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Mobile Applications

Why does Android get slower over time? And why does Android not have any mechanism to stop apps from running in the background forever eating resources?

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9 Answers



Asim Athar, owns 4 Awesome Androids, all rooted and Xposed

Updated Dec 5, 2016

Android gets slow overtime due to caching of app data, hence lesser internal storage which leads to a slower device.

It is important to note here, that Android also gets slow if you have too many (>40) apps installed on your phone.

Also, most people use Class 4 memory cards in which read/write speed is pathetically slow. Always use Class 10 or UHS.

Another thing to know is that devices with RAM ≥ 2GB will work smooth even after two years (like the Nexus 5 I'm using right now) ... So if your device is running slow, it is probably a RAM problem which cannot be solved unless you are a tech geek and can replace RAM chips on a micro motherboard (highly impossible) ... More recently, new generation of RAMs have been introduced - the LPDDR4. These are significantly faster than their older counterparts and with budget phones packing in around 3GB RAM these days, you should be fine or another two years.

Coming to the second part of your question.

It is absolutely imperative to keep background processes for apps' running. Well, some apps which don't need to work in the BG might also keep running. To kill those, download Greenify and hibernate such apps. For example, photo editors and games usually don't do any work in the BG but take up RAM, CPU and battery.

If Android didn't keep BG processes then it would be useless. It would take ages for your apps to open. It would seem like at each opening of an app, you are initializing it.

By the way, it is possible to kill each process as soon as you exit it (Settings->Developer options->Check 'Don't keep activities') ... But it will become irritating as each app will become slower. Plus, whatever activity you were doing in that app will get deleted without confirmation. It's basically a Force Close.

Hence, continuous killing of BG apps is not preferred, leave alone 'required' ... Also, continuous killing would lead to more battery consumption as after each 'force stop', the app would reinitialize and hence take more CPU than it was originally taking.

If you want to save battery:

- Download Greenify, hibernate apps you rarely use, or those for which you don't require realtime notifications (like photo editors, games)
- Don't download battery managers, they take up more battery themselves. If you do

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If these methods don't work, factory reset your device.

system apps you don't use (by going into Settings > Apps > Disable)

Don't use them. This will save battery, and if your phone gets lost and you want to wipe it, you'll not be able to.

1. Framework installed, download Amplify from Google Play Store. It will disable background locks and unwanted services from taking up space on your battery, giving almost an hour of extra battery life for apps which don't need to be running in the background like messengers, social networks etc.

2. Turn on Do Not Disturb, at a time when nobody calls (usually during the night). This will turn your phone into airplane mode first. Saves a lot of battery.

3. Set the CPU frequency to a lower frequency than the default lowest. This means that the CPU runs at a high frequency for a short time, it just rests. This requires that you don't fiddle with the kernel settings. This is a risky move. If you think that this is a good idea, then do not attempt this step.

4. Undervolting is an unstable but effective method of bringing down the CPU with lesser voltage than it is designed for. It may freeze (and maybe brick) your device if done incorrectly. Undervolting has also been used to generate heat by their phones.

This is probably a lot more than what you were looking for but it has been possible only because **Quora kept running in the background even though I was multi tasking**. Now imagine my agony if I changed to another app and Quora lost my data.

See now, why background processes are so important?

P.S. it has really taken me some time to write this answer. If it helped you, please upvote.

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Parag Acharyya, works at Sath Infotech Pvt. Ltd.

Answered Mar 31, 2015

Answer to your first question :

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phone gets gradually slow maybe due to :
ses and services consume most of your
a little space for the other apps.

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Cleaner Master, DU Battery Saver, Greenify
tunning which consumes significant portion
e are worthless apps especially all those
ome apps which consume your battery most,
Settings > Battery and then by analysing
, kill 'em.

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ER. Considering you're facing this phone-
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INT OF RAM. If you don't believe me, do it
ne or UC Browser, open Facebook there and
hese two apps combined.

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u'll notice the difference once you use the

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party apps for this task as well. Go to Settings >
Developer Options (Scroll down) > Check **Do not keep activities and set Background
process limit to at most 1 or 2 process.** If you don't have developer options enabled in your
device, go to Settings > About phone > Tap build number 5 time and voila you have unlocked
the developer settings on your device.

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Vijay Vihar Bandari, Any issue about android

Answered Apr 5, 2015

As mentioned in all the answers, RAM, internal storage, cache always leads to the slow down of your phone.

My reasons are as below:

1. As all said, a 1GB RAM phone may not run smoother if many apps are installed esp., mediaTek devices i.e., those which use dual/quad core mediaTek processors.
2. Cache that gets stored in each app, occupies spaces of storage that adds to slowness.
3. SD card esp., class 4 and class 6 on mediaTek processor slows down the performance.
3. If your phone is updated to a higher Android OS version, or to an update that downloads higher MB file decreases storage.

If the update has bugs, it slows down your phone.

Note that an update slows down the phone only when the chipset, RAM may not handle such large update or it carries too many bugs.

To improve phone performance, always follow the below steps:

1. Clean the cache **regularly**. To clean the cache of your phone
Go to settings->storage->cache->clear cache.
 2. Backup the device so that you may not store everything.
 3. Perform hard reset at least once a month, switch-off and on the phone on a regular basis.
- Prevention is better than cure, try buying a Qualcomm powered phones for better processing.

Yes, Android phones slow down due to the running processing in the background.

Android is android, it allows every option. You can set a background limit or completely stop background processing from running your phone slow in the developer options in the settings.

For jellybean powered phones, you have **developer options** just above about phone in settings, but in kitkat you have to go to about phone, software info, and click on build number until it says **you are now a developer.**

You can also disable useless apps that come in-built with your phone or delete more RAM consuming apps.

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