TOO LAZY TO TYPE
Android OCR app

User Manual

User Manual

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Table of Contents

Chapter

1

Configuring your device to install 3rd party apps

This is required as you'll be downloading the app from my website and not Google Play

As a safety precaution, all Android devices come with the option to install "non-market" apps disabled by default. If you want to allow the installation of non-market, third-party apps such as Too Lazy To Type on your smartphone then you'll have to follow the steps below to get your settings configured properly.
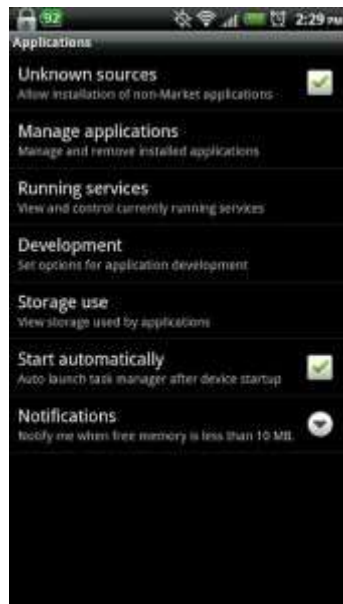
Step 1: Click the MENU button

Step 2: Go to SETTINGS

Step 3: Click on APPLICATIONS

Step 4: Make sure that "UNKNOWN SOURCES" is checked

Step 5: Read the warning message and acknowledge if you are OK to proceed with the changes

That's it!

Downloading and installing the app

Step 1: Simply go to **meenakshi-ocr.appspot.com** using a Web browser on your Android device and click on "Download".

Make sure you read the application description so you'll know whether the app is compatible with your Android device.

Step 2: Locate the APK (Android Package) file on your device and install it (usually the default action when you tap on the APK in your file browser)

5 steps to OCR

Step 1

Step 2   Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

Processing. . .

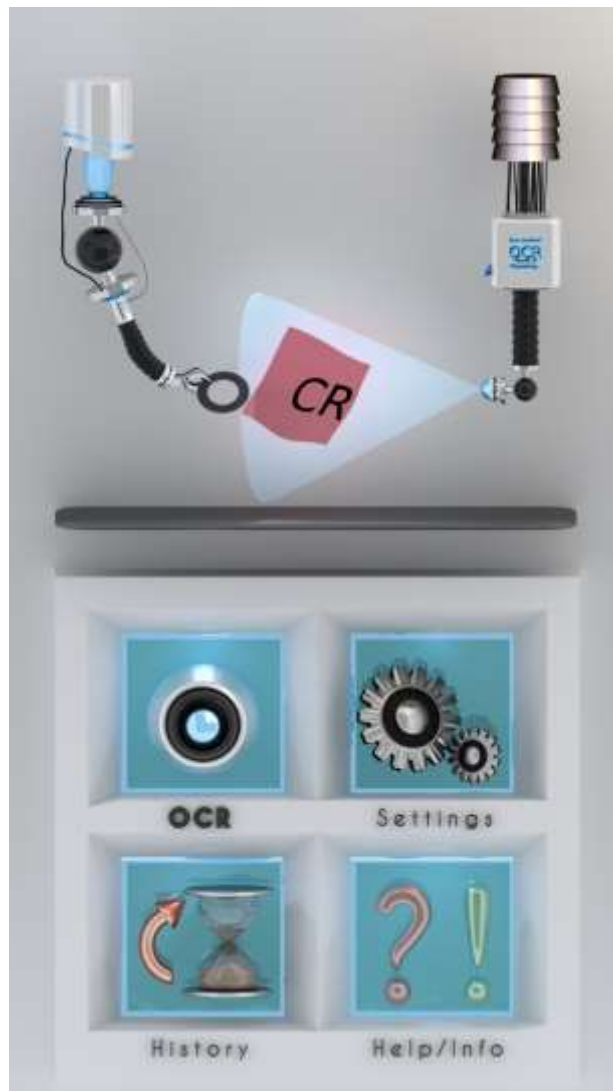

Done!

What can the app do?

The current version (v1.0) of the app supports the following features.

