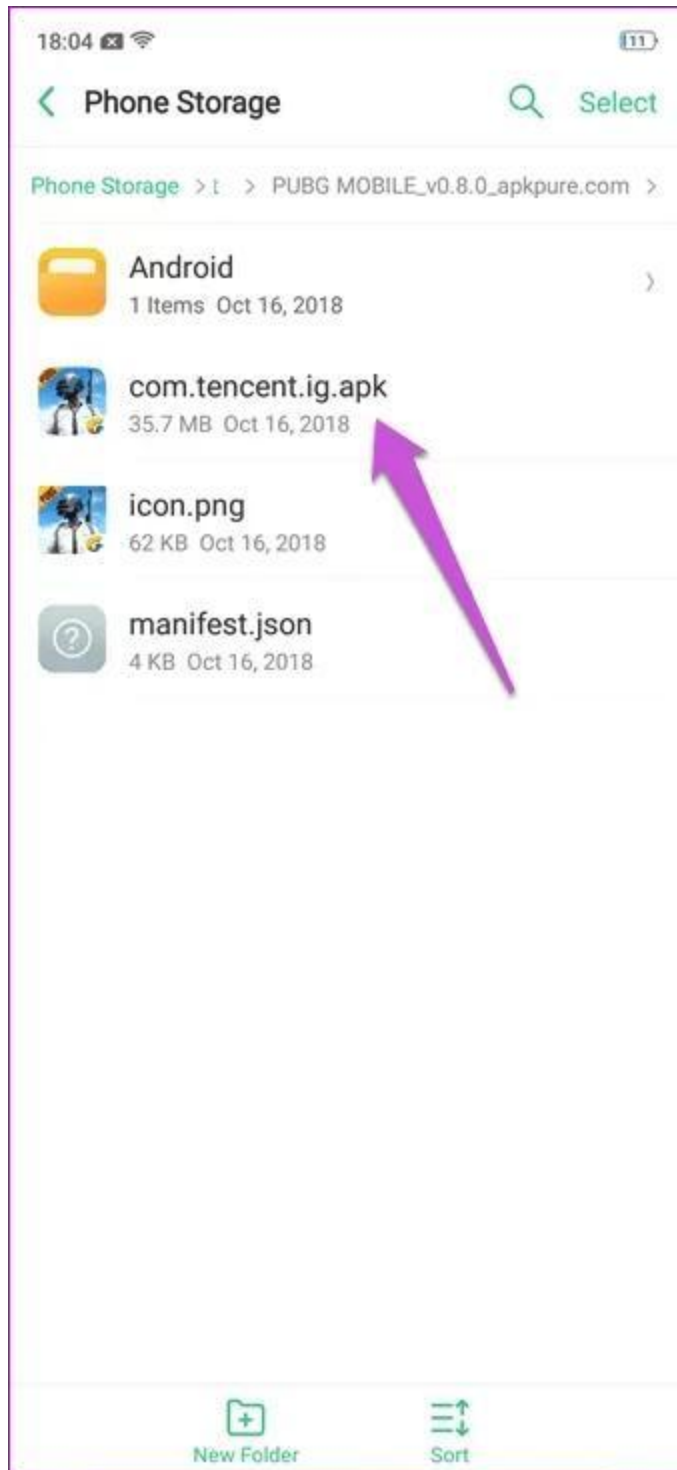
```
ProjectName/  
├── app/  
│   ├── build/  
│   │   └── outputs/
```

└─ apk/
└─ debug/
 app-debug.apk

Step 2: Locate the APK

Open the folder containing your APK.



