



## GrapheneOS Quick Start Reference GrapheneGoat.com

Thank you for purchasing a GrapheneOS device from us, this is a quick overview of the default applications that are installed on your phone, unless otherwise specified. First, know that you can easily install any app that you wish, as GrapheneOS is simply a hardened Android phone. Any Android app can be used, with a very tiny exception of some banking apps. Most banking apps will function, however some have reported issues with the phone not passing hardware attestation for a specific banking app, this is only a small handful of banks so test yours to ensure it does function if you need mobile banking.

We do recommend that you try and avoid proprietary apps (Facebook, Google apps, TikTok, etc) as these are very intrusive. However know that even if you do require a proprietary app, it is still far better to do so on GrapheneOS than a stock Google Android, since the app will have no permissions other than what you allow it. On regular Androids, these apps have a ton of extra permissions built in that you cannot disable reliably. GrapheneOS gives you full control of the device and is extremely hardened, but we still recommend that you avoid installing anything proprietary where possible for maximum privacy, if that is your goal.

The apps installed have all been chosen as better alternatives to the common software on regular devices, but anything you don't wish to use, simply delete from the phone. We error on putting too many apps on the phone, as it is easier to simply remove the ones you don't want. This gives you exposure to the recommended apps however, as many are not aware of this new open source software ecosystem. Using open source apps means that the code is visible and there is full transparency of what the app is programmed to do, unlike proprietary apps that we have to blindly trust.

To get apps on your device, you could still install **Google Play Store** and download from there normally, however using **Aurora Store** provides the exact same apps, but without using Google directly. **Fdroid** is a better place to start, it is an app store with only Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) apps that are generally safe to install and use. The native GrapheneOS App Store app has only limited software in it currently, but is also an option. You may also install apps directly as an **APK** but you should only install these if you fully trust the source (Signal from Signal.com, Telegram from Telegram.org, etc). **Obtanium** is another good place to get apps directly from their source and is considered generally safe. There are other repositories or app stores out there, but these mentioned here are more than enough to get everything that you need, in the most private way possible.

One important thing if you do require proprietary apps, some will work fine as is on GrapheneOS, but some apps (Google Maps for instance) won't work unless you enable Google Play services on your device. Test the app first to see if it works without Google Play services. For apps that do require it, go to the **App Store** on GrapheneOS and enable Google Play services, this will allow the app to function normally. We recommend using Private Space for any apps that do require Google Play services. Also note that in most cases, for any proprietary apps, you can login using a browser on the phone, rather than installing the app, this is a much less intrusive way to use the service, with a moderate trade off in convenience.

### Private Space

This feature is available and is highly recommended if you do need to install any proprietary apps such as banking, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc. Private Space is like a whole new profile on the phone that is separate from your main profile, apps within this space cannot see or talk to apps in your main profile.

To enable this, visit Settings > Security & Privacy > Private Space and follow the prompts. You do not need to sign into Google here, but you can if you need to for any reason (paid applications).

### **Getting Phone Service**

Many wish to keep their existing cell service provider and number, this is a very easy transfer of the physical SIM card to the new GrapheneOS device, it will start working immediately. For eSIM, you will need to login to your provider account and register the new device (usually by scanning a QR code with your new phone) which will usually register on the network and be ready to use within about 2 minutes. For those that need a completely new number and/or service, select a provider and create an account to purchase an eSIM, and follow their instructions for setting up your new device. Use alias information for maximum privacy, we recommend using an MVNO (non-standard carrier) which rents towers from the standard carriers (Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile). Mint Mobile, US Mobile, Patriot Mobile, Tello, Redpocket, Helium Mobile are all MVNO providers, whichever one you choose will work on GrapheneOS.

### **Making the Transition**

Most of you will benefit from getting your new GrapheneOS device up and running alongside of your current cell phone and go through a period of time using both phones, until fully transitioned onto your new device. This avoids a lot of the anxiety and allows you to get whatever task done no matter what, until you are fully comfortable and transitioned over to the new device. To avoid paying for an additional SIM card for the new phone, you can simply turn on your current phone's WiFi hotspot, and connect your GrapheneOS phone to it via WiFi. This is the easiest, cheapest and most effective method to gradually make the transition, don't try to do everything at once, it just means you'll be carrying around two cell phones for a few days, a few weeks, or however long it takes you. This is a good opportunity to audit the apps that you actually need, and remove the rest of the clutter. It's also a good method if you wish to establish a work phone and a personal phone separate from each other which is good practice.

## **Applications and brief description**

### **Aurora Store**

Front end for the Google Play Store, find any app here, use the Anonymous account only, unless you must use a paid app, in that case you will need to sign in using your Google account credentials

### **Fdroid**

FOSS repository or app store with over 4,000 apps, generally safe to download and use

### **Vanadium**

This is the stock browser only available on GrapheneOS, this is the recommended default browser to use. Adjust the search engine (DuckDuckGo by default) to your engine of choice.

