

How to install the Privacy Friendly Apps from F-Droid instead of the Google Play Store

As we are unable to provide updates to our apps on the Google Play Store you will have to use F-Droid to receive future update. These instructions should help you to transition to F-Droid without losing any of your data.

Here are the instructions on how to install our apps from F-Droid instead of the Google Play Store. These steps may vary slightly depending on the device you're using.

Step 1: Install F-Droid Store

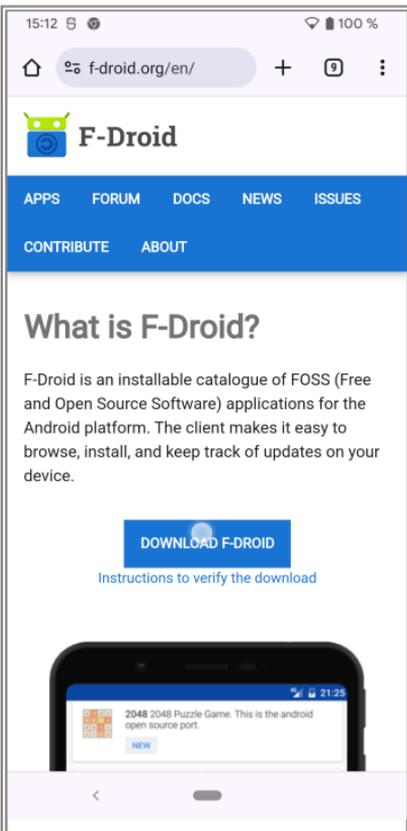
To install our apps from F-Droid, you need to download and install the F-Droid app store:

Open the F-Droid website on your phone by clicking on this link or scanning the QR code:

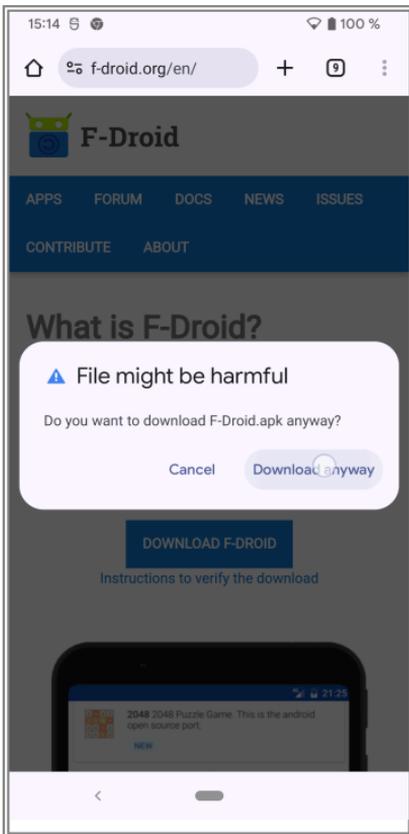


<https://f-droid.org/>

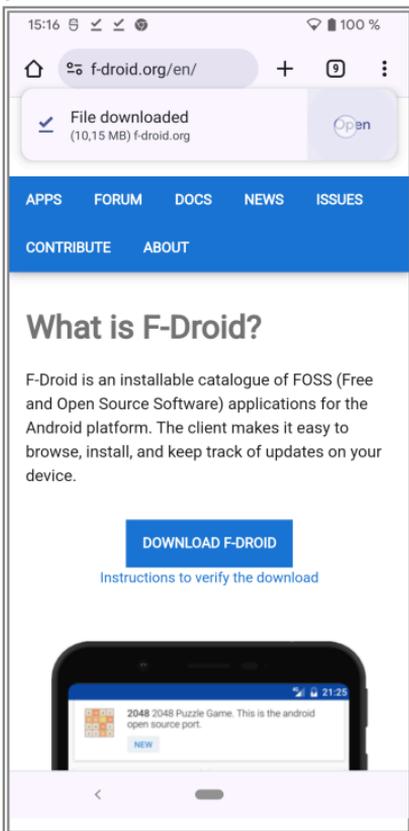
Tap "Download F-Droid" to download the app.



