A guide to the Android Developer Console

March 2026

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Continuing to keep Android open and safe

Starting in September 2026, Android apps must be registered to a developer with a verified identity in order to be installed by users on certified Android devices.

This change will be first introduced in Singapore, Thailand, Brazil and Indonesia before continuing to roll out globally.

Android is introducing this additional layer of security to make installing apps safer for everyone, help reduce impersonation, and better protect users from malware and scams. Read more in the announcement blog post.

What is the Android Developer Console, and who is it for?

The Android Developer Console is a new product for developers who only distribute outside of Google Play, so they can easily complete their verification.

These developers will need an Android Developer Console account to manage their Android developer identity information and register their app package names.
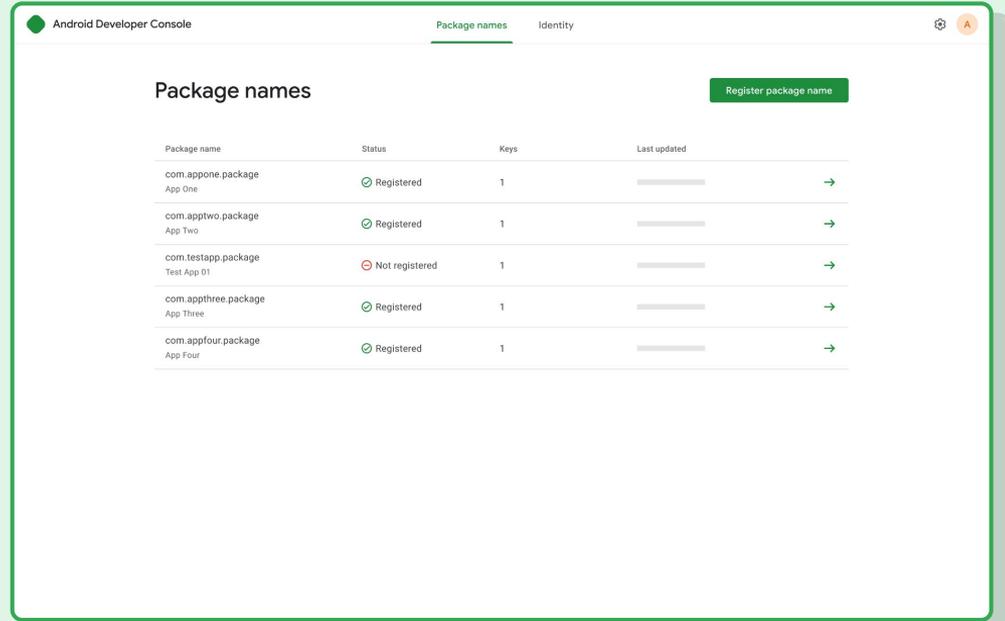
What this means for existing Google Play developers

If you distribute apps on Google Play and already have a Play Console account, or plan to create one in the future - you can complete all of the necessary steps to meet these requirements in Play Console, including for any apps that you distribute outside of Play.

You do not need to create a separate Android Developer Console account.

You can learn about the Play Console updates being made to support Android developer verification here.

Helping you to know whether you'll need to create an Android Developer Console account

If you want to distribute apps...	
Only on Google Play	Use your existing Play Console account
Both on and outside of Google Play	Use your existing Play Console account, where there will be new functionality to register your apps outside of Google Play and keys.
Only outside of Google Play	Create an account in the new Android Developer Console

> Students and hobbyists will be able to create a limited distribution account with fewer verification requirements, that doesn't require the $25 USD fee

An overview of
Android Developer Console

Step 1/3:

Creating an Android Developer Console account

What you'll need to create an Android Developer Console account

If you have all of the required information ready, creating your Android Developer Console account should take you about 10 minutes.

You'll need:

✓ Your **legal name and address.** These will need to be verified by uploading official identity documents.

✓ **A private email address and phone number for Google to contact you**. These will need to be verified using a one-time password.

✓ Organizations will also need to provide their **organization's website.** This will need to be verified using Google Search Console.

✓ Organizations will also need to provide their D-U-N-S number. This is a unique 9-digit identifier for organizations. Make sure you have this number before you start. You will have a limited number of attempts to enter your D-U-N-S number correctly.

Not sure if you have a D-U-N-S number? In most organizations, the D-U-N-S number can be provided by your finance or legal department. If you don't have one, apply at Dun and Bradstreet free of charge. **Ensure you do this as early as possible, as it can take 30 days or more to obtain one.**

Governments and government agencies will be able to verify their Android developer identity without a D-U-N-S number.