### **Brave Browser**

Additional browser, while Vanadium is the preferred, having multiple browsers allows you to do browser isolation, and to help organize various tasks and searches. Sometimes certain websites will not function with one browser or another, having multiple is very handy should you encounter issues with any site.

### **Tor Browser**

This can search the regular internet, but also has Tor network access for searching the dark web. This adds a very good layer of anonymity to your searches and is an excellent choice to use for more privacy

### **Comaps**

This is a fork of **Organic Maps**, a Google Maps alternative. Comaps is preferred since they are more committed to privacy and keeping the app free and open source. It is not as good as Google Maps, but is plenty good enough normally. Google tracks every device continuously which gives them a massive dataset to use for enhancing their mapping app, but Comaps uses OpenStreetMap data and does not track you at all, this is one of the bigger changes you will experience with this phone. One other benefit is that you can download all of the map data for your state or area, giving you fully offline mapping for when there is no internet. If you must have Google Maps, we recommend installing it in Private Space. Other good map applications include **Magic Earth** (not open source) or **OsmAnd**

### **Proton Suite**

We install the full suite of Proton apps. **Proton Mail**, **Proton VPN**, **Proton Calendar**, **Proton Drive**, **Proton Pass** (password manager), **Proton Authenticator** (Two Factor Authentication app) and **Proton Lumo** (private AI search). Proton cannot see your AI queries, so it is safe to use as opposed to regular AI. Proton also has a self custody Bitcoin crypto wallet called **Proton Wallet**. Other VPN's we recommend are **Mullvad VPN** and **IVPN**, we do not recommend any others

### **Ente Auth**

This is another Two Factor Authentication app, we strongly encourage you to enable 2FA on all of your accounts, and use Proton Authenticator or Ente Auth to manage your 2FA software tokens

### **Thunderbird**

This is an email client app, you can import any existing email account that you control into Thunderbird to manage your email, rather than downloading Google Gmail or Yahoo Mail, etc

### **Signal**

A fully open source, end to end encrypted messenger app allowing for text, voice and video calls and file sharing. This is the preferred messenger app, rather than using SMS text messages. Other good messenger apps include **SimpleX** and **Session**

### **Breezy**

A very simple but beautiful user interface for checking the weather without any tracking

### **Standard Notes**

This is one of the best note taking application out there, it is fully end to end encrypted, and much like Proton's products, it is zero knowledge encryption, meaning even Standard Notes cannot see any of the data you enter or store in your notes. Syncs across all devices and platforms for easy access

### **Auxio and VLC**

Auxio is a simple music player for playing local media files. You can restrict its storage by enabling 'Storage Scopes' and only allow it access to your Music folder for example for best security. VLC is an excellent full featured app for playing just about any type of audio or video media

### **LibreOffice Viewer**

Easily view any LibreOffice or Microsoft Office products on your phone. If you need to edit, consider installing **Collabora Office** directly from their site or from Aurora Store

### **FreeTube**

This is a YouTube front end for watching videos without signing in or touching YouTube directly. FreeTube strips out all of the ads and allows you to download videos also

### **PipePipe**

This is another YouTube front end that works very well, it is a fork of NewPipe. **BraveNewPipe** is another app (available as an APK from Github) that has not only YouTube, but Rumble and Bitchute functionality built in. All versions strip out ads and allow for video download. **Grayjay** is another alternative available directly from their site, and **Clipious** is yet another for watching YouTube

### **Fossify Voice Recorder**

Simple audio recording app

### **Jami**

This is a Zoom like app that is free to use and doesn't record your video calls like Zoom does. Requires an account but you can use anonymous information for maximum privacy

### **Fairscan**

A simple document to PDF scanner without any tracking

### **Crypto Wallets (Not installed)**

**Cake Wallet, Proton Wallet, Stack Wallet and Kraken Wallet** are the better FOSS wallets

### **VOIP Phone Service (Not installed)**

Voice over Internet Protocol is a way to have additional phone numbers for calls and texting on your device. The services we recommend are **MySudo, Voip.ms** and **Cloaked**

If you are unsure if an app is safe to install and use or not, search for the app in Exodus, this will give you an accurate description of all of the trackers and permissions for any given app:

<https://reports.exodus-privacy.eu.org/en/>

For more information and resources, visit our site for tons of free content to help you unplug from the matrix and begin a better, more private and secure digital life:

[GrapheneGoat.com](https://graphengoat.com)

For security during transit, your phone is protected with a custom PIN, please email us if you did not already receive your PIN code upon ordering. For any other support or questions, please contact us at:

[support@graphengoat.com](mailto:support@graphengoat.com)