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# Block Ads on Android

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## Block Ads on Android

This tutorial details a simple procedure to block ads on Android, both in apps and web browsing, without rooting your smartphone.

To do so, we are going to use **personalDNSfilter** application.

### Setup

Three installation methods are proposed, choose one:

- [Install with Google Play Store](#)
- [Install with F-Droid](#)
- [Manual installation](#)

### Install with Google Play Store

Find and install **personalDNSfilter** on Play Store.

Then continue with [configuration and testing](#).

### Install with F-Droid

F-Droid is a Google Play Store alternative providing only [free](#) and [open source](#) applications.

### Install F-Droid



**Note:** If F-Droid is already installed, please continue with [DNSFilter installation](#).

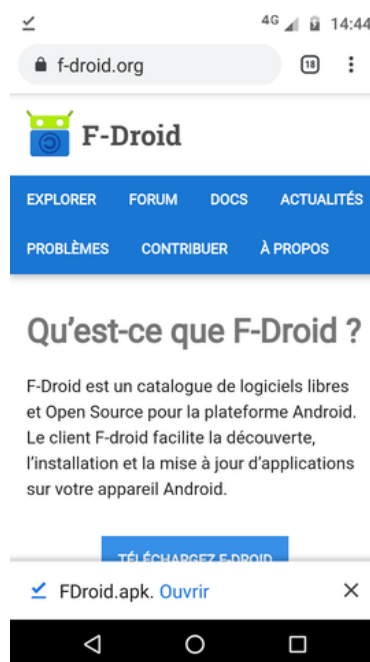
F-Droid is a free/libre app store for Android. It lets you search, install, and update applications.

To install it, visit [the official website](#) or scan this QR code:



**Figure 1:** F-Droid QR-code

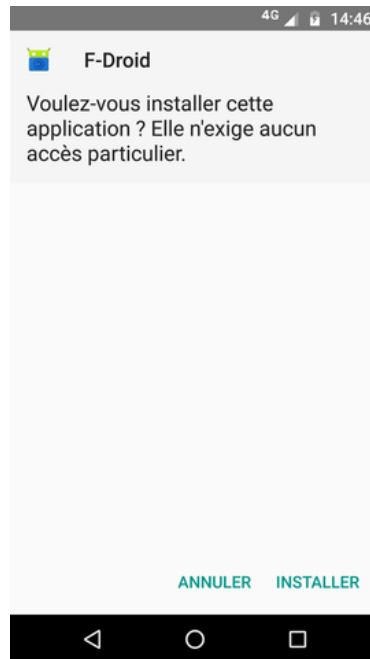
After downloading the package, tap **Open**.



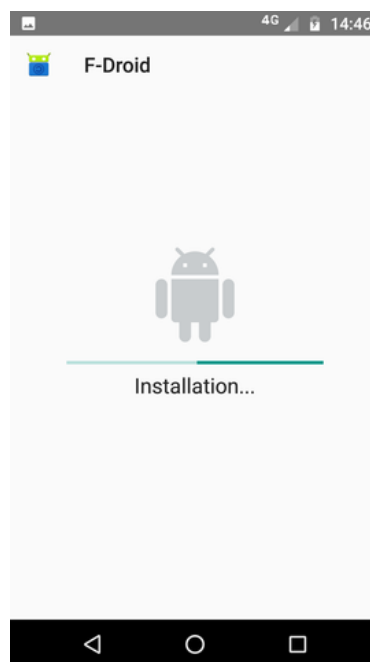
**Figure 2:** Opening F-Droid APK

If you see a message about unauthorized installations from unknown sources, refer to [Appendix A](#) to enable them before continuing.

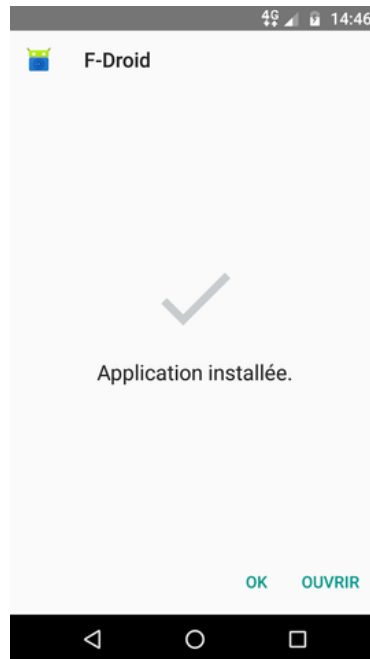
The installer will open - tap **Install**.



