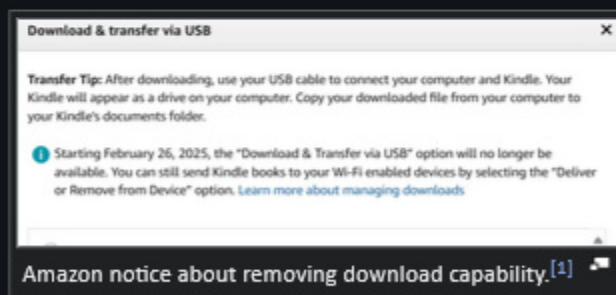




Amazon Kindle removes download feature of purchased books

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On February 26, 2025, [Amazon](#) removed the "download and transfer via USB" feature from their website. This means [Amazon Kindle](#) users are no longer able to download their purchased e-books from Amazon's website to their computers using the "download and transfer via USB" feature. A message describing this change appeared on the page for the download feature a few weeks before the feature was removed.^[2]



Background [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

Amazon allows purchasing e-books on their platform. These e-books are designed to be used with Amazon Kindle devices and the Kindle app. The "download and transfer via USB" feature allowed users to download purchased e-books on their computers. The intended use for this was to allow people to transfer e-books from their computer to their Kindle, without requiring the Kindle to have an internet connection. The "download and transfer via USB" feature was available since the early days of Kindle, when many devices didn't have Wi-Fi capabilities, such as the Kindle 1, Kindle 2, and Kindle DX.^{[3][4][5]}

Reasons For Feature [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

- Allowed users to transfer books to Kindles without an internet connection. Older devices may no longer be able to connect
- Let users create backup copies of their purchased e-book library
- Provided a way to access books in the older AZW3 format, which is more amenable to format conversion than newer formats due to less restrictive DRM
- Gave users more control over their purchased content

DRM implications [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

As well as the intended usage, customers used this feature to create backups of their Kindle libraries and to convert the e-books to other formats to use with non-Kindle devices. Amazon Kindle e-readers use a proprietary format to store e-books, and a lot of the e-books contain [DRM](#), which needs to be removed to use the e-books with non-Kindle devices. Newer Kindle devices use the KFX format, which makes it almost impossible to remove DRM. Since the download and transfer feature used the older AZW3 format, people with newer Kindles could use this feature to download their e-books in a format where the DRM can be removed.^[2]

Removal of download and transfer via USB [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

In February 2025, Amazon added a notice next to the download button whenever users accessed the "download and transfer via USB" feature. This notice said that the feature would be removed on February 26th. After that day, customers

were no longer able to download their purchased e-books from the Amazon website.

Customers will still be able to download e-books to their Kindles, but will either have to use the Kindle store on the device or the "Deliver or Remove from Device" option on the Amazon website.^[2] Both of these options require the e-reader to have an internet connection.

This isn't the first time Amazon has made changes affecting customers' access to their purchased e-books. For instance, Amazon previously removed books customers had purchased since the company that uploaded them didn't have the rights to the content.^[6]

Customer response [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

This change has caused significant backlash from customers.^{[1][7]} This is due to the following reasons:

- The change makes it much harder for customers to read e-books they have purchased on non-Kindle devices
- Customers are now required to connect their Kindle e-readers to the internet if they want to download books purchased on Amazon
- The change makes it harder for customers to move away from Amazon to another e-book platform, since customers are not able to keep the e-books they purchased through Amazon

After the announcement, many consumers downloaded their purchased e-books with the download and transfer feature while the feature was available. Many people have also moved to other providers to buy e-books going forward.

Other users resorted to jailbreaking their devices to ensure continued access to previous features. This can be done using tools such as [WinterBreak](#), which allow users to run custom applications like [KOReader](#), a unified eBook reader that supports PDF, DjVu, EPUB, FB2, and many other formats—on Cervantes, Kindle, Kobo, PocketBook, and Android devices.

Effect on original Kindle devices (Kindle 1, Kindle 2, & Kindle DX) [[edit](#) |

[edit source](#)]

The Amazon Kindle 1 (2007), Kindle 2 (2009), and Kindle DX (2009) relied on EVDO and 3G networks for wireless book downloads via Amazon's Whispernet service.^{[3][4]} However, with the global shutdown of these older networks by mobile carriers, these early Kindle models are no longer able to download purchased Kindle books wirelessly in most regions.

Since eBooks can no longer be purchased from the Kindle Store and downloaded, there is no way to get them onto these devices.

- Users are no longer be able to download Kindle books to a computer for manual transfer to their device via USB.
- Kindle books that were downloaded before this date can still be transferred manually.
- Any new purchases will require a WiFi-enabled Kindle, a 4G-enabled Kindle or access to Amazon's Kindle apps to read.
- This effectively bricks older Kindles for the use case of reading newly purchased Kindle books

Remaining functionality [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

- The Kindle 1, Kindle 2, and Kindle DX still support USB file transfers for non-Amazon content, including:
 - DRM-free MOBI, PRC, and TXT files.
 - Converted EPUB files using tools like Calibre.
 - Public domain books from sites such as Project Gutenberg.
- Users who backed up their Kindle books before the February 26, 2025 cutoff can still manually transfer them via USB.

Technical USB restrictions [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

In 2023, Amazon changed how their Kindle devices interact with computers from a raw view of a file system using UMS (USB Mass Storage) to a filtered view using the MTP (Media Transfer Protocol).^[8]

MTP requires support on the operating system. Amazon had to provide macOS software to communicate with Kindles.^[9]

and even Windows users had some issues. This change made download and transfer more complex for newer devices.

This change means that all files transferred to the device will have to pass through a software filter running on the device before being accepted. Currently, this filtering is ineffective as demonstrated by WinterBreak which uses the exposed HTML cache. Future software revisions can and will add restrictions, especially to "improve security."

Amazon has been pushing for content to go through Send-To-Kindle^[10] instead of USB. This allows Amazon to restrict the usage of Kindle devices to display illicit content.

See Also [edit | edit source]

- [Digital Content Control](#)
- [Corporate Censorship](#)
- [Ownership of Digital Goods](#)

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Categories: [Amazon Kindle](#) | [Content modification](#) | [Digital rights management](#) | [Retroactively amended purchase](#)

Articles based on videos

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