

# DATA DISASTER AVERTED! HOW TO BACK UP YOUR ANDROID SMARTPHONE

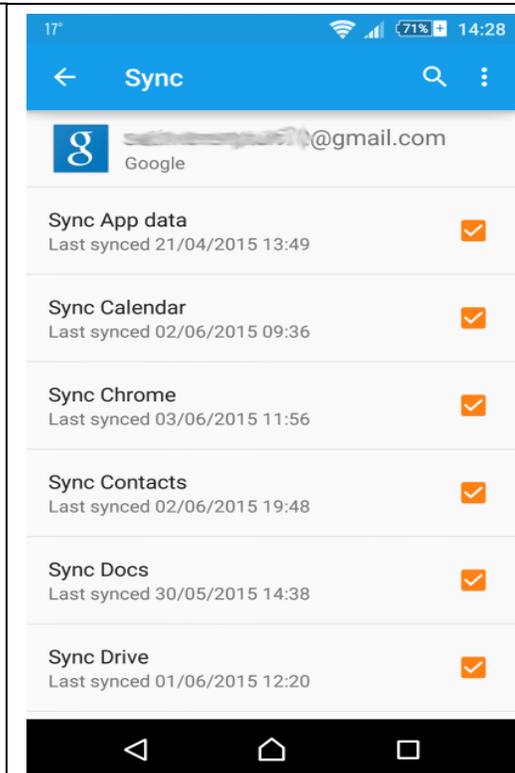
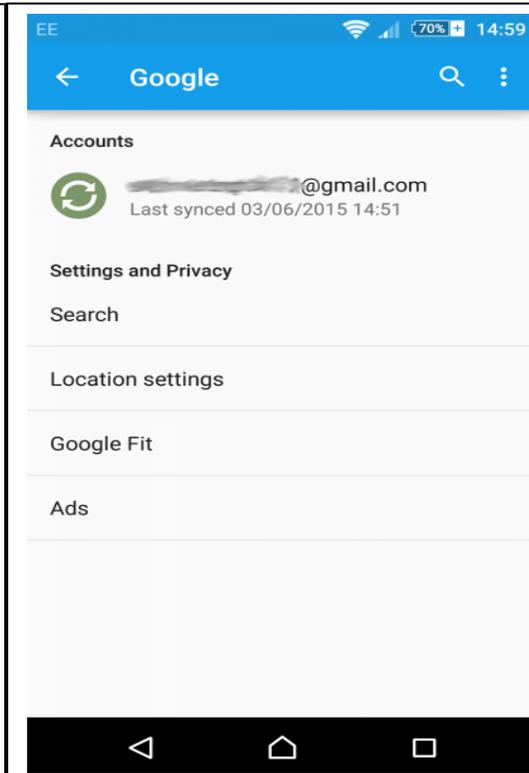
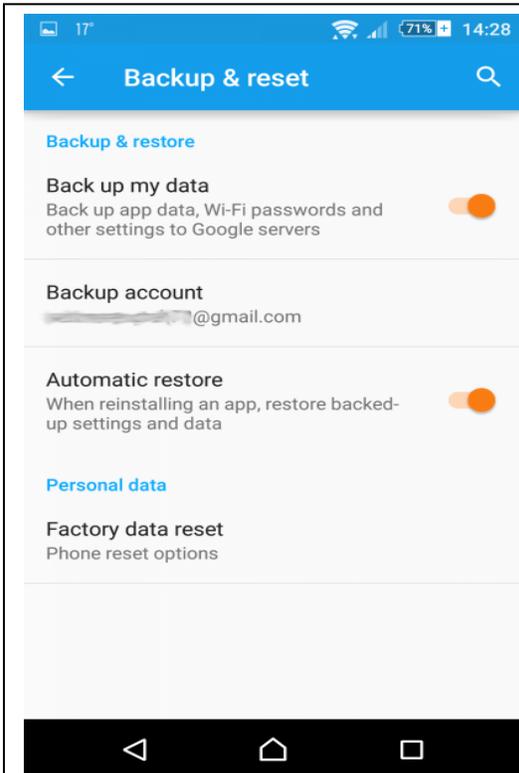


Planning ahead is the easiest way to make sure your data isn't lost to the ether, even if your phone is destroyed. Luckily, Google automatically syncs your contacts, calendar appointments, docs, and even app purchases — as long as you give it permission to do so. While Google will preserve a lot of your data, there are other methods and backup programs that will allow you to save the same data. Read on to find out how to back up your Android phone's content to your PC.