**Figure 3:** F-Droid installer

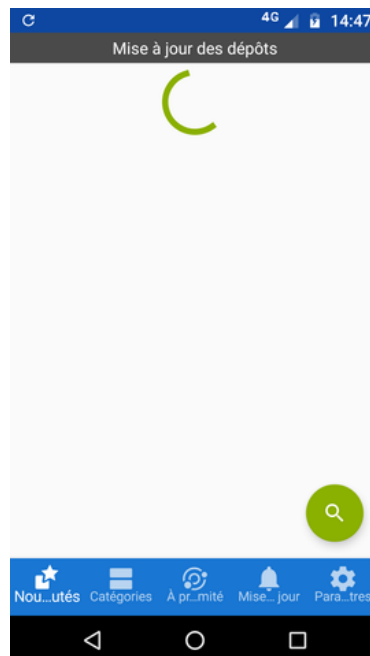


**Figure 4:** F-Droid installation



**Figure 5:** F-Droid installed

Open F-Droid and wait for the app catalog to update.



**Figure 6:** F-Droid updating

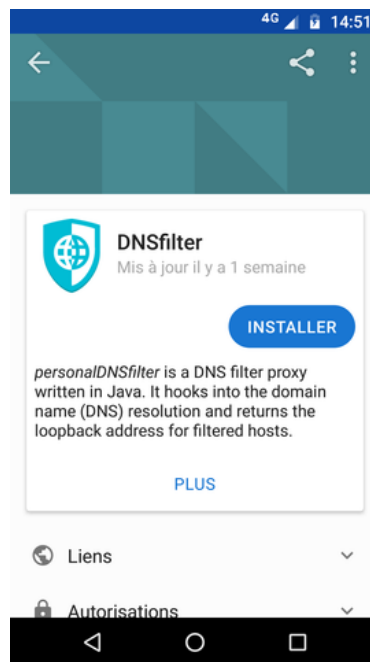
We're now ready to install DNSFilter!

### Install DNSFilter



**Note:** Follow this section if you completed [F-Droid installation](#).

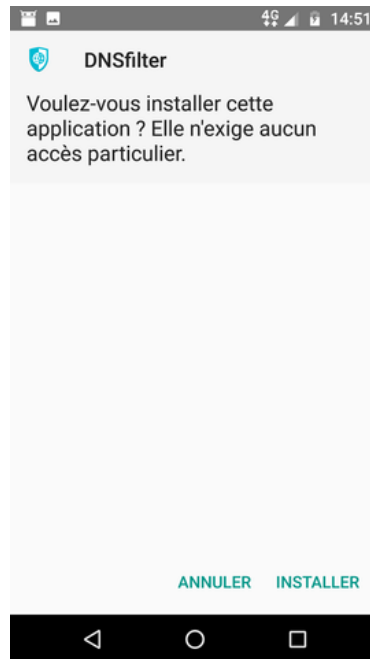
In F-Droid, search for DNSFilter.



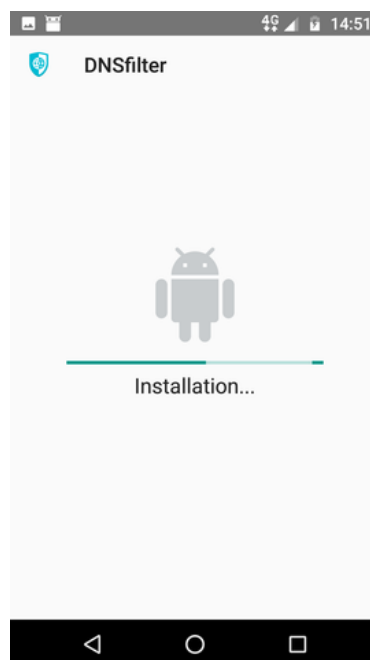
**Figure 7:** DNSFilter in F-Droid

If you see an unknown sources warning, refer to [Appendix A](#).

On the installation screen, tap **Install**.



**Figure 8:** DNSFilter installer



**Figure 9:** DNSFilter installing

Continue to [Configuration and testing](#).