1. Quick and easy image-to-text **on the go**

2. Allows users to perform OCR on **new images** (taken using camera) or **images already saved** on phone

3. When taking new images, users can **define a specific rectangular area** to analyse

4. OCR'ed text can be **copied to Android clipboard,** from where users can paste it in whichever app they want (SMS/text, e-mail, document editor, etc.)

5. OCR'ed text can be **saved as a text file**

6. OCR'ed text can be quickly **Googled** (a feature that understandably requires an Internet connection)

7. OCR'ed text can be directly sent as **SMS** (without having to open the Messaging app) (only available on recent history screen)

8. OCR'ed text can be **shared** with any other app installed on your phone that accepts text like **Facebook, SMS, Bluetooth, Gmail, Twitter, Whatsapp, Dropbox, Google talk,** etc.

9. User can view OCR'ed text **history** (5 most recent)

10. When taking new images, users can use phone's **flash** (if applicable)

11. Recognizes **line-breaks**

12. Doesn't save any information on 3rd party systems so **user's data is completely private**

13. Users can **submit a review** of the app through the help screen

14. Direct link to the **website and community** from the app

15. **Dedicated lightweight** application without unnecessary extra features that use up resources.

16. Supported by highest possible percentage of **android phones**

17. Reasonably high (95+%) and consistent **accuracy** of OCR

18. Reasonably less (a few seconds at most) **response time**

19. Support for a reasonable variety of **font types and sizes on images**

20. Attractive but easy to use **interface**

21. Self-contained application requiring **no mandatory internet and data connection charges**

22. Basic **help screen** for detailed usage help

What can I click and what do the buttons do?

1.Main Screen

OCR

The standard icon for OCR throughout the app. A tap on this button will open up the OCR screen.

Settings

Tapping on this opens up Settings and Preferences screen where you can customize the app

History

Tapping on this button opens up Recent History screen where the 5 most recent text that you have OCR'ed are displayed.

Help/Information

A tap on this will open the Help / Information screen where you can find out more about this app, interact with other users of this app, submit a review, etc.

2. OCR Screen

OCR

A tap opens a dialog where you choose whether you want to select an image from gallery, or use the camera to click a new picture. Once you've selected your image, you can then select and crop the piece of text you're interested in.