## Stick with Google

Giving Google permission to back up your stuff will vary slightly from phone to phone. In general, you'll want to go to *Settings > Backup & reset* then tap *Backup my data* and *Automatic restore*. That will cover the following:

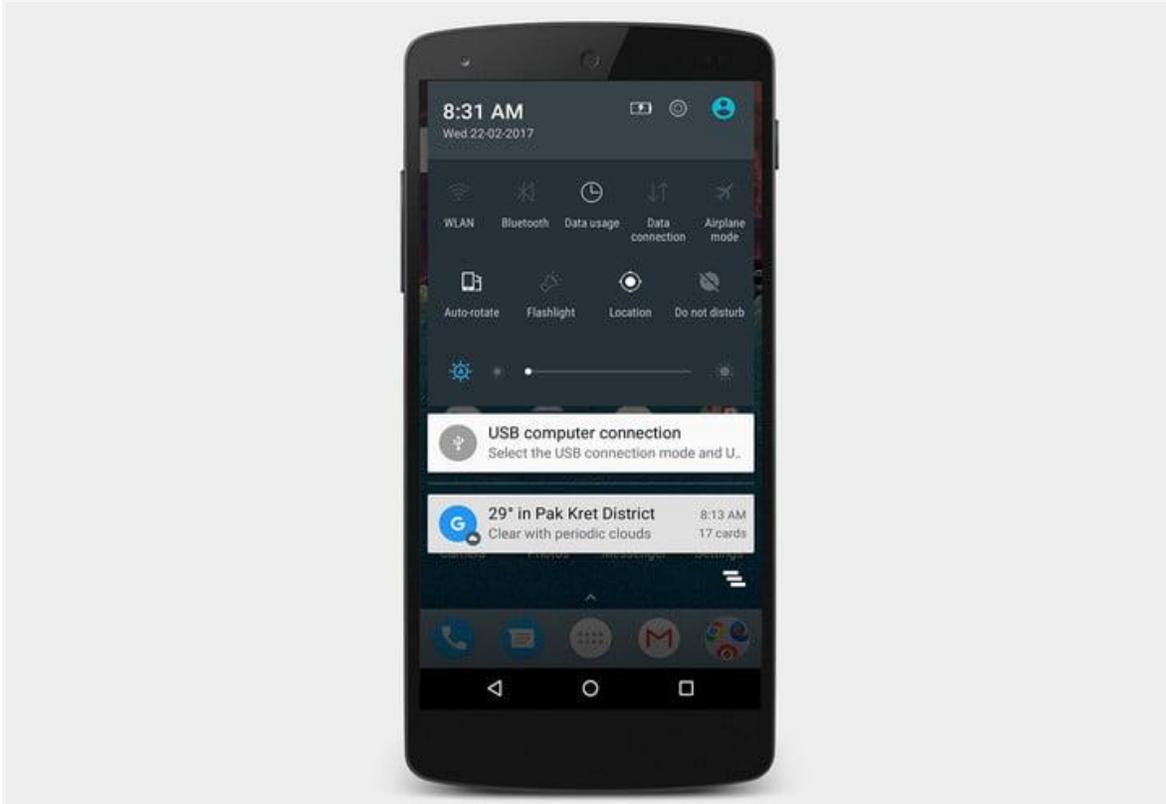
- Google Calendar settings
- Wi-Fi networks & passwords
- Home screen wallpapers
- Gmail settings
- Apps installed through Google Play (backed up on the Play Store app)
- Display settings (Brightness & Sleep)
- Language & Input settings
- Date & Time
- Third-party app settings & data (varies by app)



You're not done yet. While in *Settings* go to *Accounts* and click on your Google account. You'll see a long list of sync icons covering App data, Calendar, Contacts, Docs, Gmail, Photos, and any other service you can virtually back up. Make sure there's a check in the box next to everything you want backed up. That's it.

But that's not the only backup trick Google has up its sleeve. If you use Google's Music service, all of your tunes will be preserved on Google's servers, even if both your phone and your computer die at the same time. If you have a large music collection, like we do, the initial upload process will take a long time — we're talking days. But once the first upload is done, subsequent albums will upload as they are added to your collection. Your music can then be streamed on up to ten Android devices or to other computers.

