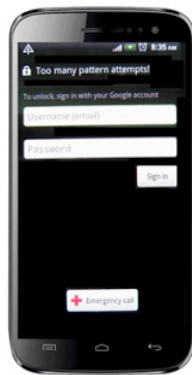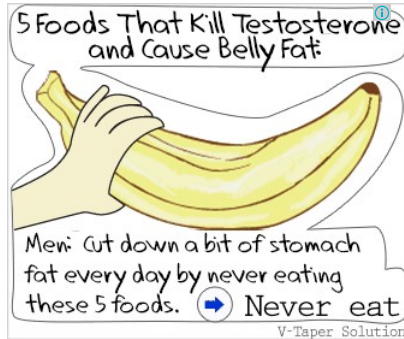# How to Unlock Pattern Locked Android Smartphone with ADB Commands?

Most probably everyone might face the situation of getting Android device locked or it's just freezing quite a lot. There are many easy solutions right from removing its battery, manual resetting (click here) and using backup options such as sky drive and much more. But what if your device does not start itself? Or it is locked with multiple attempts? Or it may be for some other reason. Again if you have no Wi-Fi ON or your device is in airplane mode or not set to internet accessibility.

The answer is using windows based commands to operate your Android device to resolve this issue.

Method: Using ADB (Android Debug Bridge) Commands

ADB is advanced command line tool which enables a user to communicate with Android device using commands on PC.

Requirements:

1. Windows PC
2. Device with USB cable
3. Android SDK developer toolkit (Click here to get from Android Developer Website)
4. Usb drivers for your device, or if your device is recognizing self then it's not required
If this does not list your device then try to go on your device's company's website or Google your device with "device name android USB drivers for windows", (Click here to get from Developer Website)
5. Proper command follow-up

Unzip downloaded Android SDK files on your PC. Go to unzipped SDK folder and follow this path

"android-sdk_r07-windowsandroid-sdk-windowstools"

Just click an adb.exe file to install the program, it shows a small window and it disappears immediately. Don't worry, its done.

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Click Start>Run>cmd. This will take you to dos-based windows command prompt window.

Type *cd "android-sdk-windowstools"*

You must be now in the ADB folder.

In the came command window type *"adb devices"*

If it shows the device then you are on a correct path. If not, you probably need your phone's driver set to install in the computer.

Now you must be ready to do work on your Android device, such as backup, flashing, resetting, hard resetting.

Above method is discussed considering your Android device is locked with multiple pattern password attempts. So we will move further to run few more commands to unlock it in easy ways.

In cmd type in following set of commands

adb devices (This will show your device)
adb shell
cd/data/data/com.android.providers.settings/databases
sqlite3 settings.db
update system set value=0 where name='lock_pattern_autolock';
update system set value=0 where name='lockscreen.lockedoutpermanently';
.quit

Now reboot your device. With this, your phone must be unlocked.

If above codes do not work then try below
adb shell rm/data/system/gesture.key

This will remove any pattern kept on your device and you will need to input new pattern.

Note: If you do not wish someone else to use ADB commands on your smartphone in any way then go to your smartphone's security options and select the option saying keep off USB debugging mode. But this is very risky as you do not need to worry so much about your smartphone as it is not a question of National Security.

If you like to add some more commands for easy navigation and recovery pl provide here for others help.

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Anonymous   August 29, 2014 at 1:24 PM

Will this work for a pin password ?....i forgot my pin password not pattern

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Choozurmobile AllAboutTech   October 24, 2014 at 4:52 AM

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Talib Abood   December 22, 2014 at 9:20 AM

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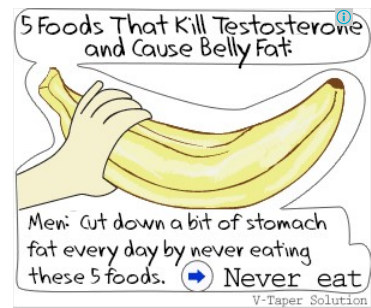
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Excelanto Global Services   December 29, 2014 at 10:19 PM

Thanks For Your valuable posting, it was very informative. Am working in Erp Software Company In India

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Rahul Choudhary   February 24, 2015 at 6:46 AM

This comment has been removed by a blog administrator.

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Excelanto Global Services   March 9, 2015 at 10:32 PM

Thanks For Your valuable posting, it was very informative. Am working in Erp Software Company In India

Reply

deb_95   June 26, 2015 at 10:56 AM

I have successfully connected my android device with adb shell. But cannot
$ rm /data/system/gesture.key
I am getting rm: /data/system/gesture.key: Permission denied. Error
My device is not rooted. Please help

Reply

Replies

    cypher-X   February 18, 2016 at 1:28 AM

    same problem here....