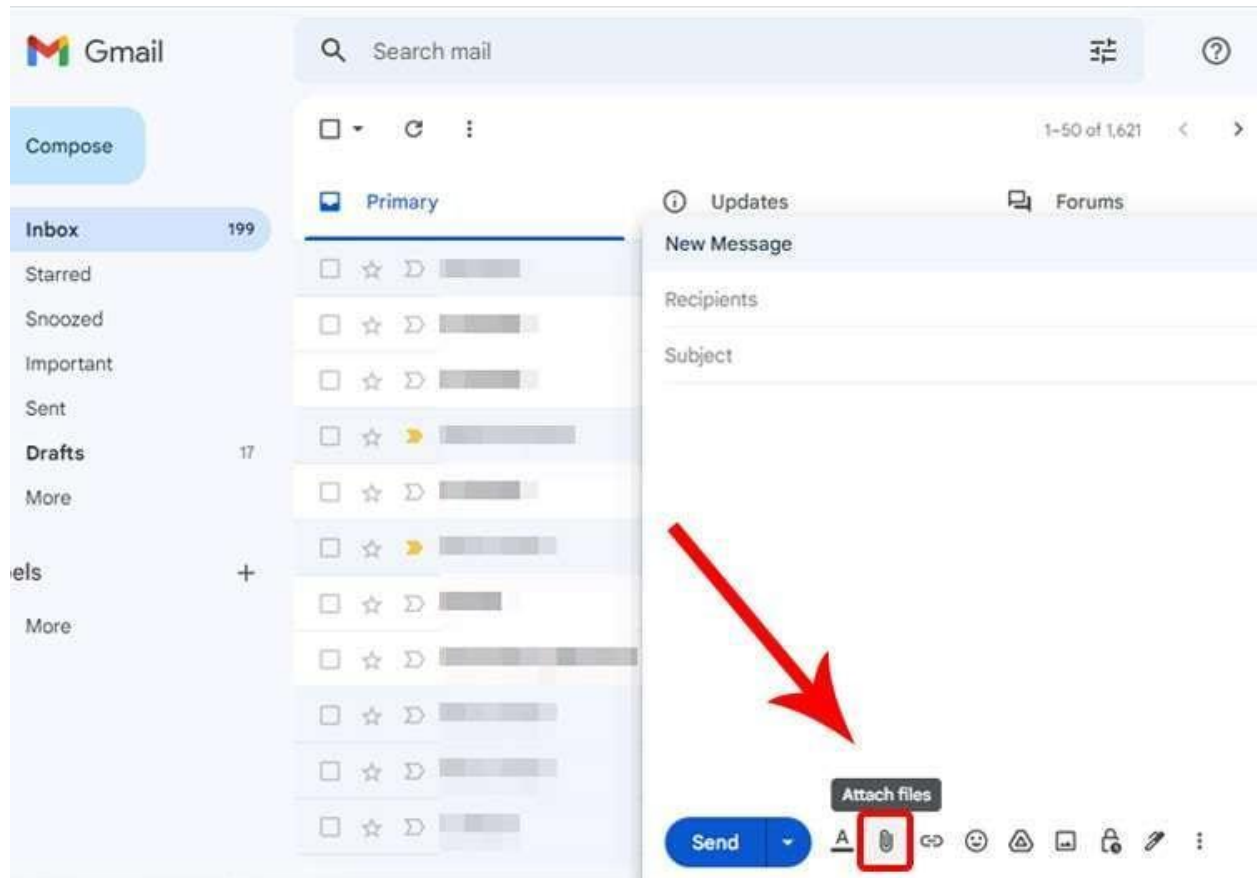


You should see a file similar to:

- app-debug.apk
- app-release.apk

Step 3: Email the APK to Yourself

Open your preferred email service and create a new message.



