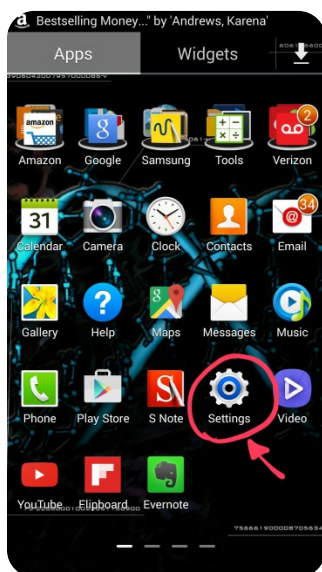


## Guide to Securing Android Devices

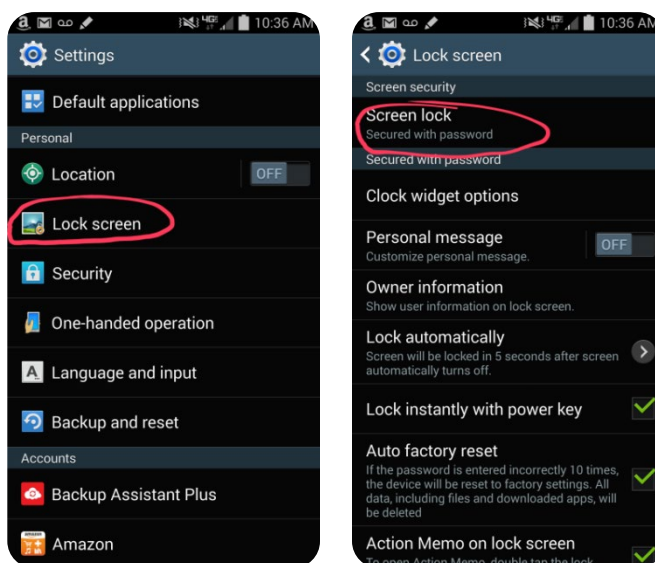
**Purpose:** This guide is meant to assist in applying the minimum security settings required on android devices. Due to the broad scope of android devices, this is only meant as a general guide and actual procedures may vary between different devices.

Most of the needed security settings can be found by **clicking on the “Settings” icon** in the applications menu.



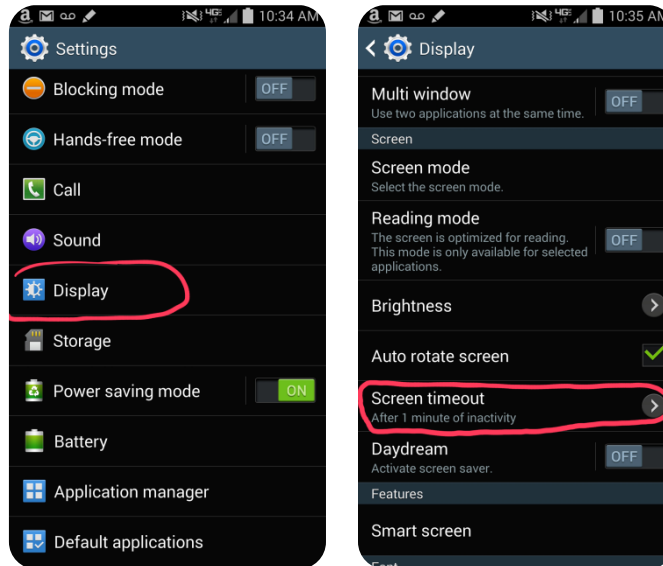
**Require a password, PIN, or passcode for access.** This prevents others from using your device by requiring the passcode to unlock it.

Under settings **click on “Lock Screen”** then **click on “Screen lock”** and set a password that is complex but easy to remember.