Copy To Clipboard

A tap on this icon will copy the OCR'ed text to your device's clipboard

Google the text

Tapping this will open up your default web browser and google search the OCR'ed text for you
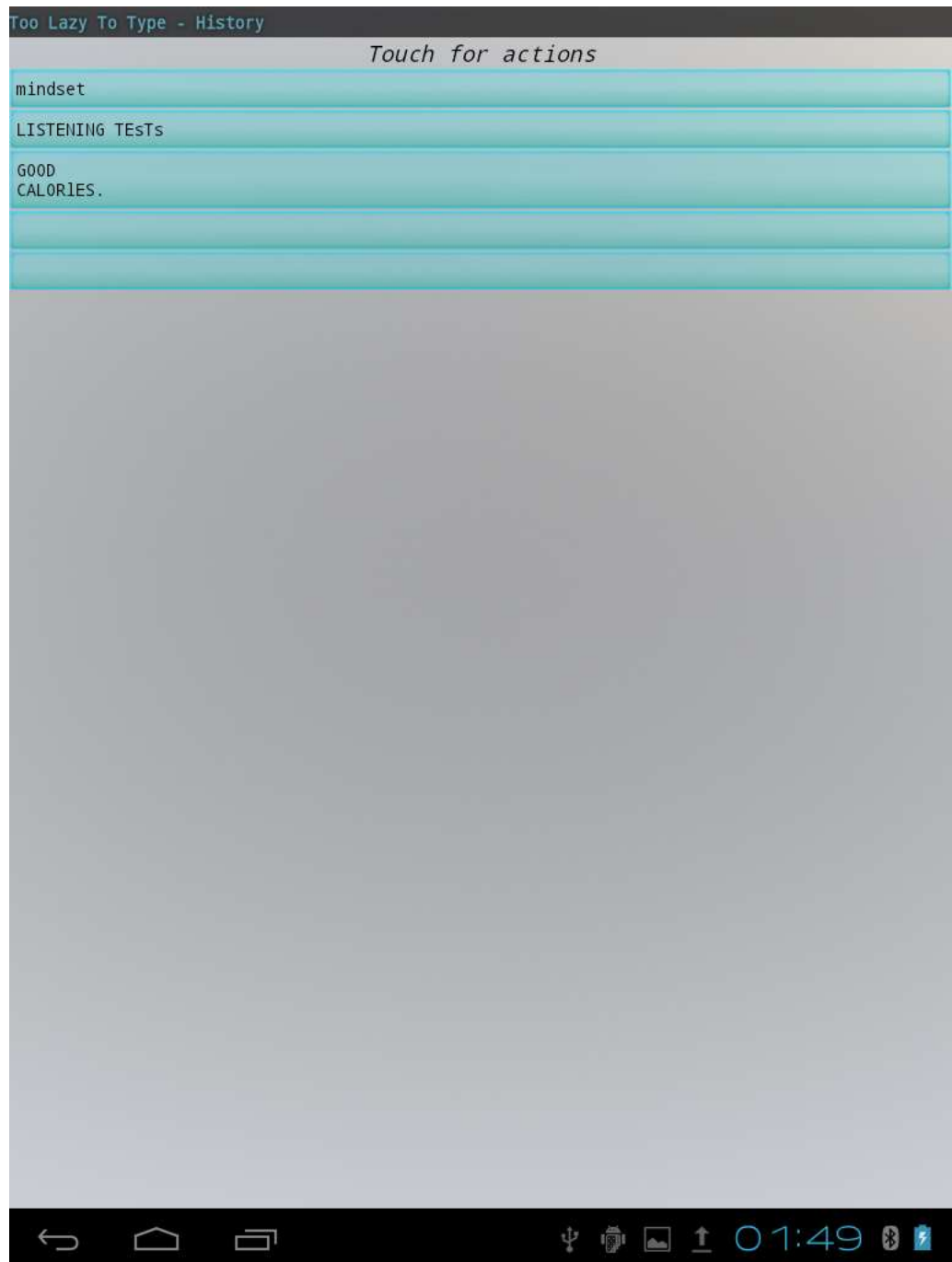
Save to SDCard

Tapping on this will save the OCR'ed text to your sdcard in the folder OCRNotes. The filename will be displayed as a pop-up message and changes every time you click it. *(<number>.txt where <number> is the integer that increments with every save)*

Share

A tap on this will open up a dialog from which you can select an app installed on your device to share the text with. For example Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, Dropbox, Google+, Bluetooth, Gmail, Messaging, etc

3. History Screen

Tapping any entry will open up a dialog from which you can select an action to perform with the text such as Copy to clipboard, Share, Google it. These do exactly the same