New Outlook

Message Insert



Send



B



I

/

U



To



Browse cloud locations

Add a su



Upload from this device

Insert yo



Recent files



Browse this computer

A.b



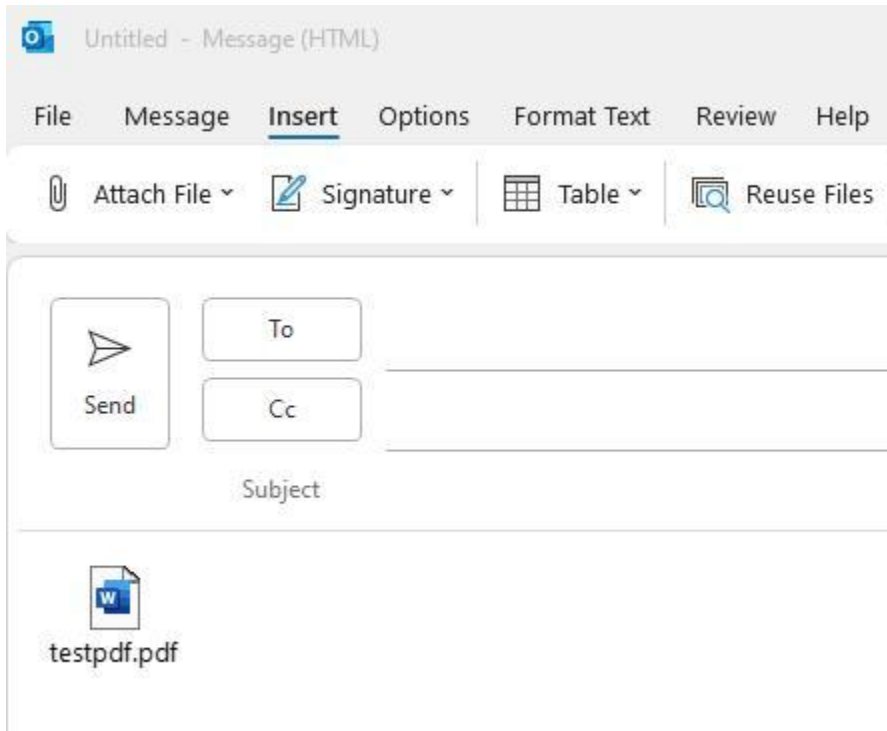
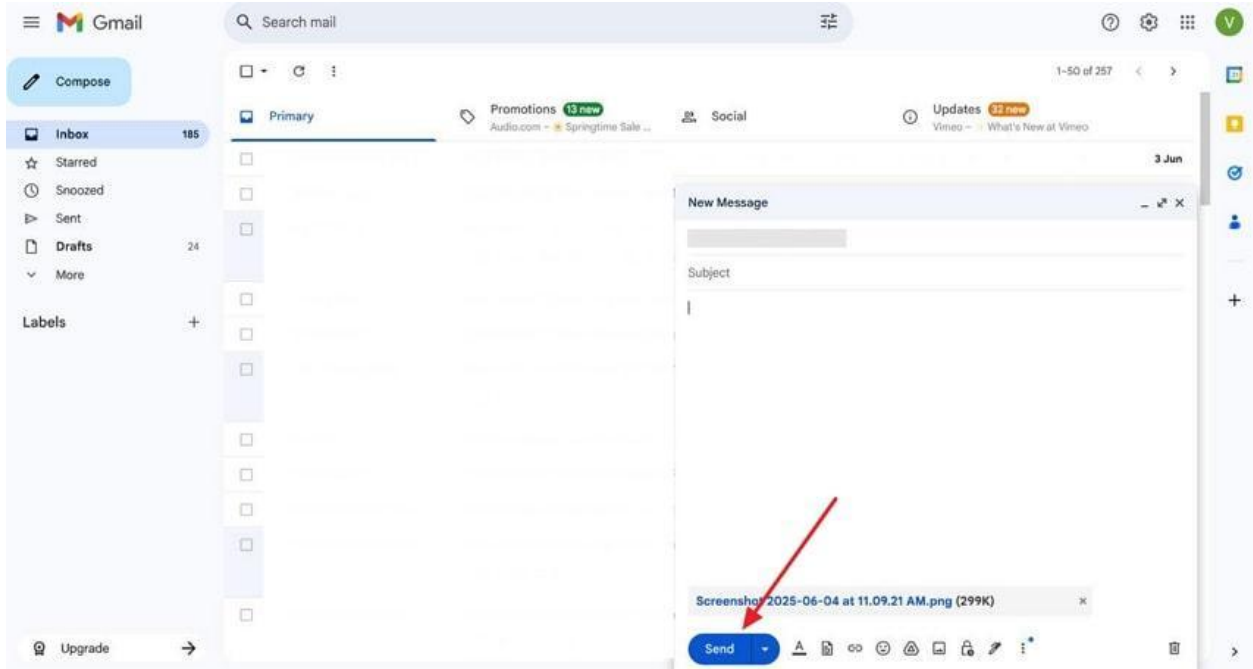
ab