## Drag and drop content directly from your device

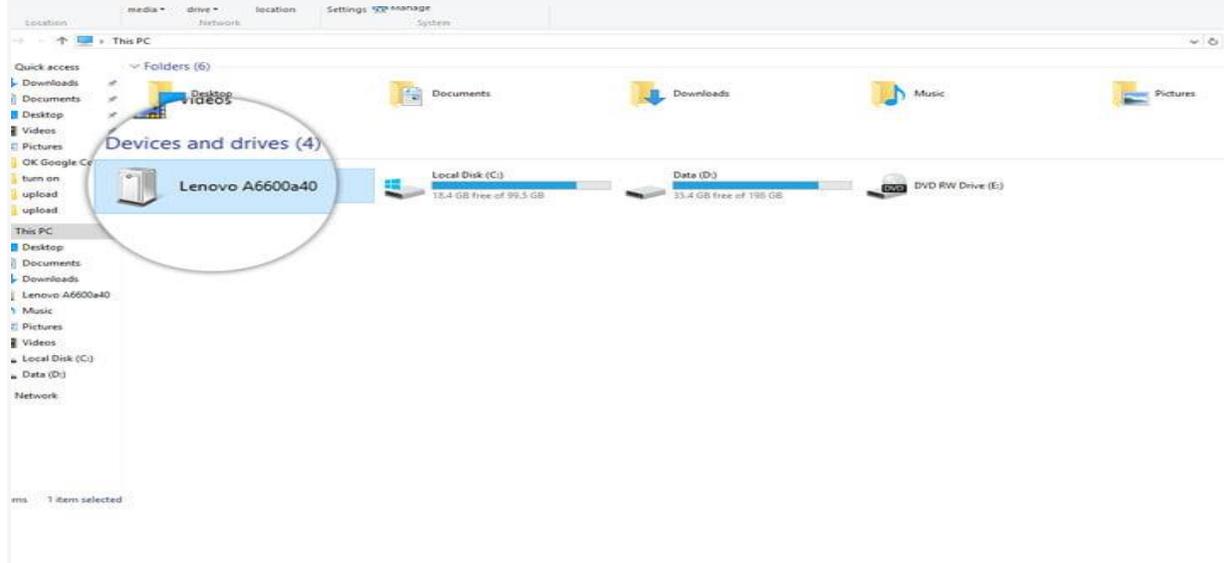


Photos, videos, and music from your Android phone may also be transferred directly to your PC or Mac by plugging your phone into your computer and manually copying the files over to your hard drive. It's not a perfect solution, but it's quick and easy, especially on a PC where Windows will mount it as an external drive and use Media Transfer Protocol.

## What if Windows doesn't detect my smartphone?



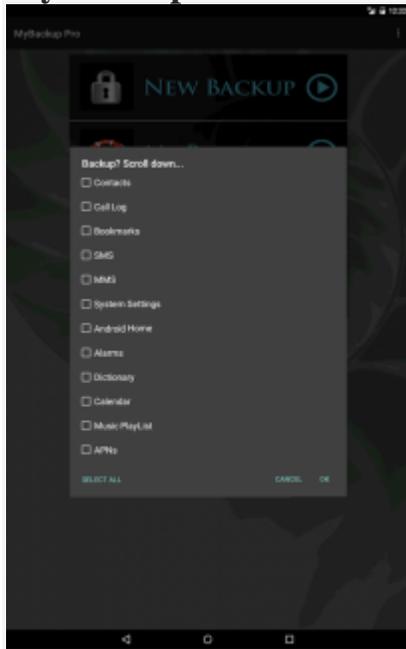
Do you have the correct USB cable? Many users often try to connect their smartphones to their computers with any MicroUSB cable they have lying around, but this may be the reason why your smartphone isn't showing up in Windows. In the picture above, for example, the third-party cable on the left is only able to charge an Android smartphone. The official LG MicroUSB cable on the right, however, is able to get the USB connection notification to appear in the notification area.



Once done, your smartphone will be listed in the Windows File Explorer as one of your drives. If you're using a Mac, download [Android File Transfer](#), install the software, and run it upon connecting your phone. It'll start up automatically after that.