    Justin   March 13, 2016 at 7:13 PM

    You'd definitely need root to do this. The explanation above, typos aside, is pretty lackluster. You can flash a custom recovery then flash SuperSU *IF* your screen is still working. If not it could be tricky. I didn't think there was a way to enable USB debugging with no screen but apparently there might be:
    Adb shell
    echo "persist.service.adb.enable=1" >>/system/build.prop
    echo "persist.service.debuggable=1" >>/system/build.prop
    echo "persist.sys.usb.config=mass_storage,adb" >>/system/build.prop"
    reboot

    Edit: Sorry I should have mentioned those commands would be done in a custom recovery like TWRP.

    Justin   March 13, 2016 at 7:15 PM

    Apparently if you have a custom recovery and can get to a command prompt you can do the following to enable USB debugging:
    Adb shell
    echo "persist.service.adb.enable=1" >>/system/build.prop
    echo "persist.service.debuggable=1" >>/system/build.prop
    echo "persist.sys.usb.config=mass_storage,adb" >>/system/build.prop"
    reboot

Reply

Jimmy Johns   July 2, 2015 at 7:06 PM

Smartphone Security Encrypted, secured communication solutions for smartphones and telephony systems, including complete anti-tapping & anti-hacking solutions and apps; advanced SCADA cyber defense solutions

Reply

abbott abel   July 6, 2015 at 10:42 PM

When you purchase a phone from your carrier, it usually comes locked to their service. If you want to use the phone you purchased through your carrier on another service, chances are you'll need to unlock mobile phone. This will allow you to use SIM cards from other carriers.

Reply

HIMANSHU SAINI   December 14, 2015 at 4:24 AM

wat if usb debugging is disabled??

Reply

Replies

Justin   March 13, 2016 at 7:16 PM

If you have a custom recovery or can flash one (possible but tricky with no screen) the following commands supposedly enable it:

Adb shell
echo "persist.service.adb.enable=1" >>/system/build.prop
echo "persist.service.debuggable=1" >>/system/build.prop
echo "persist.sys.usb.config=mass_storage,adb" >>/system/build.prop"
reboot

Reply

Unknown   January 7, 2016 at 5:51 PM

Does it work with usb debugging disabled?? My phone is locked, and i can't change anything. Want to save my photos or unlock it some how.please help. Im desperate. Just want my phoyos as my family are on thrre. Some whcih are not around anymore :(

Reply

Replies

Luie john Malimit   May 1, 2016 at 7:54 PM

Step 1. After download Aroma File Manager place it in your memory card (SD card). Insert the memory card into your locked android device.

Step 2. Open Stock Recovery Mode with reboot your android device and pressing Power Key and Volume up key simultaneously. Different phones may be have different methods to open stock recovery mode so if you face any problem Google it.

Step 3. After entering into recovery mode use Volume+ and Volume- buttons to scroll up and down. For select use middle button.

Step 4. From there click on "Install Zip from SD Card" and give path to install "Aroma File Manager" from SD card.

Step 5. After installing, it will open in recovery mode.

Step 6. From the Aroma File Manager navigate to settings >> go to bottom and click on "Automount all devices on start" and then exit.

Step 7. Repeat Step 4 & 5 again.

Step 8. After this you will get "Aroma File Manager" opened again.

Step 9. Now navigate to Data Folder >> System Folder and find >> "gesture.key" or "password.key" for pattern lock or password lock respectively.

Step 10. Delete that any one file and then exit aroma file manager and reboot your android device. After rebooting you will notice that password or pattern lock not removed. But don't worry draw any pattern and you will open your android device but remember or note that pattern.

Reply

Bobby   January 7, 2016 at 5:52 PM

Does it work with usb debugging disabled?? My phone is locked, and i can't change anything. Want to save my photos or unlock it some how.please help. Im desperate. Just want my phoyos as my family are on thrre. Some whcih are not around anymore :(

Reply

Replies

Team Choozurmobile   January 23, 2016 at 10:52 PM

http://android.stackexchange.com/questions/112040/how-to-enable-usb-debugging-in-android-if-forgotten-pattern-for-screen-unlock

Team Choozurmobile   January 23, 2016 at 10:53 PM

http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=2308130

Justin   March 13, 2016 at 7:16 PM

http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=2786395

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Unknown

Does it work on unrooted phone

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