### Manual installation



**Warning:** This is not the recommended method as you will not receive application automatic upgrades.

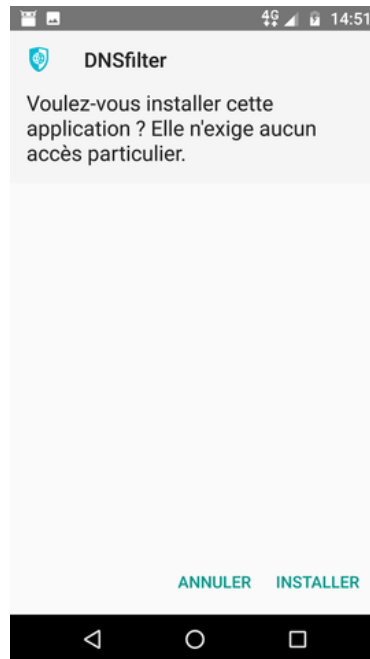
Download the DNSFilter APK directly from: - [Official site](#) or - [F-Droid repository](#)

You can scan this QR code:

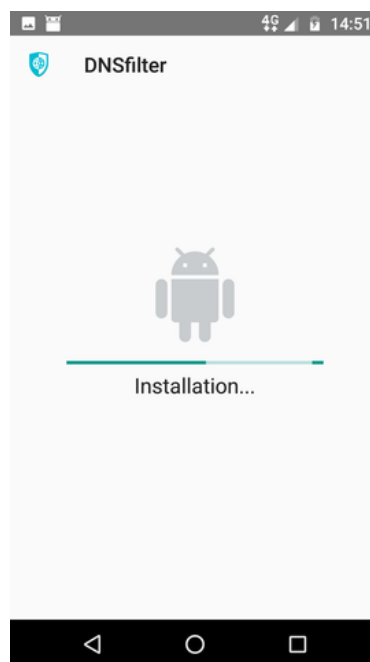


**Figure 10:** DNSFilter QR-code

After downloading, tap **Open** then **Install**.



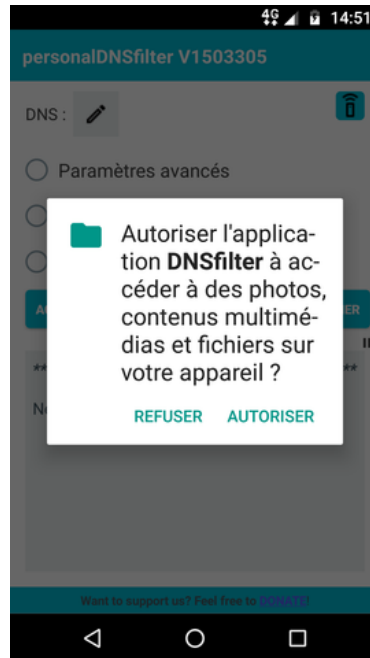
**Figure 11:** DNSFilter installer



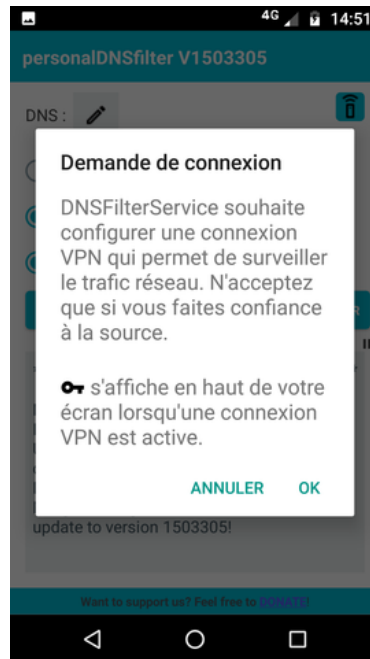
**Figure 12:** DNSFilter installing

## Configuration and Testing

Launch DNSFilter and accept required permissions.

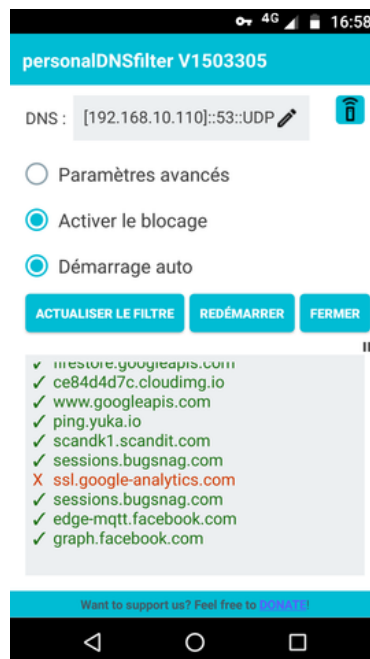


**Figure 13:** Launching DNSFilter



**Figure 14:** DNSFilter VPN permission

When active, DNSFilter shows this screen.