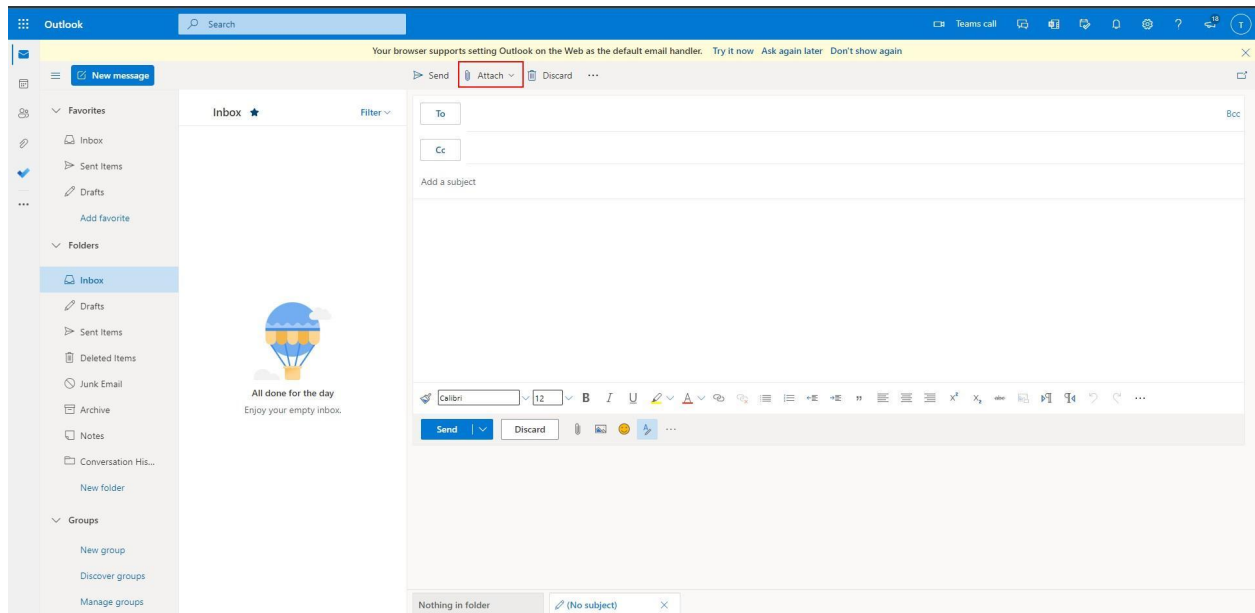
B

I



Attach





1. Click **Compose**.
2. Address the email to yourself.
3. Add a subject such as **My Android Test App**.
4. Attach the APK file.
5. Send the email.

Step 4: Open the Email on Your Phone or Tablet

On your Android device:



Primary



Social

Google+

1 new



Promotions

Zagat, Google Offers

2 new



Updates

Google Play

1 new



Andy Brown

1:45 PM

Bring Your Parents to Work Day!

Hey! What do you think about a...

Work



Keri Anderson



1:39 PM

Picture from last Saturday

Check out the new friend we made, Me...



Regis, Peter, Rachel 3

Sep 29

Board game night?

Sunday works! If you can get Dex...