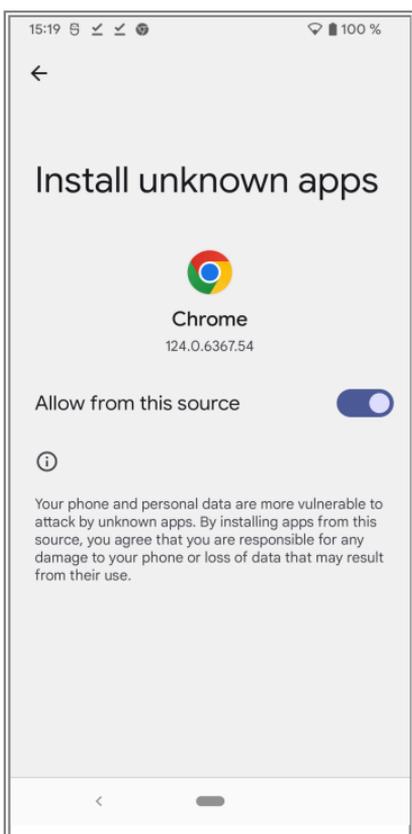
You might get a warning that downloading this file might be harmful. Click on "Download anyway"



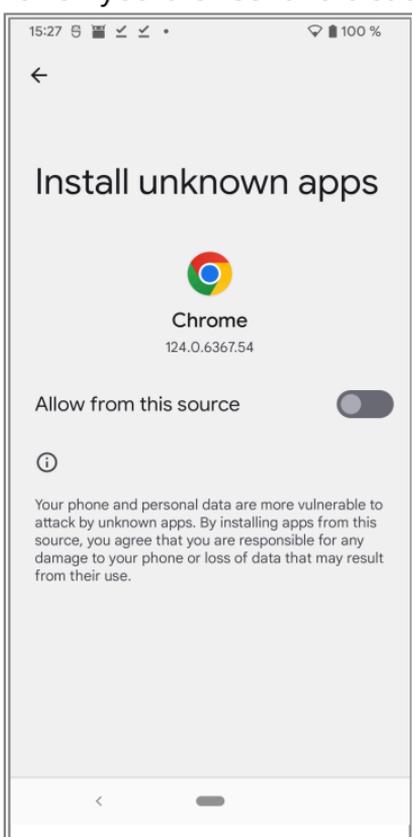
Open the downloaded file.



You might get a warning about installing unknown apps from this source. Please click on "Settings" and grant permission to install external apps from your browser.



You should now be able to finish the installation of the F-Droid app. After installation you can disable the setting for unknown apps from your browser again. Got to Settings and search for "Install unknown apps". Click on you browser and disable the permission.



Step 2: Backup Your Data

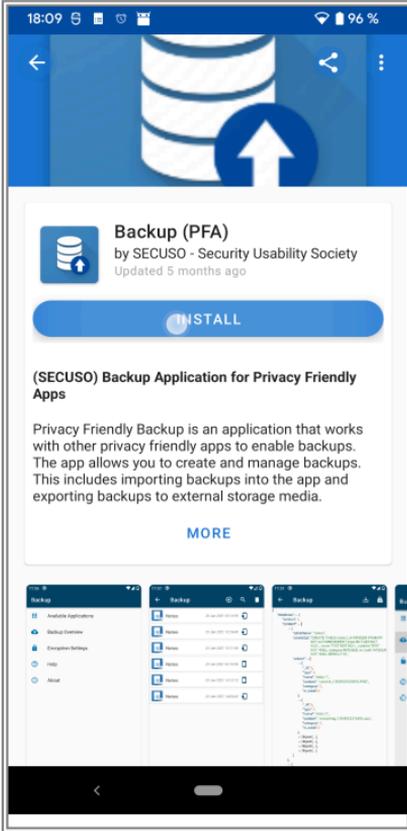
Before uninstalling the apps from the Google Play Store, it is essential to backup your data to prevent losing any important information.