actions as on the OCR screen. Two additional actions available only on the history screen are:
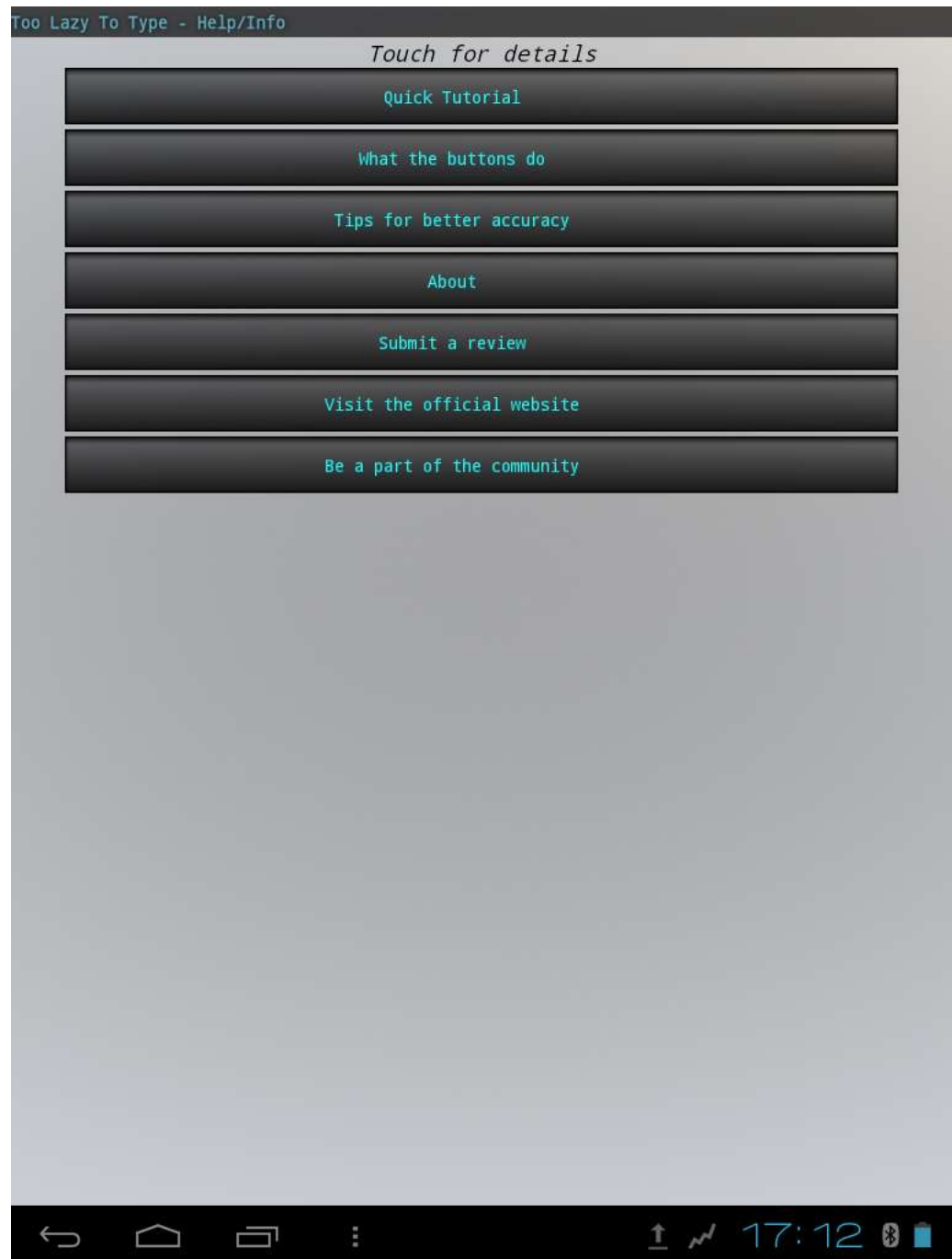
→ Delete

  Deletes the entry from recent history. It does not delete the corresponding file on SDCard if you had saved it

→ Directly send an SMS

  Prompts you for a phone number, sends the SMS directly, and reports the status as a pop-up. All of this without opening the message app. If you want to select a number from your list of contacts, click on "share" and choose your messaging app. This will open up your default SMS manager.

4. Help/Information Screen

→ Quick Tutorial

- Displays the 5 step tutorial to OCR, same as in this book.

→ What the buttons do

- Displays the buttons on the Main and OCR screens and gives a brief description of what each of them do.

