# Connecting as USB Hard Drive

> The Connecting as USB Hard Drive process allows users to physically link their Android handheld device to a desktop computer to access its internal file system. Its primary purpose is to enable the direct transfer, copying, or backup of application data and files (such as local OperationsCommander (OPSCOM) folders) without relying on a network connection. This article is intended for OPSCOM administrators and IT support personnel managing the legacy Android application.

## Setup and Configuration

This procedure relies on the native Android operating system and a physical connection to a desktop computer.

**User Side (Enforcement Staff):** The handheld device requires a physical USB data cable and must have Developer Options enabled within the Android operating system to allow debugging and mass storage access.

## Using this Feature

To access the device's file system, you must first enable the correct connection mode on the handheld, then navigate the file structure on your desktop computer.

### Enabling Developer Options

If you do not already see a Development option in your settings menu, follow these steps to unhide it:

1. Tap **Settings** from the device's main menu.
2. Scroll down and tap **About phone**.
3. Scroll down to locate **Build number**.
4. Tap **Build number** seven times in rapid succession. A notification will appear confirming that the Developer setting is now unlocked.

## Connecting the Device

1. Tap **Settings**, select **Applications**, tap **Development**, and enable the **USB debugging** checkbox.
2. Plug the USB cable into your desktop computer and connect the other end to your Android device. A USB icon will appear in the device's top status bar.
3. Swipe down from the top edge of the Android device screen to reveal the notification shade.
4. Tap **USB Connected** and select the option to mount the device (e.g., **Connect USB storage** or **Mount**).
5. Tap **Ok** to confirm. The Android icon will change color (typically to orange), indicating the phone is now in USB Mass Storage mode.

## Accessing Files on the Desktop Computer

1. Open the file explorer on your desktop computer and navigate to the connected devices or removable storage section.
2. Click the newly mounted hard drive letter associated with the Android device.

3. Locate and click the **OPSCOM** folder (sometimes labeled **ParkAdmin**) to browse, copy, or transfer the required files.

> **Disable Mass Storage Mode** Turn off USB hard drive mode on the handheld device immediately when you are finished copying files. Leaving this connection active can cause read/write conflicts and operational issues with the OPSCOM software.

## Best Practices and Considerations

- **Use a data-capable cable: Ensure the USB cable you are using supports data transfer.** Some standard charging cables only provide power and will fail to trigger the USB connection prompt on your computer or device.
- **Safely eject the device: Always safely eject the USB drive from your desktop computer's operating system before physically unplugging the cable.** This prevents data corruption within the OPSCOM folders during active file transfers.

## Related Video

https://www.youtube.com/embed/mp07dPusJNA?wmode=opaque



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