

We select and review products independently. When you purchase through our links we may earn a commission. [Learn more.](#)

## How-To Geek

---



eReaders

Kindle

# How to Sideload Apps Onto Your Amazon Fire Tablet



**JOE FEDEWA** [@tallshmo](#) AND **JASON FITZPATRICK**

UPDATED MAR 2, 2022, 4:35 PM EDT | 2 MIN READ



Amazon

Amazon Fire tablets have a lot to offer, but there's one big catch. The Appstore has far fewer apps and games than you can get on an [iPad](#) or from the Google Play Store. Thankfully, we can solve that problem.

## Why Would You Want to Do This?

Amazon ships [Fire tablets](#) with its own store for apps and games. While the [Amazon Appstore](#) has most of the heavy hitters (Netflix, Spotify, Instagram, etc) the selection is not nearly as good as the Google Play Store.

For reference, the Play Store has over 3 million apps and games while the Amazon Appstore has only around 500,000. But here's the thing—those 3 million and more apps in the Play Store are compatible with your Fire tablet.

Sideloading is the method of installing apps from outside the Amazon Appstore. At their core, Fire tablets run Android, and Android supports sideloading. It works just like [sideloading on an Android phone](#).

One thing to keep in mind about sideloading apps is they won't be able to receive automatic updates. That process is handled by app stores, which we're not using. You'll need to manually re-install new versions of apps and games if you want to stay up to date.


**Warning:** Sideloading is disabled by default for a reason. The Amazon Appstore has security protocols to make sure the apps and games you download are safe. It's certainly not perfect, but it's something. Sideloading apps circumvent these protocols, so you need to be careful about where you get the apps. [APK Mirror](#) is our recommended source for sideloading.

RELATED: [How to Sideload Apps on Android](#)

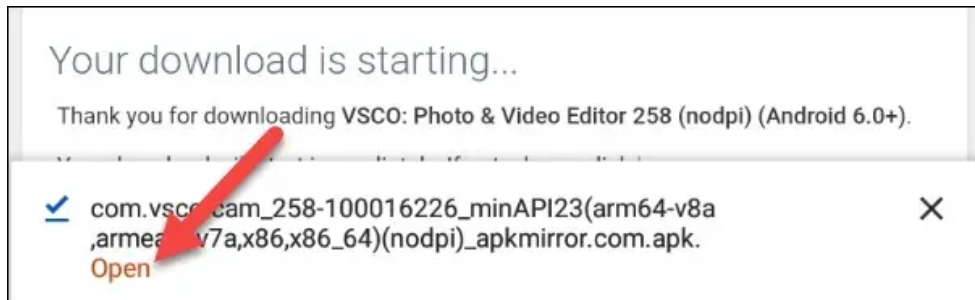
## How to Install APK on Amazon Tablet

The first thing we need to do is get an APK file to download. You can go to [APKMirror](#) in the Silk Browser on your Fire tablet and download the app you'd like to sideload. Make sure to opt for "APK" files, not the ones labeled "Bundle."

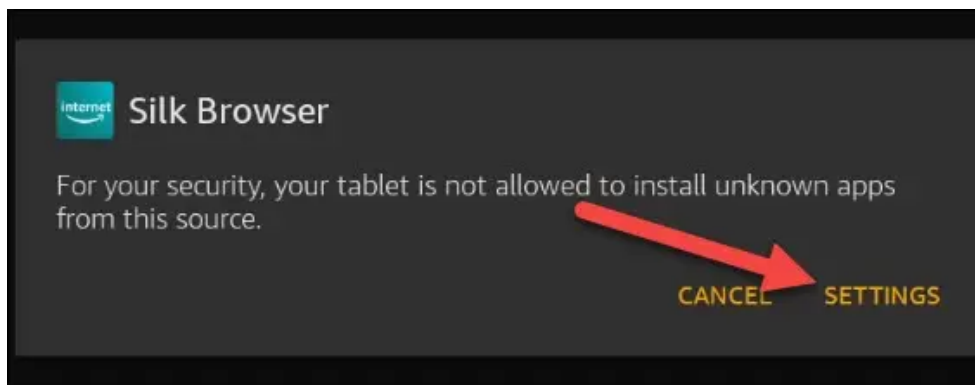
Variant	Arch	Version	DPI
258 BUNDLE 18 \$			
100016226	arm64-v8a + armeabi-v7a	Android 6.0+	480-640dpi
March 1, 2022 EST			↓
258 APK			
100016226	universal	Android 6.0+	nodpi
March 1, 2022 EST			↓



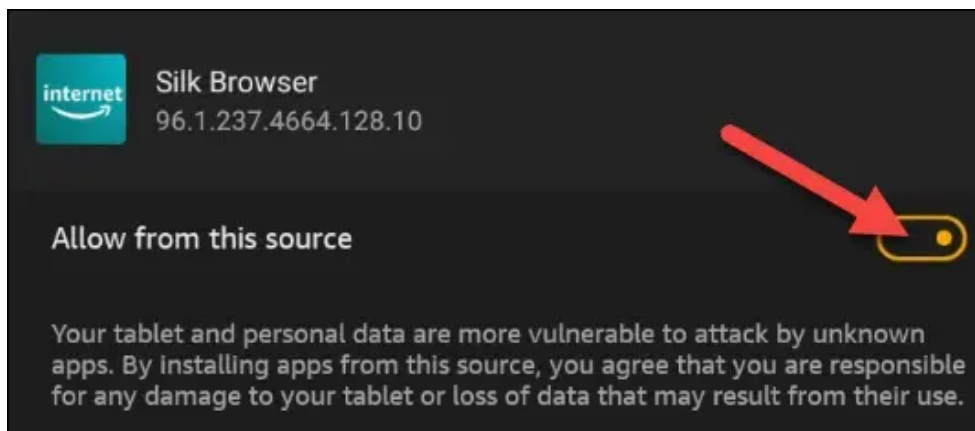
After it's done downloading, tap "Open" from the message at the bottom of the screen.



A pop-up message will inform you that you need to allow the app to "install unknown apps" before you can install the APK. Tap "Settings" to be taken there.



Toggle the switch on to "Allow From This Source." You only need to do this once for each app that you use to install an APK.

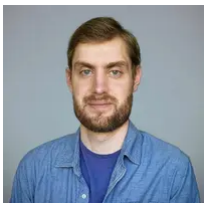


Now you can go back to the previous screen and tap "Install" to finish installing the APK.

That's it! The app will be added to the home screen on the "Home" tab. This is a pretty simple process that will work for the majority of Android apps and games.

**RELATED:** [\*How to Install the Google Play Store on an Amazon Fire Tablet\*](#)

However, it can get tedious if you sideload a lot of apps, which is why [installing the Play Store can be a better option](#).



### **JOE FEDEWA**

Joe Fedewa is a Staff Writer at How-To Geek. He has been covering consumer technology for over a decade and previously worked as Managing Editor at *XDA-Developers*. Joe loves all things technology

and is also an avid DIYer at heart. He has written thousands of articles, hundreds of tutorials, and dozens of reviews. [\*\*READ FULL BIO »\*\*](#)

## JASON FITZPATRICK

Jason Fitzpatrick is the Senior Smart Home Editor at How-To Geek. He has over a decade of experience in publishing and has authored thousands of articles at How-To Geek, Review Geek, LifeSavvy, and Lifehacker. Jason served as Lifehacker's Weekend Editor before he joined How-To Geek. [READ FULL BIO »](#)

How-To Geek is where you turn when you want experts to explain technology. Since we launched in 2006, our articles have been read billions of times. [Want to know more?](#)