Step 2.1: Download and install the "Backup (PFA)" app from the F-Droid Store:

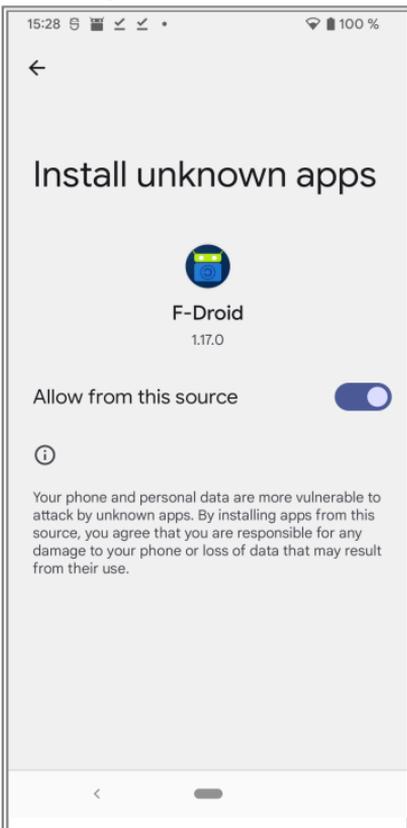


<https://f-droid.org/packages/org.secuso.privacyfriendlybackup/>

Tap "Install" to download and install the app.

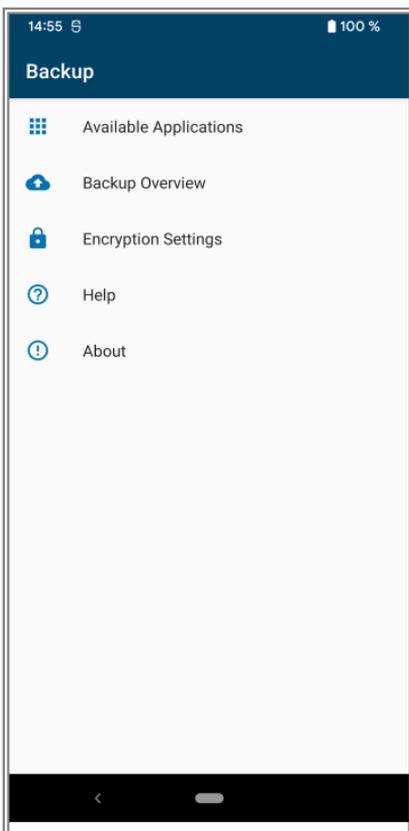


You will be asked if you want to allow installing apps from F-Droid. Please enable this option as previously done for your browser.

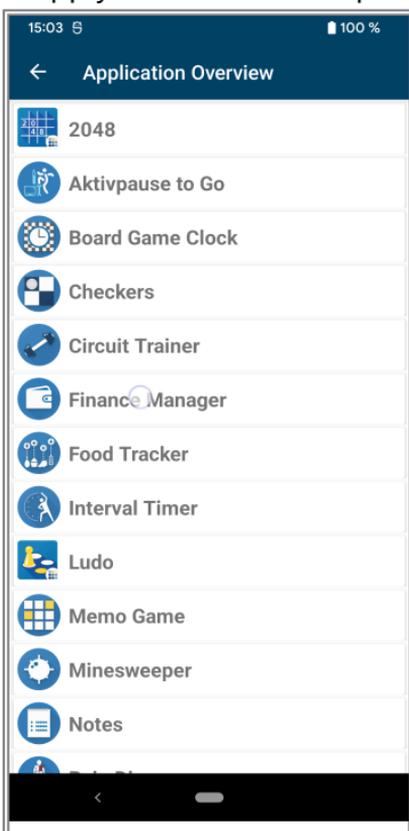


Step 2.2: Create Backups for the PFAs

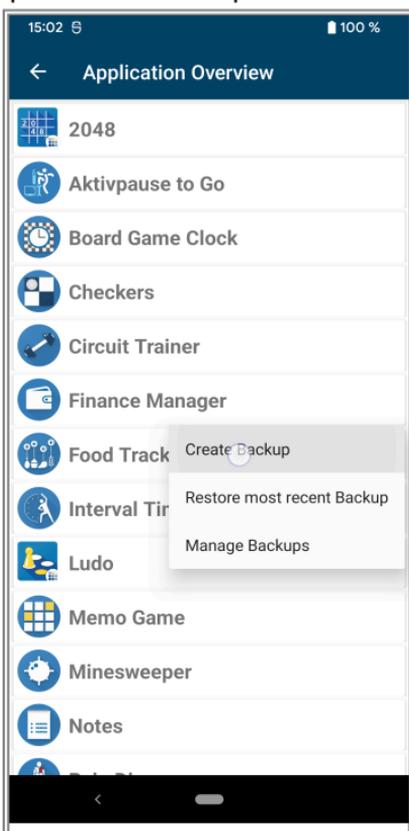
After installation, open the Backup app.



