



# Android Smartphones 201

class cheat sheet for Loveland Public Library

**Android** is an operating system - a type of software that runs your mobile device. Many devices (brands such as Samsung, Motorola, Alcatel, LG, Huawei, and ZTE) run **different versions** of the Android OS. As such, your device *may look different* than the instructors - or even your neighbors! - even though you both have Android smartphones. However, some settings are universal to all Android phones.

## Tools, Widgets, & Apps

Each of these performs different functions on your phone.

Tools and widgets are different from the apps that you can install on your phone. These are small programs that are included with the Android operating system and usually perform simple functions. You could download an app to do the same things as some tools—a calendar or calculator—if you want something with more features.

*Your icons may look similar to or different than the ones above.*

## Settings and Phone Information

Access helpful information and change the defaults on your phone.

### Settings

- Swipe down from the top of your screen and select the gear icon in the top right corner, or select the gear icon on the home screen of your phone.
- Here you can find a wide variety of settings you can change, as well as the ability to access information about your phone.

### Phone Information

- Under Settings, you should find **Phone Information** as an option. It will likely be at the end of the list of Settings options. Here you can see the phone model number and other helpful information.

## Hierarchy

1. Phone Manufacturer - Who built the phone? Ex. Samsung, Motorola, LG, etc.
2. Service Provider - Who provides call/text/data access? Ex. Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, etc.
3. Operating System - What software system is used to run the phone? Ex. Android, iOS, Windows Phone, etc.





# Android Smartphones for Beginners

class cheat sheet for Loveland Public Library

## Browsers

### Accessing the internet on your phone.

The phone's default internet browsing app should come with the Android OS.

There are also multiple options for 3rd Party Browsers, which you can install through the Google Play app store.

Why download a new browser app if my phone already has one?

There are many advantages to 3rd Party Browsers. The default browser has fewer features than many 3rd party applications, and apps like Firefox can have various privacy measures to keep you safer while browsing.



- **Google Chrome:** Popular, lots of features, syncs easily across platforms



- **Firefox:** Some privacy features, well-maintained



- **Dolphin Browser:** Fast, many special features



- **DuckDuckGo:** Privacy-focused browser, good default search engine

## Files and Storage

### Access helpful information and change the defaults on your phone.

#### Files

- You can access files on your phone in a few different ways. There are various 3rd-party applications that provide a file manager. The phone should also come with a default file manager. You can use it to find, move, delete, and otherwise deal with the pictures, documents, and other files stored on your phone.

#### Storage

- You can find some information about your phone's storage under **Settings**, but there are several types of storage to consider.

## Hierarchy

1. Internal Storage – information is stored on the phone's memory. When you bought your phone, you decided how many gigabytes to buy, 8G, 16G, 32G, etc. Most apps, files, and other items saved on your phone default to this storage location.

2. SD Card – one of the best things about Android phones is being able to add more storage. ASD cards are transferred to a new phones. An SD card fits into a slot on your phone. The SD card can be a small or big as you need and upgraded to bigger sizes.

3. Cloud Storage – is an online storage like Google Drive, One Drive, Amazon, Adobe cloud and several others. Files need to be uploaded to cloud storage then accessed from other devices for downloading.