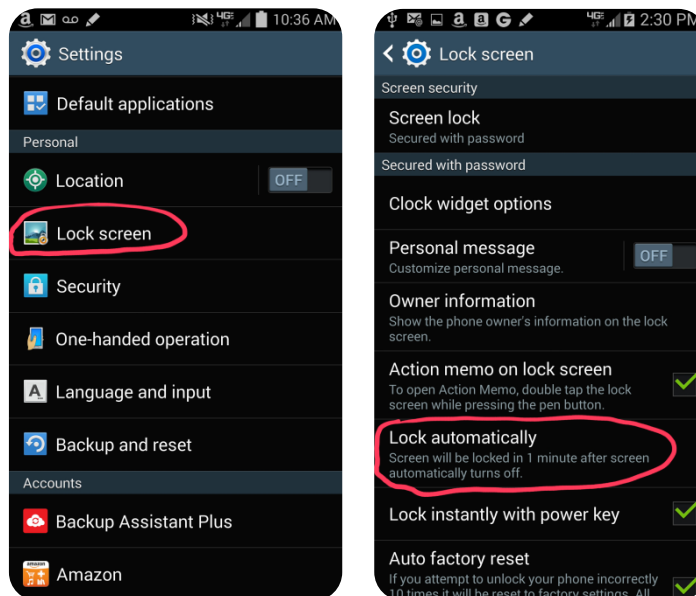


Set the screen lock to auto lock after 15 or fewer minutes of inactivity. This, in conjunction with your password/PIN/passcode, protects your device from unauthorized use and helps conserve battery power.

From the settings screen click on “Display” and then click on “Screen timeout”. Set a time limit of less than 15 minutes.

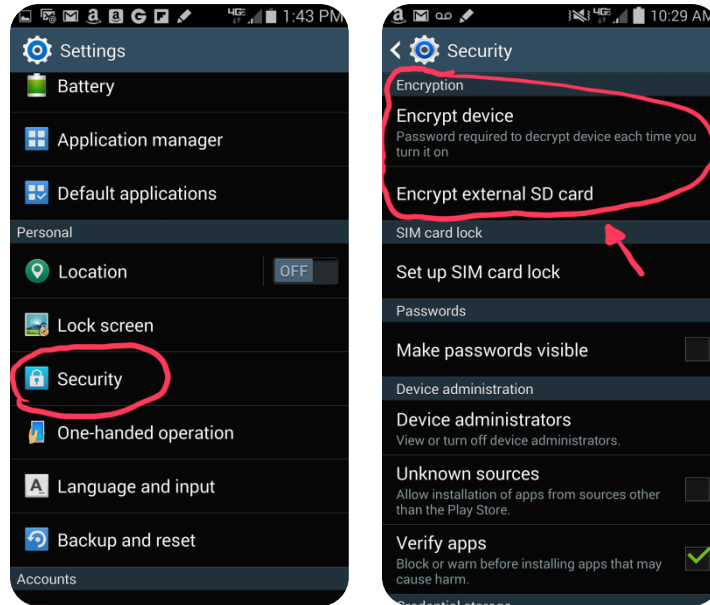


In the Lock screen menu click on “Lock automatically” and set a time limit so the total combined time of screen timeout and lock screen time is less than 15 minutes.



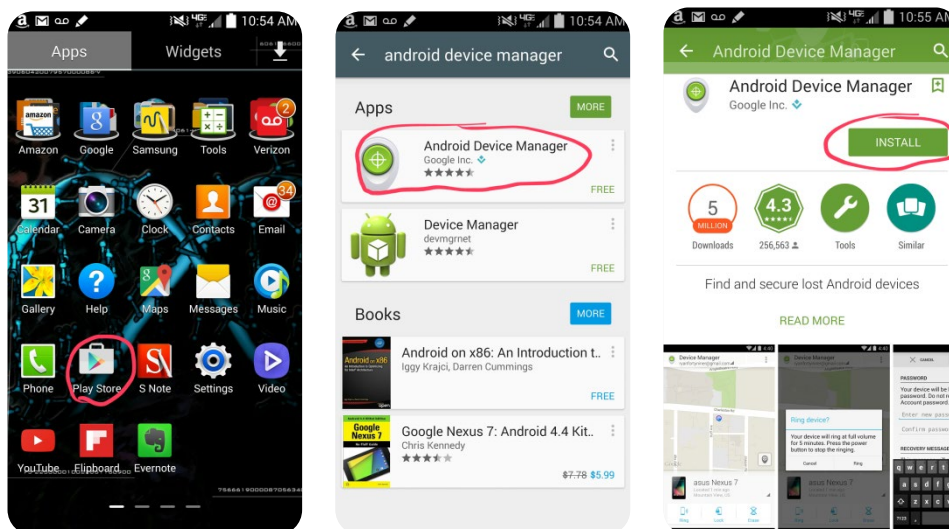
**Turn on data encryption.** This prevents others from accessing the data on your device.