Fun



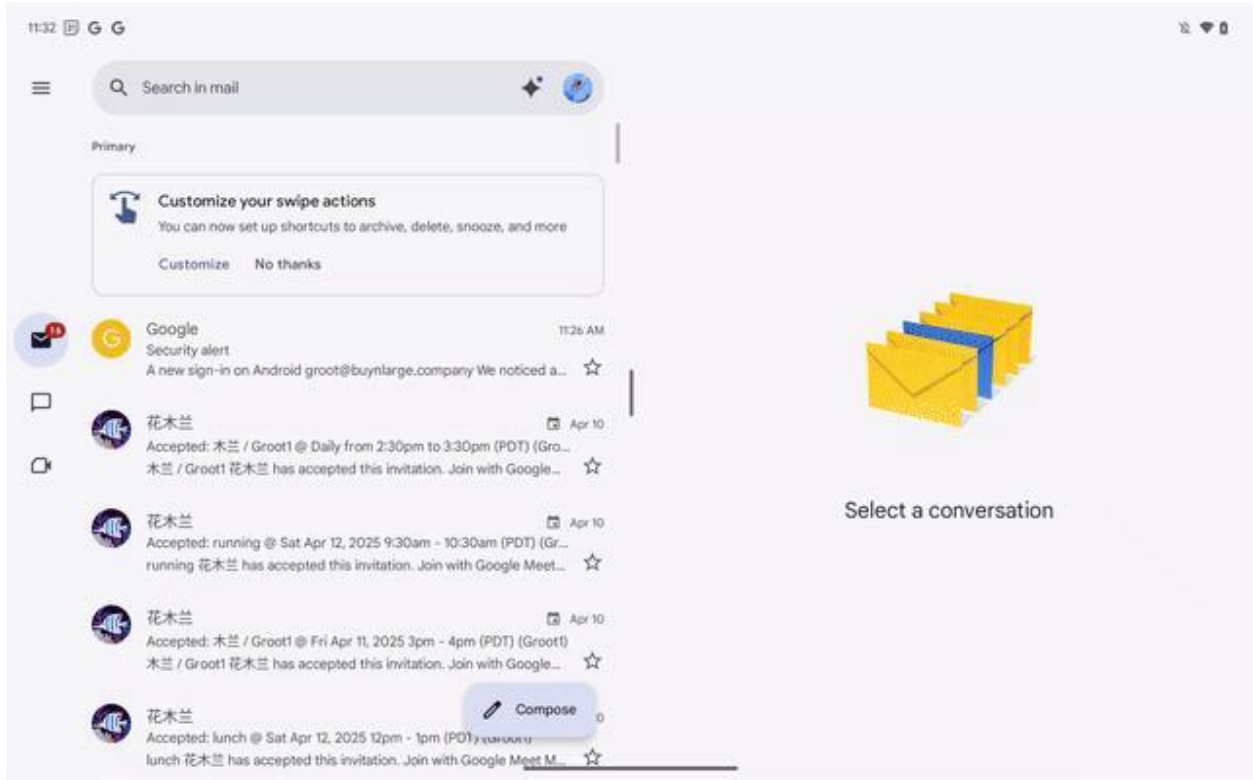
Aruna Knight

Book you recommended

About to go on a trip and was h...

Family





1. Open your email app.
2. Find the message you sent.
3. Tap the APK attachment to download it.

Step 5: Allow Installation from Unknown Sources

If this is your first time installing an APK directly, Android may ask for permission.



71% 12:55

← Install unknown apps



Chrome
Version 75.0.3770.101



Allow app installs



Your device and personal data will be more vulnerable to attacks if you install apps from unknown sources. You bear sole responsibility for any damage to your device or loss of data resulting from installing and using these apps.