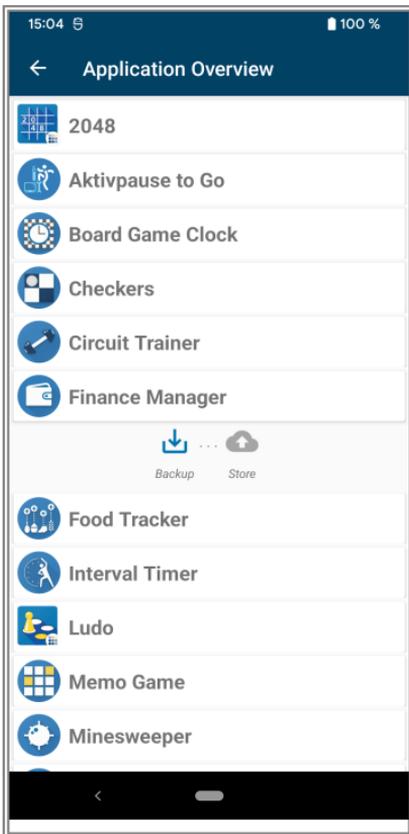
Click on "Available Applications" and create a backup for each of our apps that you want to backup: Click on the app you want to backup.



Tap "Create Backup".



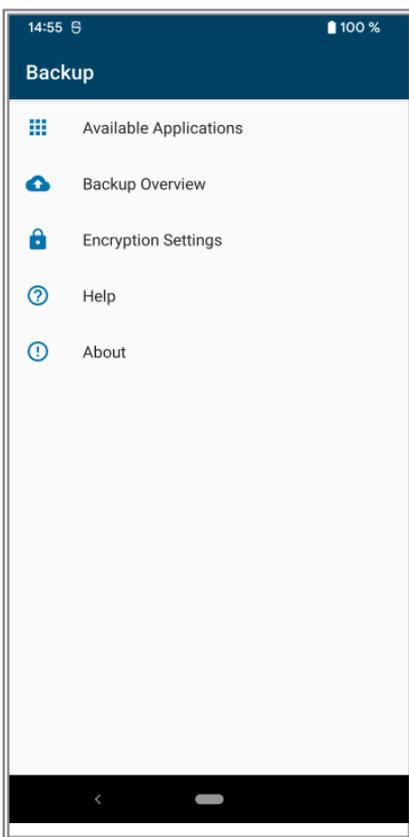
Wait for the backup process to finish (all icons should turn green and disappear).



Repeat this process for every app you want to back up. A list of all apps we currently support is available here: github.com/SecUSo/privacy-friendly-backup.

Step 2.3: Check your backups

To check if all backups were successful go back to the main screen of the backup app.

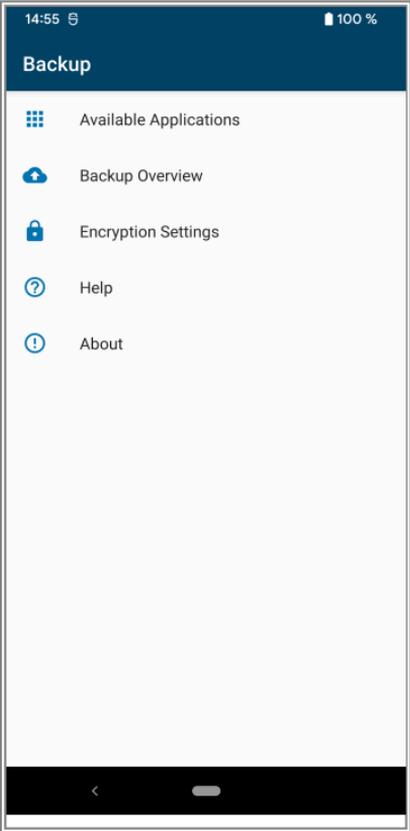


Click on "Backup Overview". Here you should see at least one entry for every app you backed up with its creation date.

⚠️ If one of the apps for which you want to create a backup is missing, do not continue. Try the steps from 2.2 again to create a new backup of the app. If this is again unsuccessful, feel free to contact us at pfa-backup@secuso.org. If you can attach a screenshot of the backup process from step 2.2, this would help us to resolve the problem.

Step 2.4: Export your backups

Let's export all your backups you just created into a single file that you can save on an other device to be extra sure that you don't loose any data. Navigate back to to main screen of the backup app.