From the settings screen, **Click on “Security”** then **click on “Encrypt device”** and **“Encrypt external SD card”**.



**Install and use a device tracking app.** Such an app will help you track or remotely erase your device if it is lost or stolen.

A free app that can be used for remote tracking and data wiping is the Android Device Manager. To install this, from the applications menu, **click on the “Play Store” app**. Use the magnifying glass in the upper right corner to **type in and search for the Android Device Manager**. **Click on it** and then **click “INSTALL”**. Once installed, open the app and follow the onscreen instructions.



For assistance and additional information, please visit the GRCC IT Security webpage at <http://grcc.edu/informationtechnology/itsecurity> or contact the Help Desk at [ITHELP@GRCC.EDU](mailto:ITHELP@GRCC.EDU)

**When not using Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, turn them off.** This prevents unauthorized access to your device through those connections.

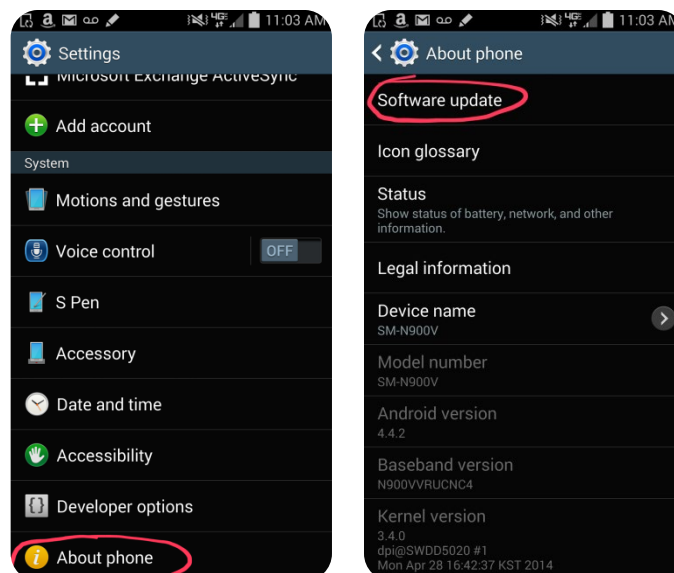
You can turn off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth from the Settings screen as shown below.



**Keep your Android firmware and apps updated.** This helps ensure you have the latest security updates installed.

Your phone should prompt you automatically when updates for applications are available. Click on the prompt and accept the update.

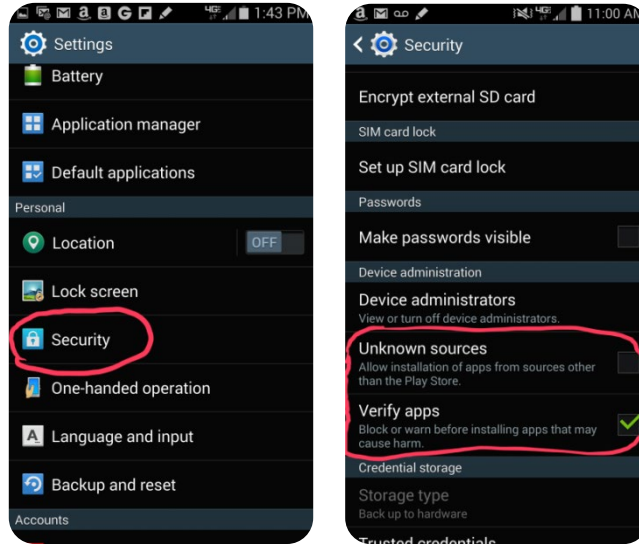
For updating the phones firmware and software, **click on “About phone”** from the Settings screen. Then click on “Software update”.



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**Only install trusted market apps, such as Google Play or Amazon Marketplace apps. This helps avoid installing malware that may be hiding in untrusted apps.**

From the settings screen **click on “Security”** then **ensure “Unknown sources” is unchecked** and **“Verify apps” is checked** as shown below.



**Before you sell or give away your device, erase all content and settings.** This prevents others from accessing your data.

**Click on “Backup and reset”** from the Settings screen. Please note that the Factory data reset will delete all the data on the phone and you will lose any information you have not backed up to a secure location.