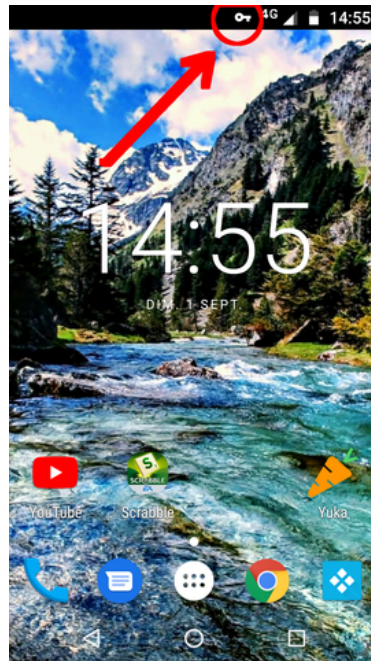


**Figure 15:** DNSFilter active

You can now return to your home screen or switch apps - ad blocking remains active in background.

To disable filtering, use the **Close** button in DNSFilter.

A key icon in the status bar indicates DNSFilter is active.



**Figure 16:** DNSFilter status icon

Test with an app that normally shows many ads to see the difference!

### Block More Ads

To enhance blocking, you can add filter lists like [EasyList](#).

In DNSFilter, go to **Advanced Settings** > **Configure Filter Update**. Add EasyList by editing the *new* item with this URL:

**<https://easylist.to/easylist/easylist.txt>**

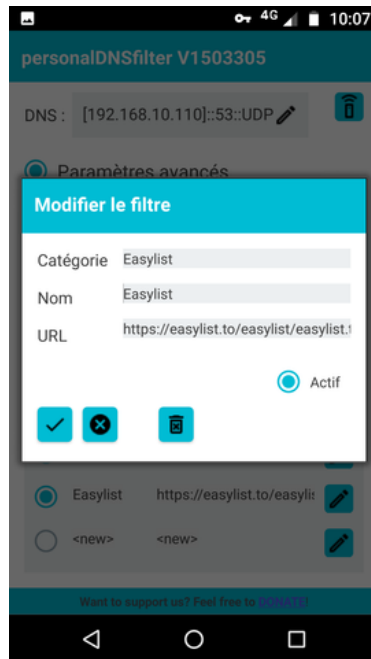


Figure 17: Adding EasyList

Then validate.

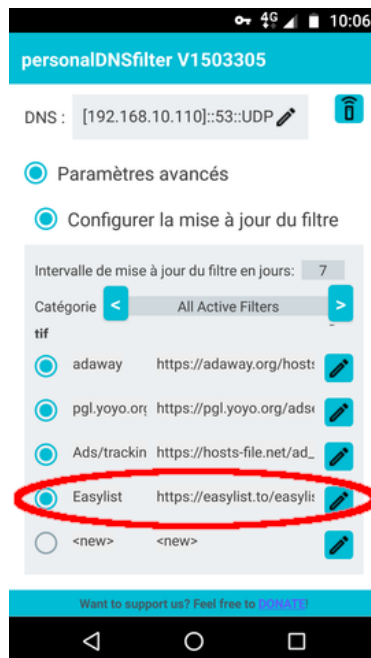


Figure 18: EasyList added

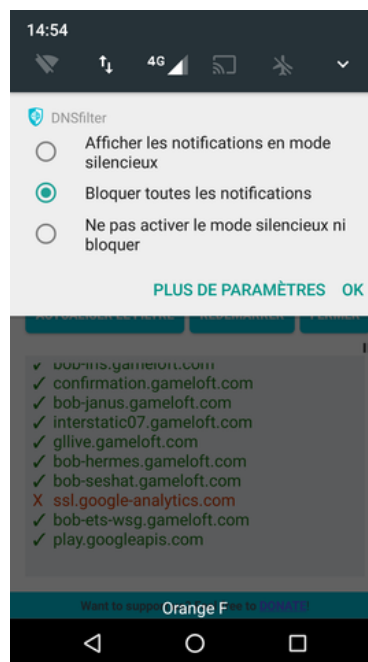
Exit **Advanced Settings** and tap **Refresh Filter** on the main screen.

EasyList is now active. You can similarly add other lists like [Hosts-file.net Ads Servers](#).

### Remove DNSFilter Status Icon

When active, DNSFilter shows both a key icon and small shield in the status bar.