Click on "Backup Overview" Click on any backup and select "Export"



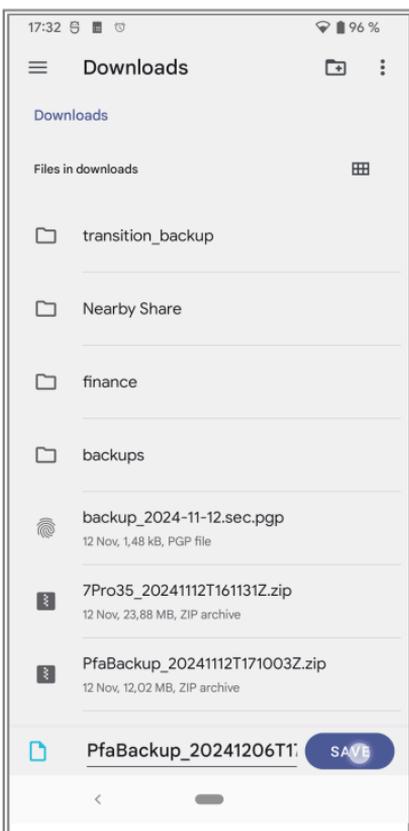
Select all backups you want to export



Click on the green Export button and confirm that you want to export the backups.



Select a folder where you want to save the backup and click on "Save"



Wait until you see the message "Export complete"



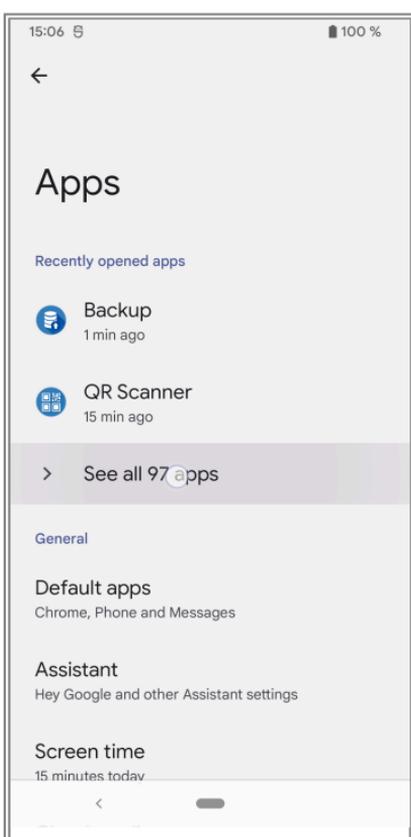
You can now copy this file to a separate device if you want to. It contains all your backed up data.

Step 3: Uninstall Apps from Google Play Store

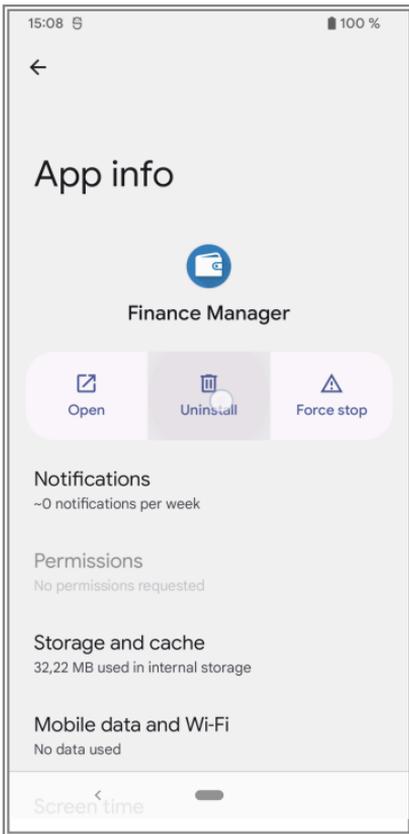
⚠️ DO NOT UNINSTALL THE BACKUP APP OR YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR DATA ⚠️

Now that your data is backed up, you can uninstall all of our apps **EXCEPT** the Backup App.

Go to your device's Settings > Apps.



