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# XDA Developers' Android Hacker's Toolkit: The Complete Guide To Rooting, ROMs And Theming



## **Synopsis**

Make your Android device truly your own Are you eager to make your Android device your own but you're not sure where to start? Then this is the book for you. XDA is the world's most popular resource for Android hacking enthusiasts, and a huge community has grown around customizing Android devices with XDA. XDA's Android Hacker's Toolkit gives you the tools you need to customize your devices by hacking or rooting the android operating system. Providing a solid understanding of the internal workings of the Android operating system, this book walks you through the terminology and functions of the android operating system from the major nodes of the file system to basic OS operations. As you learn the fundamentals of Android hacking that can be used regardless of any new releases, you'll discover exciting ways to take complete control over your device. Teaches theory, preparation and practice, and understanding of the OS Explains the distinction between ROMing and theming Provides step-by-step instructions for Droid, Xoom, Galaxy Tab, LG Optimus, and more Identifies the right tools for various jobs Contains new models enabling you to root and customize your phone Offers incomparable information that has been tried and tested by the amazing XDA community of hackers, gadgeteers, and technicians XDA's Android Hacker's Toolkit is a simple, one-stop resource on hacking techniques for beginners.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Some preliminaries. My phone is the LG Esteem and it is rooted, ROM'd, themed, and I've swapped the kernal out a few times. My previous phone was an LG Optimus. I also rooted that phone but

didn't ROM or theme it. That phone had very little internal storage and a lot of bloatware. I think I doubled my internal storage when I got rid of the junk that was deemed uninstallable by the OEM. I've done all that just using on-line forums, gumption and finger crossing. I'm a geek and I love computers and computer stuff and I dabble in programming. If that sounds like you then you don't need this book. Don't waste your money. With all that in mind, I wouldn't have bought this book. It came up for free to review with the Vine program and I was very interested in seeing what it contained. So, on with the review... It is a boutique book. If you: 1) are overwhelmed by the online forums for rooting 2) heard of rooting but know nothing else 3) some combination of 1 & 2 4) aren't going to miss the money you spend for this book... then this book was written for you. In most respects, it is the beginning of your journey not the end-point. It is a map. A guide. An overview. Note #4 carefully. If you are not squarely inside of this bracket then don't buy this book. Period. The book description is accurate when it says 'simple' resource. The authors avoid getting into the complexities of Android as much as possible. The Android operating system is ... Linux. A highly specialized version of Linux made to run a very complex piece of technology - your mobile phone. If you are super geeky and a computer person then you aren't really overwhelmed with on-line forums.

xdadeveloper's *Android Hacker's Toolkit* is a solid introduction to basic android hacking. The main purpose of the book is to introduce rooting, ROMs and installing themes on Android phones to beginners. In the process of covering these topics, Tyler covers the major issues and \*dispels\* some of the common fears that arise. After reading the book, even a novice should have gained the confidence to attempt these feats on his or her phone. There are two main parts to the book. The first is a general presentation of how to "hack" an Android phone, whereas the second part is device specific. Because the second part isn't very useful if you don't have the particular device covered, I will focus on part one. The first two chapters are key. The first covers the Android Operating System (OS). While the book will \*not\* turn you into an OS developer, it is important to know how Android works so that the possible exploits for gaining root make sense. Chapter two begins a lengthy discussion of rooting Android phones. The chapter covers why a person might want to root his or her phone (although presumably, if you're thinking about buying this book, you already know why you'd want to root the phone) and preliminary steps (such as backing up data). Chapters three and four get to the heart of rooting an Android phone. I found these two chapters to be the most useful. Having rooted a couple Android phones, I certainly would have benefited from these overviews. Read them carefully. Chapters five and six talk about ways a user might customize his or her

Android phone once root has been secured. Basically, this points the user to already existing ROMs and themes, as actually creating ROMs and themes is beyond the scope of an introductory text.

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