

TRANSFERRING IMAGES DIRECTLY FROM AN ANDROID PHONE TO A WINDOWS PC (and an Apple Mac)

General

At the Group Meeting in Oct 2018, it became clear that certain members (including myself), didn't know how to easily transfer images from an Android phone to a Windows PC, and so I set out to prepare a presentation for the November meeting.

Nevertheless, when I gave that presentation, it then became clear that some members could do that already – but couldn't really show fully how they do that, because they said things along the lines of "You are wrong, it's dead easy, I use a cable to do that all the time!" – and yet when they tried to do that by connecting their phones to **my** PC, that still didn't then work for them either, and no-one could understand or explain why!!

However, since the meeting, I have investigated the issue in a bit more depth and the following is what I found, but, before anything else, I would like to put my comments at that meeting into a "historical context": I have had Android phones, as well as Windows PCs, of various types for many years and had never managed to be able to transfer data &/or photos from the former to the latter via a USB cable without (*and after having searched the web quite a lot!*) using the "techie" solution to enable the "Developer Options" and then the "Debug USB" mode. Without doing that, the PC could "see" the Phone in Windows "File Explorer", but could **not see** any of the folders on the Phone or its SD card and thus I could not copy the Phone photo files to the PC!

Therefore, whilst I assumed that there *was* probably a simpler solution, I had never been able to find out what it might be. **In addition**, there are many occasions when one might want to transfer photos (and other files) on a phone to a remote PC (*e.g. when away from home or on holiday*) – and thus a USB cable transfer would not be an option anyway.

Thus my presentation on the day concentrated on using "Cloud Storage", in the form of using Microsoft's "One Drive" &/or Google's "Google Drive" as the intermediate locations to which to upload the photos from the Phone, and then, later, to download them to the relevant PC.

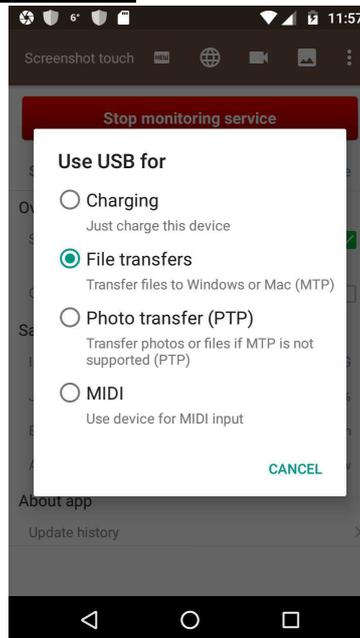
The process will be shown in the 2nd of two PDFs of the presentation which will also soon be on the website page as above, and one member (*who has previously found that cable transfers don't work for him either!*) has now told me that, after having followed the instructions given, he has successfully transferred a photo from his phone to his PC via "One Drive".

Further investigations with my Android Phone

After the meeting, I thought I'd have another go at trying to find out what was/was not happening with attempts at cable transfers, and maybe to fix it if I could – and **I did**, although I suspect that it was more by luck than judgement as what then happened was something that I have never seen (*or at least noticed*) in years of trying!

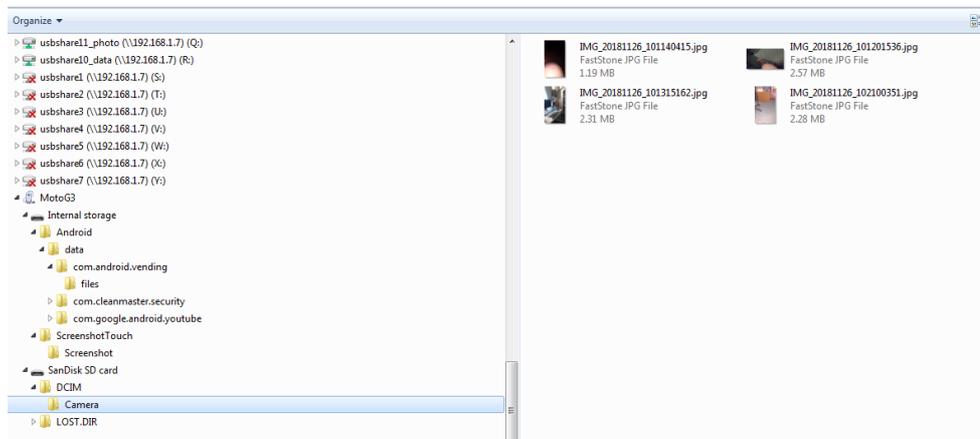
Here, then, is what happened:

- Switched on and booted up the PC to the "desktop"
- The Phone had been left on all night, and so I had connected it to a charger for an hour or so, and then I unplugged the cable from the charger and plugged it into the same USB port on the PC as was tried yesterday (and whilst the Phone was itself fully booted up).
- Then, *to my total surprise*, a window entitled "Use USB for", with 4 options, popped up on the Phone (*and which I have never seen before with that or previous phones!*), with the "Charging" one having been selected by default, but which I then changed to "File transfers" as shown below:



However, if that window *doesn't* pop up immediately, then swipe the Notification bar at the top of the Phone screen downwards, and you should then see a Notification “USB for charging”, and so select that that and it should bring up the window as above.

BTW: I could have chosen “Photo Transfer (PTP)” to do that (*but then only that*) but I chose “File transfers” as that allows me to transfer both photos *and other data* from/to the Phone, and so is a bit more useful to me. Then, when I opened Windows Explorer, I could see the Phone and its main folders, including the photo files on the SD card, as below!!



I suspect that the same Options window had popped up at some time for most of those for whom USB cable transfers do already work, but, as they probably only had to make the choice once, they had (quite understandably) forgotten when/why/how they actually did that.

TBH though, I have rarely (*if ever?*) seen any internet references to this “Use USB for” options list – but, *now knowing*, I then did some specific searches for the terms “Android Use USB for” and that throws up quite a lot of links. Many of those are *still* for using the “techie” Developer Options route (!) which does admittedly have its uses, but there are a **few** which explain the “**Use USB for**” route – including this one <https://www.techadvisory.org/2018/01/android-file-transfer-via-usb-cable/> which tells you how to set it up, and is reproduced on Page 2 of the current document ! 😊

NB: the page ALSO has instructions on how to connect an Android phone to an Apple Mac – so take a look there if you have that combination!

I have thus amended & updated the PPT for my presentation to include the relevant information, and get that onto the website as a PDF under the title “Transferring Phone Photos to a Windows PC, V2.pdf”

<https://www.techadvisory.org/2018/01/android-file-transfer-via-usb-cable/>

By [Editor](#) | Published: January 17, 2018

There are many different ways to transfer files between Android phones and computers; however, most of these methods require an internet connection on both the phone and the computer during the process. So, if you are about to be off the grid for quite some time or would just rather transfer files without the internet, here's how you can do just that with your trusty USB cable:

What you need:

- Your Android phone
- A computer with a USB port
- A USB cable

What you need to do:

If you have a Windows computer...

- Start by plugging your phone into the computer via USB port.
- Turn on your phone's screen and unlock the device. At this point, your Android device should only be connected for charging. Swipe down from the top of your screen and tap on **USB for charging** to view more options.
- Select **Transfer files** in the menu that appears.
- On your computer, search for your Android device on the **File Explorer**. Click on the icon that represents your phone and you should be directed to your phone's internal storage.
- Drag and drop the files or folders into your preferred location, such as the desktop or documents. If you want to save videos and pictures, you can find them in the **DCIM folder**.
- Once you are done, right-click your device's name. Click **Eject** before unplugging the phone and USB cable.

If you have a Mac...

If you're using a Mac desktop or laptop, the first thing you need to do is to download **Android File Transfer**, an official Google app that works on Macs running on OS X 10.5 or later. Afterwards, the process is pretty similar to how it's done on Android, and you can easily transfer files even without an internet connection.

- Download and install [Android File Transfer](#) on your computer.
- Plug your device into your Mac USB port with the USB cable.
- Unlock your phone and swipe down on your screen. Tap on **USB for charging** to view more options.
- Select **Transfer Files**.
- The application should run automatically on your Mac. You can also open the **Mac Finder** or **Spotlight Search** and look for the **Android File Transfer** on the list of programs. Double click the Android drive icon.
- Browse the files and folders on your Android device and transfer files to your computer.
- Once you are done, open the **Finder** sidebar and find your device under **Devices**. Click on **Eject** and unplug the phone and USB cable. You can also go to the desktop and drag your device to the **Trash**.

And voilà! — you've just learned an essential Android skill. Keeping a copy of personal or business data you care about is a task that should not be overlooked, since your valuable information can be wiped out in a matter of seconds due to human error, natural calamity, or unexpected downtime.

Securing a backup of files in your mobile device may be easy peasy, but how do you make all important data in your business devices and computers disaster-proof? Our team can offer regular backup solutions to ensure that your business will be able to weather the storm when it strikes. Call us today to discuss backup options available to your business.

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