→ Tips for better accuracy

- Lists a few tricks that will optimize usage of this app and give you better results.
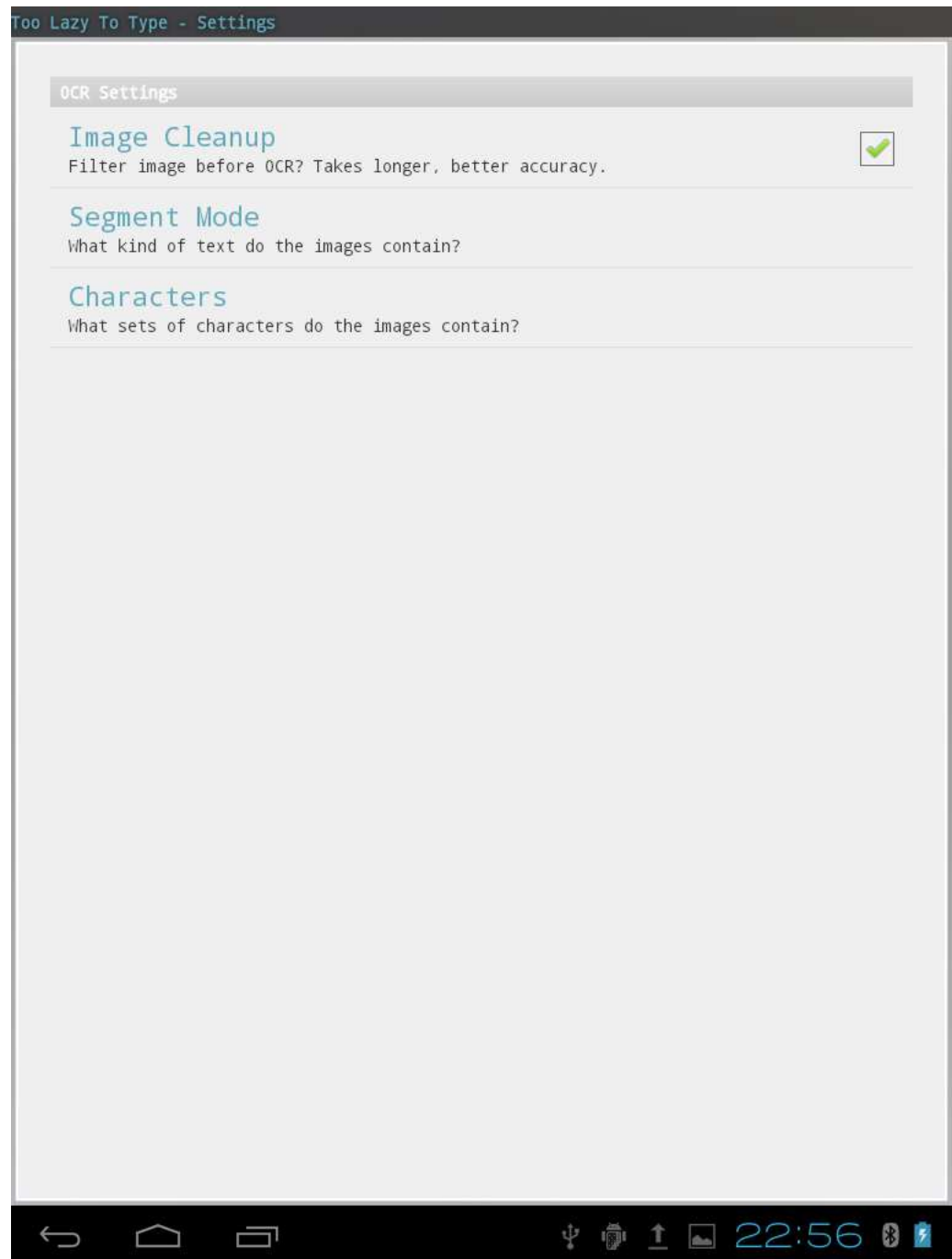
→ About

- Lists the version number, the developer, and general information about the app

→ Submit a review

- Once you've played around with the app, you can submit a review to let other users know how you liked the app.

- If you're submitting a review for the first time, it will prompt you to enter an alias. This can be your name, your favourite word, or anything you like as long as it consists of alphabets only. Subsequent submissions of reviews will not open this dialog. The name you entered the first time will be used for every review you submit after that.

- The app will prompt you to enter a review/feedback.

- The reviews are submitted to the website so submission will require an Internet connection.

- o You can view your and other people's reviews on the website.

→ Visit the official website

- o Opens up the website (**meenakshi-ocr.appspot.com**) in your default web browser.

→ Be a part of the community

- o Opens up the community forum in your default web browser. Here, you can interact with other people using this app, post questions, ask for help, share your experience, chit-chat, etc.

5. Preferences / Settings screen

Too Lazy To Type - Settings

OCR Settings

Image Cleanup
Filter image before OCR? Takes longer, better accuracy.