12:10 PM

Bluetooth Signal Strength Wi-Fi Signal Strength 87%



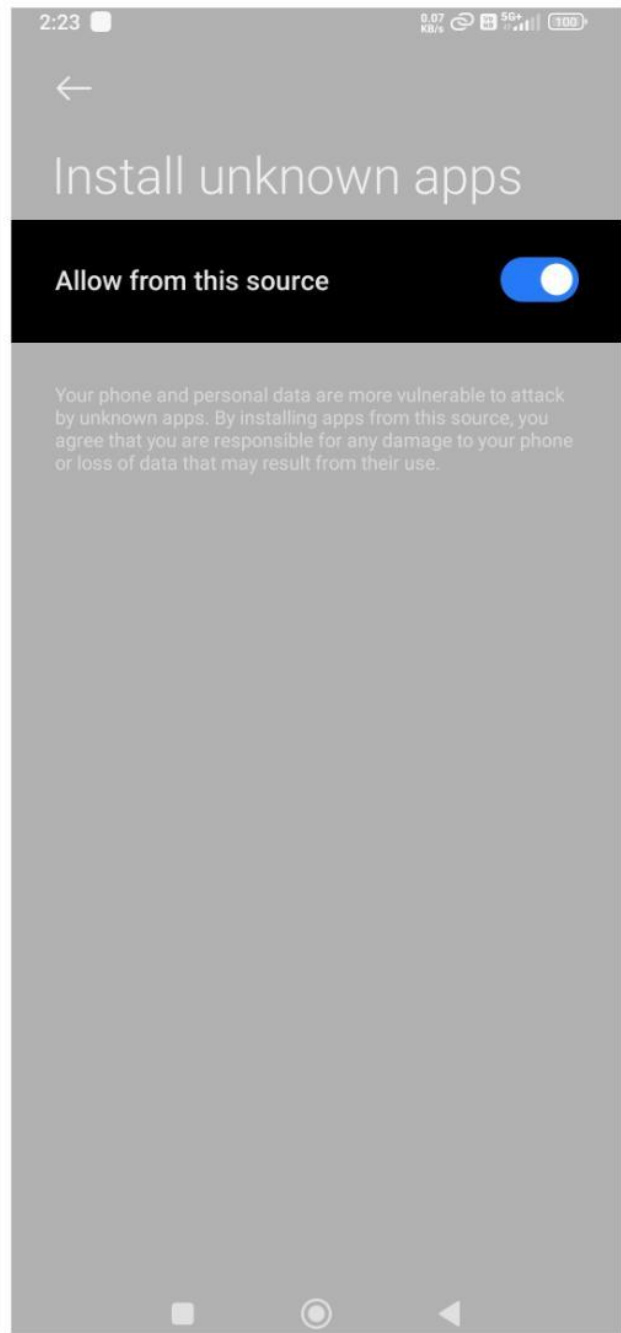
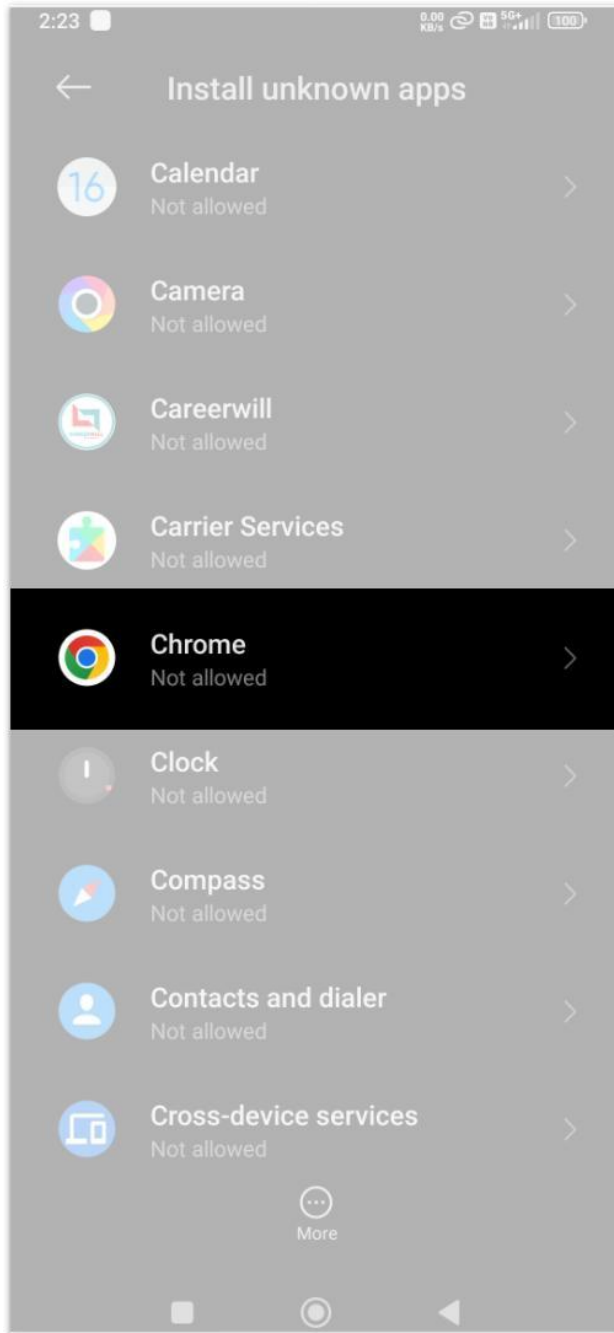
Install unknown apps