## Go with a third-party backup utility

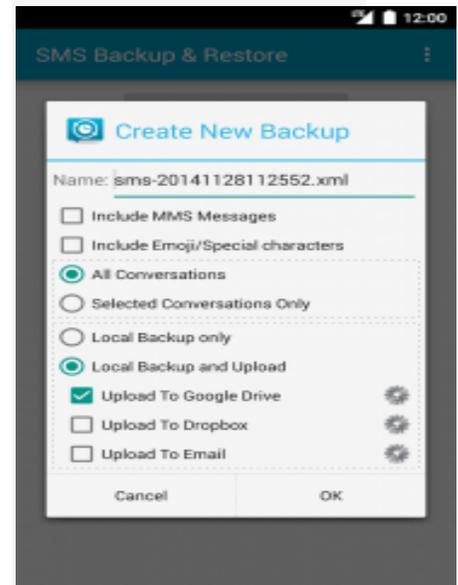
### My Backup Pro



If we were to design a straightforward backup system for Android, it would probably work just like My Backup Pro. Available in the [Google Play Store](#) (\$5), this app backs up everything that's possible to back up without having your phone rooted — photos, app data, browser bookmarks, contacts, system settings, home screen shortcuts, alarms, calendars, MMS messages, SMS messages, music, and more. The app allows you to schedule backups at convenient times, like when you're sleeping, and saves the backup files either to the MicroSD card in your phone or to the cloud, making your data instantly accessible at the [My Backup Pro site](#). If your phone dies or if you move to a new phone, use My Backup Pro's software to restore all of your settings, data, and apps in a single session.

### SMS Backup & Restore

Want to preserve every last drunken text message for posterity? [SMS Backup & Restore](#) is a free app that integrates with your email account, Google Drive, or Dropbox to back up your SMS messages in XML format. You can store backups on your computer and send them via email. It's possible to view and restore your messages selectively, or all at once. You can also use the app to schedule regular backups.



## Use your device manufacturer's software

Near enough every smartphone manufacturer out there offers some kind of backup solution for your device. Most of them are shifting away from computer-based backups to easy switching apps that let you port across your contacts, photos, messages, and the rest. Here's a list of some of the options:

- [Samsung Smart Switch](#)
- [LG Backup](#)
- [Sony Xperia Transfer](#)
- [HTC Backup](#)
- [Motorola Migrate](#)

If you have rooted your Android device, then you should have a look at [Titanium Backup](#). It's a powerful backup tool that's packed with power-user features.

## HOW TO BACK UP YOUR IOS/APPLE SMARTPHONE) IPHONE, IPAD, IPOD TOUCH)

If you back up your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, you'll have a copy of your information to use in case your device is ever replaced, lost, or damaged.

### Choose a backup method

Before you get started, [learn the difference between making backups with iCloud and iTunes](#) and choose the method that's best for you. In case you ever need an alternative backup, you can make one in iCloud and another in iTunes.



[Use iCloud](#)



[Use iTunes](#)

## How to back up with iCloud

1. [Connect your device to a Wi-Fi network.](#)
2. Go to Settings > [your name], and tap iCloud. If you're using iOS 10.2 or earlier, go to Settings, then scroll down and tap iCloud.



3. Tap iCloud Backup. If you're using iOS 10.2 or earlier, tap Backup. Make sure that iCloud Backup is turned on.



4. Tap Back Up Now. Stay connected to your Wi-Fi network until the process completes.
5. Make sure that the backup finished: Go to Settings > [your name] > iCloud > iCloud Storage > Manage Storage, then select your device. If you're using iOS 10.2 or earlier, go to Settings > iCloud > Storage > Manage Storage, then select your device. The backup should appear in the details with the time and backup size.

[Get help making a backup](#) or [manage your available space in iCloud](#).

## Automatically back up with iCloud Backup

To let iCloud automatically back up your device each day, here's what you need to do:

