

Don't let **cybercriminals** take control of your phone

What is an APK?

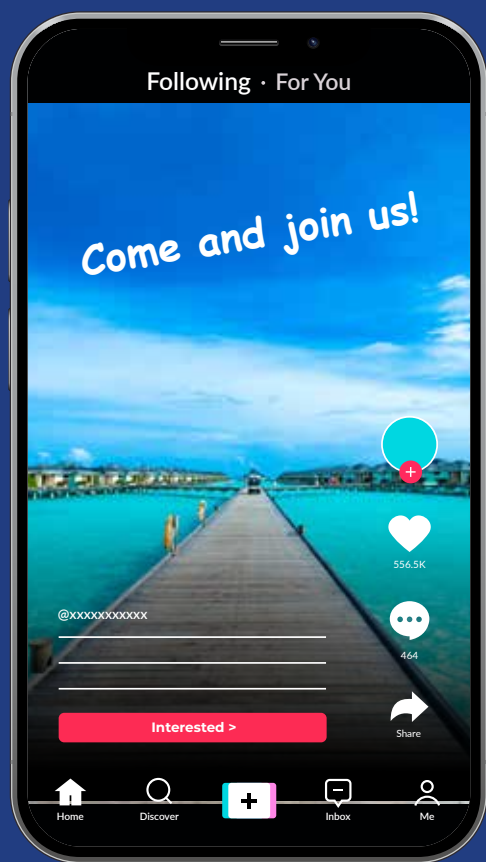
An Android Package Kit (APK) is a file used to install an app on Android devices. Some APK files may contain harmful software (i.e. malware) that can infect your phone.

Once malware is installed, cybercriminals may take control of your phone, access your accounts to make unauthorised transactions, steal your personal information or money.



How the Malware-Enabled Scam Works

1. Cybercriminals may use online channels to promote fake offers that are attractive and claiming to represent legitimate organisations and collect your personal information. These can come in the form of fake websites, social media ads and unsolicited WhatsApp messages.



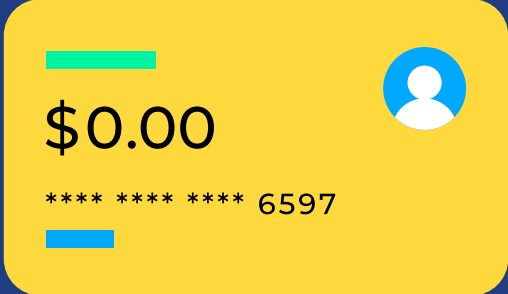
2. After providing your personal information, cybercriminals may reach out and try to trick you to install an APK file. They may ask you to click on an unknown link and download an app for more details about the offer.

You will then be guided through the installation process and instructed to grant the app certain permissions which will enable the cybercriminal to gain remote access to your phone.

In some cases, cybercriminals may impersonate government officials and walk victims through disabling their phone security features.



3. Once cybercriminals gain remote access, victims may notice suspicious activities on their phones, such as unfamiliar changes to their apps or accounts, and may suffer monetary losses.



For illustrative purposes only. Any resemblance to actual applications or services is coincidental and unintended.

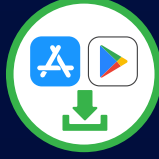
Tips to secure your device



Never download APK files from links in messages, emails and social media platforms



Enable Google Play Protect on your device and never disable it. Disable “Install Unknown Applications” or “Unknown Sources” in your phone settings



Download apps from official app stores such as Google Play Store (Android) or Apple App Store (iOS)



Not sure? Stop and Check with a family member or friend, or call the ScamShield Helpline at 1799