Allow from this source



Your phone and personal data are more vulnerable to attack by unknown apps. By installing apps from this source, you agree that you are responsible for any damage to your phone or loss of data that may result from their use.





11:28



Install unknown apps



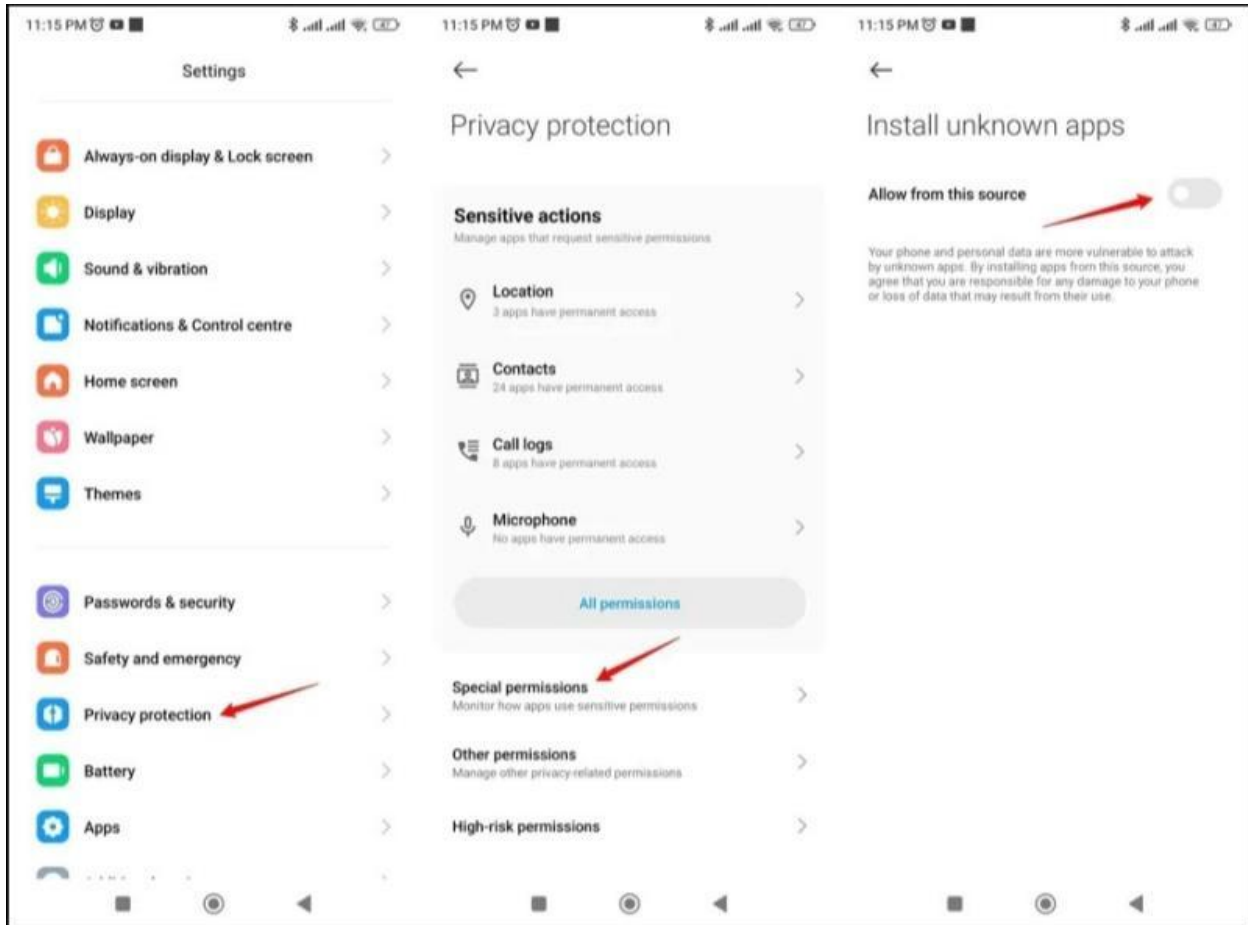
Files by Google

1.1047.556510689.0-release

Allow from this source



Your phone and personal data are more vulnerable to attack by unknown apps. By installing apps from this source, you agree that you are responsible for any damage to your phone or loss of data that may result from their use.



Typical steps:

1. Tap **Settings** when prompted.
2. Turn on **Allow from this source** (for your email app or browser).
3. Return to the installer.

The exact wording varies depending on your Android version and device manufacturer.

Step 6: Install the APK

After downloading:



Internal storage



> root > sdcard > Download



app.apk

05/30/16 1:13 AM

1.18 MB



APK File

Do you want to install this application? It does not require any special access.

CANCEL

INSTALL



10:00 75°

55%

Package Installer

Password

|

Package Location

BROWSE PACKAGES



ORBISMAN (BETA)

Game

NPXX33362

Install Package

INSTALL

Package Content

1. Tap the APK file.
 2. Tap **Install**.
 3. Wait for the installation to finish.
 4. Tap **Open** to launch the app.
-

Step 7: Test Your App

Try all of the app's main features, such as:

- Opening the app
- Navigating between screens
- Pressing every button
- Saving data
- Loading saved information
- Importing or exporting files (if applicable)