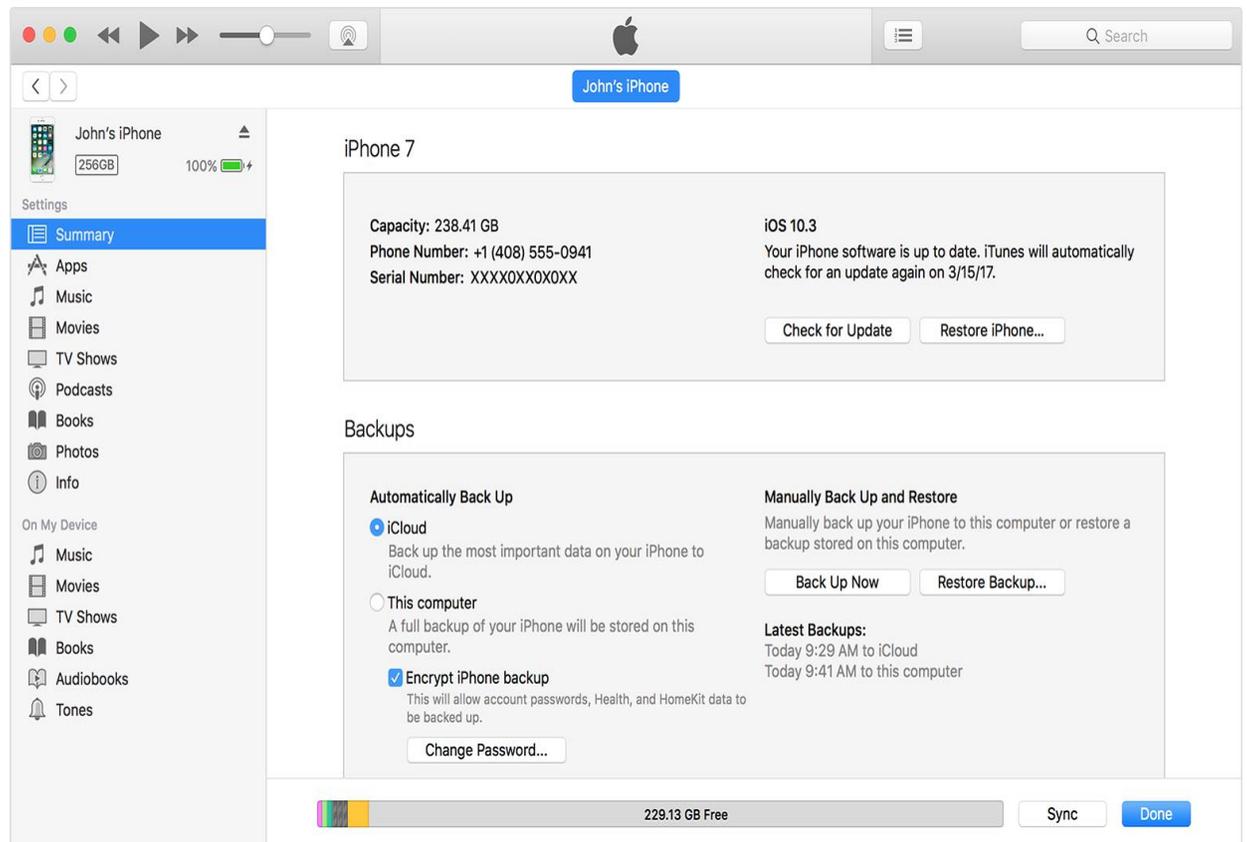
- Make sure that iCloud Backup is turned on in Settings > [your name] > iCloud > iCloud Backup. If you're using iOS 10.2 or earlier, go to Settings > iCloud > Backup.
- Connect your device to a power source.
- Connect your device to [a Wi-Fi network](#).
- Make sure that your device's screen is locked.
- Check that you have [enough available space in iCloud](#) for the backup. When you sign in to iCloud, you get 5GB of iCloud storage for free. If you need more iCloud storage, you can buy more from your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac. Plans start at 50GB for \$0.99 (USD) a month. [Learn more about prices](#) in your region.

## How to back up with iTunes

1. Open iTunes and connect your device to your computer.
2. If a message asks for your device passcode or to Trust This Computer, follow the onscreen steps. If you forgot your passcode, [get help](#).
3. [Select your iPhone, iPad, or iPod](#) when it appears in iTunes. If your device doesn't appear in iTunes, [learn what to do](#).
4. If you want to save Health and Activity data from your iOS device or Apple Watch, you need to [encrypt your backup](#): Select the box called Encrypt [device] backup and create a memorable password.

**Write down your password and store it somewhere safe, because there's no way to recover your iTunes backups without this password.**

If you don't need to save your Health and Activity data, you can make a backup that isn't encrypted. Just click Back Up Now



5. After the process ends, you can see if your backup finished successfully in iTunes Preferences > Devices. (If you're using iTunes for Windows, choose Edit > Preferences > Devices from the menu bar at the top of the iTunes window.) You should see the name of your device with the date and time that iTunes created the backup. If you encrypted your backup, you should

also see  beside the name of your device.

Devices Preferences

General Playback Sharing Downloads Store Restrictions **Devices** Advanced

Device backups:

John's iPhone 	Today 9:41 AM
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Delete Backup

Prevent iPods, iPhones, and iPads from syncing automatically

iTunes is not paired with any Remotes Forget All Remotes

 Cancel OK