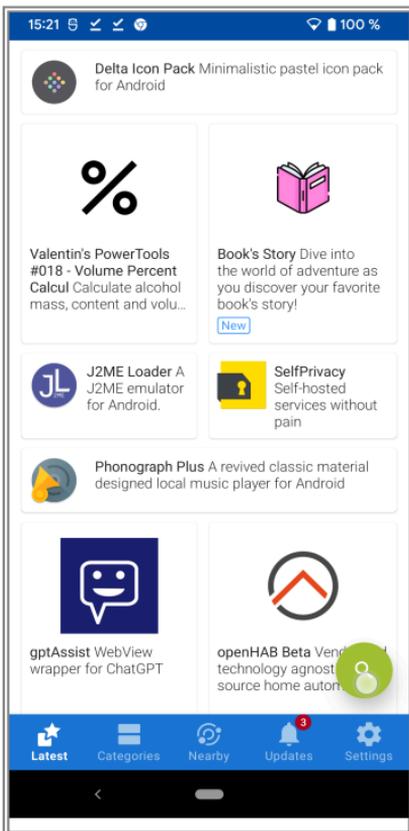
Find each of our apps and tap "Uninstall".



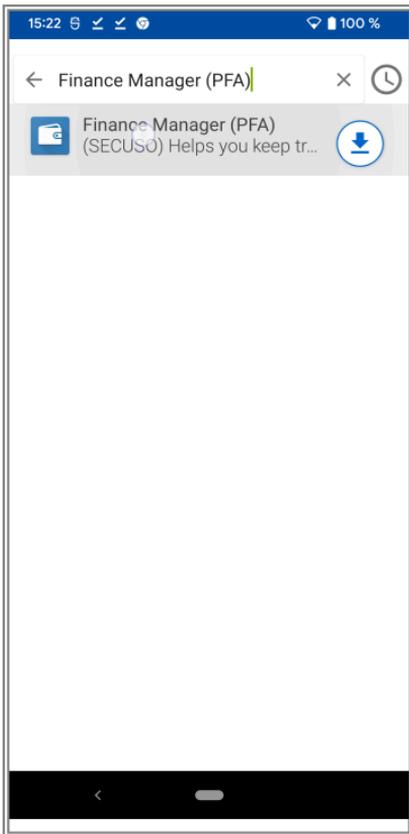
Step 4: Install Our Apps from F-Droid

Now you can install our apps from the F-Droid store:

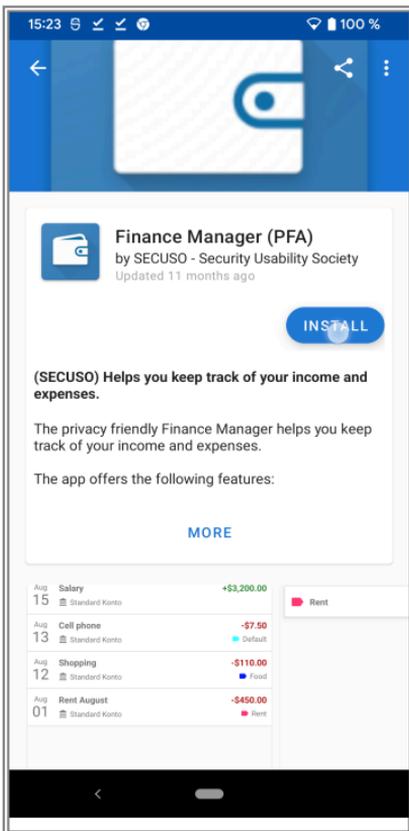
Open the F-Droid app on your device. Tap the magnifying glass symbol to search for an app.



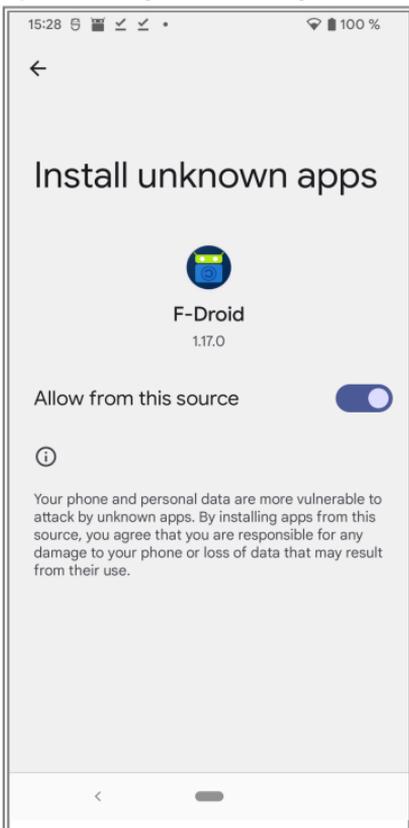
Search for each of our apps you want to install and tap on the result.