- Rotating the device
- Closing and reopening the app

Take notes about anything that doesn't work as expected.

Step 8: Fix Problems

If you find an issue:

1. Return to Android Studio.
 2. Update your code.
 3. Build a new APK.
 4. Email the updated APK to yourself.
 5. Install the new version over the old one (or uninstall the old version first if needed).
 6. Test again.
-

Common Issues

Problem

Possible Solution

APK won't install	Make sure the APK finished downloading and isn't corrupted.
"App not installed"	Uninstall an older conflicting version, or verify the new APK is signed correctly if replacing an existing app.
App crashes immediately	Check Android Studio's Logcat output for error messages and fix any runtime exceptions.
Can't attach the APK to email	If the file is too large, use a cloud storage service and send yourself a download link instead.
Can't find the downloaded APK	Check your device's Downloads folder or your email app's downloads section.

Tips

- Test on more than one Android device if possible.
- Check both portrait and landscape orientations.
- Test with Wi-Fi and mobile data if your app uses the internet.
- Verify that any required permissions (such as storage, camera, or notifications) work correctly.
- If you're distributing the app to other testers, consider using an internal testing track or a trusted file-sharing method instead of email for larger groups.

By following these steps, you can quickly install and test your Android app on a real phone or tablet, helping you catch issues that might not appear in an emulator.