To remove the shield icon: 1. Pull down the status bar 2. Long-press **DNSFilter is running** 3. Check **Block all notifications**



**Figure 19:** Disable notifications

### Block Stubborn Ads



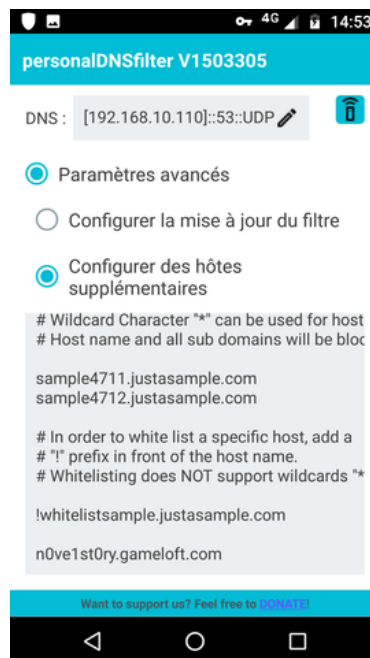
**Warning:** This section is for advanced users. If you're unfamiliar with hosts files, skip this to avoid malfunctions.

Most ads should be blocked, but some apps use custom ad servers. To block these:

1. Identify the domain either:
  - From DNSFilter's log when the ad loads

- By clicking the ad to see its URL in your browser

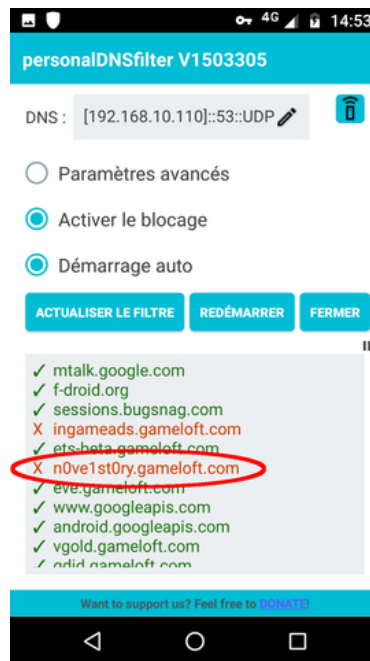
In DNSFilter, go to **Advanced Settings** > **Configure Additional Hosts**.



**Figure 20:** Add custom hosts

Add the domain at the file's end (e.g., *n0ve1st0ry.gameloft.com*).

After clearing the app's cache, the ad should be blocked. DNSFilter will show blocked domains:



**Figure 21:** Domain blocked

## Block YouTube Ads

This method cannot effectively block YouTube ads in the official app. Alternatives include:

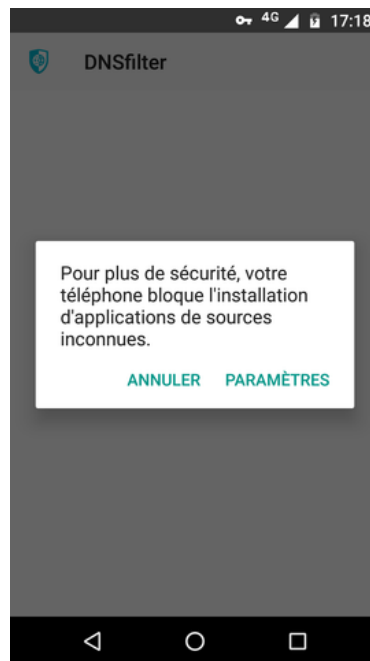
- [Newpipe](#)
- [Skytube](#)

Note these currently don't support YouTube account access (subscriptions/playlists).

Another option is **Adblock Browser** (from Play Store), which blocks ads when accessing YouTube via browser.

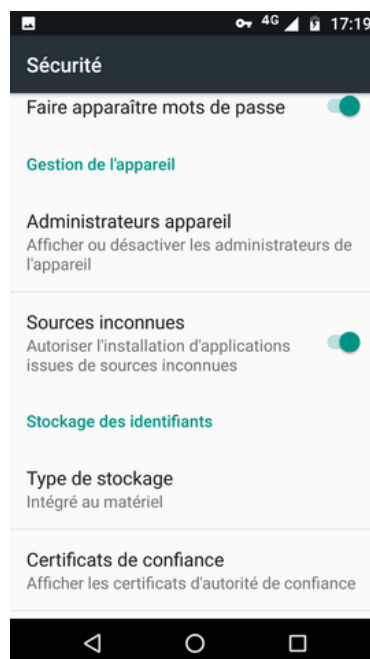
## Appendix A: Unknown Sources

You may need to enable unknown sources for F-Droid/DNSFilter installation.



**Figure 22:** Unknown sources warning

Tap **Settings** and enable **Unknown sources** in security settings.



**Figure 23:** Allow unknown sources