Tap "Install" to download and install the app.



You might get asked again if you want to allow installing apps from F-Droid. Please enable this option as previously done for your browser.

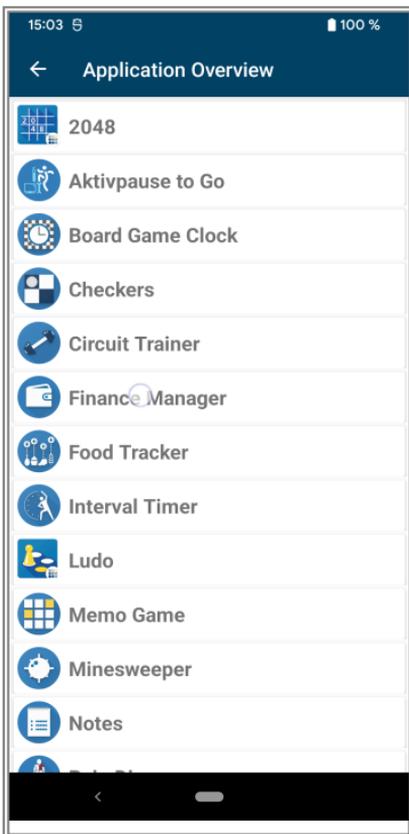


You might also get an other prompt by your device if you really want to install the app. Repeat these steps for all of our apps you want to install.

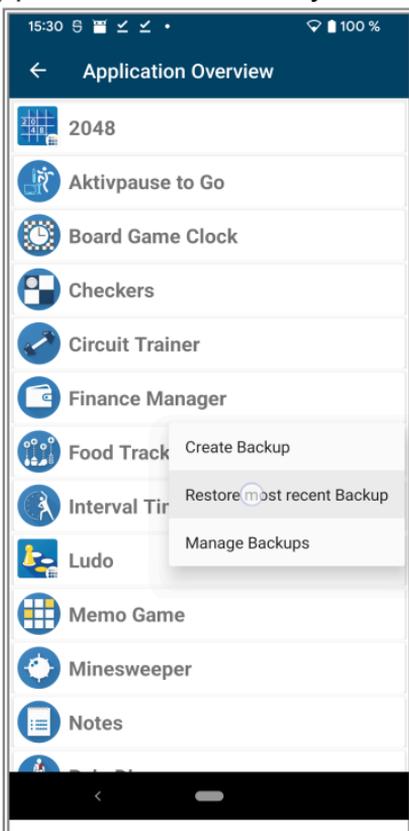
Step 5: Recover Your Data

After installing all of our apps, you can recover your data:

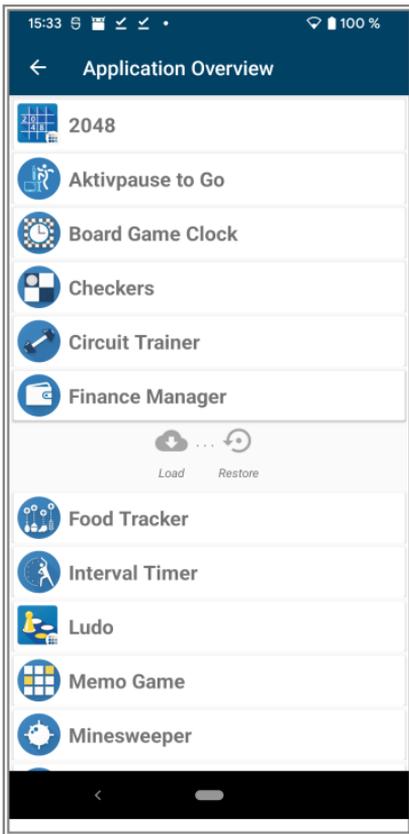
Open the Backup App again and navigate to the "Available Applications" screen.



For each app, tap on the app and then "Restore most recent Backup". This will override all data inside the app with the data from your most recent backup.



Wait for the restore process to finish (all icons should turn green and disappear).



Open each app to check if everything was restored correctly.