Segment Mode
What kind of text do the images contain?

Characters
What sets of characters do the images contain?
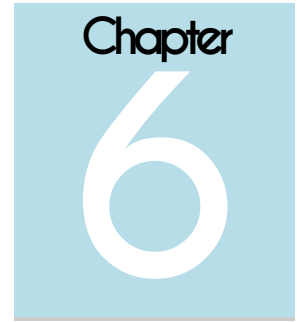
22:56

→ Image clean-up

- If checked/ticked, the app will perform pre-processing on your image to remove noise, clean up the background, etc to help you get better results and accuracy.

- This may mean that the app takes slightly longer to process and display the text, but the accuracy will be better.

- Unless your images are simple images with a white background and clear black text, or you want your text faster, you should check this option.

→ Segment Mode

- You can leave this as automatic, or you can specify exactly what kind of images you intend to feed the app. For example, if you usually only select a single word for OCR, you can select the "Single Word" option from the menu that is displayed for this option, and remember to crop only the word you're interested in.
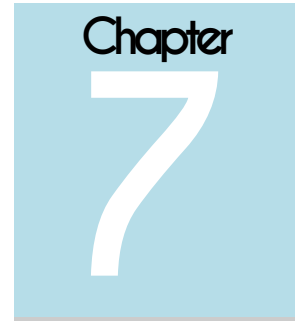
→ Characters

- No big harm will be done if you leave this as automatic, but you can specify if your images contain only numbers, only alphabets, etc.

Tips for optimal usage

These are just some simple tricks and tips that will get you better accuracy and quicker results.

→ Avoid blurry images

→ Avoid tiny font

→ Use better lighting

→ Don't use images that are too big

→ Avoid cluttered backgrounds

→ Leave some empty space around the text while cropping

→ This app is not meant to recognize hand-written text and/or very cursive text

→ Unless your image is black/white with no noise, and/or you are pressed for time, check the "Pre-Processing" option under Settings. This will increase the accuracy

→ Although the app deskews the image for you (if you selected "pre-processing" in Settings), try to align the image nicely.

→ The application learns as you feed it more and more images.

Chapter

7

Getting help

If you ever find yourself stuck on a feature of the app, or if the app has had some sort of failure/crash/error, help is just a few clicks away.
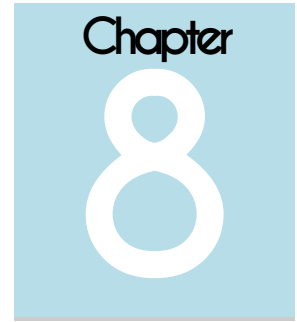
→ Help with functioning of the app

- o The Help/Info screen contains plenty of information to help you with the UI and functionality of this app.

- o Additionally, you can always go on to the forum (Main Screen → Help/Info → Be a part of the community) and ask questions. Either I or another fellow user of this app will then be able to help you with your issue.

→ Application crash

- o In the unlikely event of an application crash, try running the app again. The crash may have been caused by another application running or some external problem.

- o You may have accidently deleted important files needed for this app to run. Try uninstalling and re-installing the app. This will copy back all the important files and your app will work again.

- o If the problem persists, visit **meenakshi-ocr-fofou.appspot.com/Too-Lazy-To-Type** and post about your problem. Be as descriptive as possible. This will help us solve your problem.

→ Before downloading the app, make sure your device meets the requirements for using the app. Minimum version required is 2.2 Froyo

→ Sometimes the app will not work with certain images. It will display a pop-up on such an event. The image is probably too big for your device to perform complex processing on, or there may be another reason for this. Try again with another image and it should work fine.

The website

This app has a dedicated website for all things Too Lazy To Type. Go ahead and type **meenakshi-ocr.appspot.com** into your browser or use the button on your help/info screen on the app (Main screen → Help/Info → Visit the official website)

On this website you will find links to download the app, all reviews submitted by people using this app, developer tools (for fellow developers or students looking to play around with the code), the forum, latest updates, the user manual, the facebook page, etc. You can also "Like" us on facebook.