First, select an account type
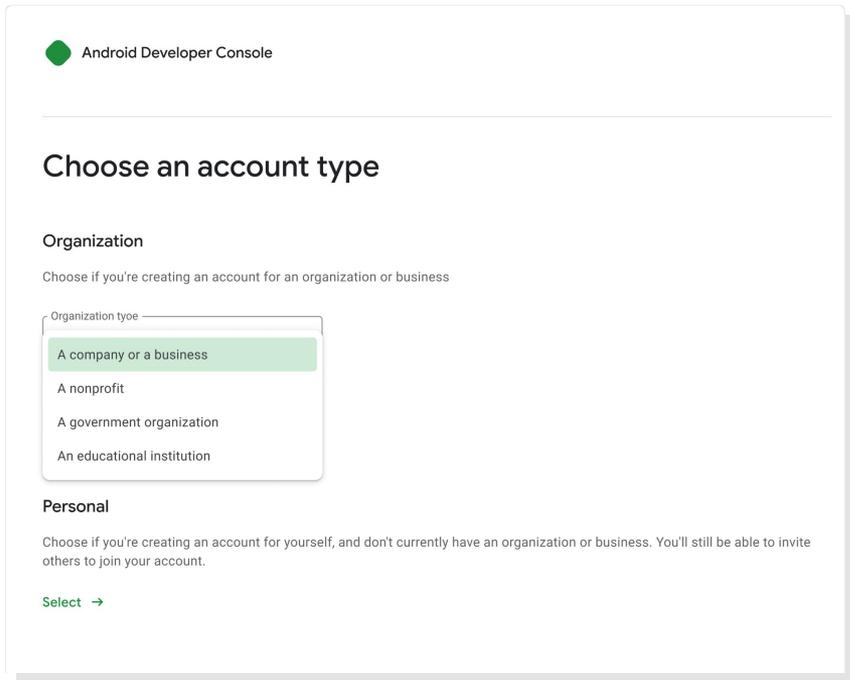
There are two account types:

Organization account
Choose if you're creating an account for an organization or business.

Personal account
Choose if you're creating an account for yourself, and don't currently have an organization or business.

Make sure to choose the correct account type, as this will affect the verifications you're required to complete. Your account type makes no difference to the availability of your apps on Android, or the features available to you in Android Developer Console.

Students and hobbyists will be able to create a limited distribution accountof account with fewer verification requirements, that doesn't require the $25 USD fee

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🟢 Android Developer Console

Choose an account type

Organization

Choose if you're creating an account for an organization or business

Organization tyoe

A company or a business

A nonprofit

A government organization

An educational institution

Personal

Choose if you're creating an account for yourself, and don't currently have an organization or business. You'll still be able to invite others to join your account.

Select →

Link a Google payments profile

Android Developer Console will ask you to link a payments profile to your account to collect and verify information about you or your organization, including its legal name, address, and associated D-U-N-S number (only required by organizations).

A payments profile stores information that can be used across Google products to save you time. This includes identity information to streamline the verifications you need to complete.
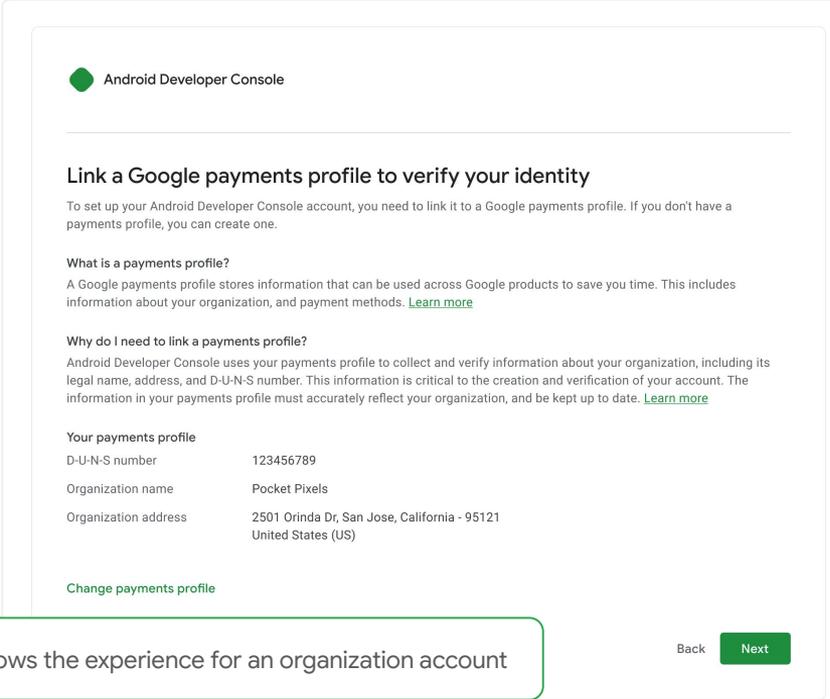
● Android Developer Console

Link a Google payments profile to verify your identity

To set up your Android Developer Console account, you need to link it to a Google payments profile. If you don't have a payments profile, you can create one.

What is a payments profile?

A Google payments profile stores information that can be used across Google products to save you time. This includes information about your organization, and payment methods. Learn more

Why do I need to link a payments profile?

Android Developer Console uses your payments profile to collect and verify information about your organization, including its legal name, address, and D-U-N-S number. This information is critical to the creation and verification of your account. The information in your payments profile must accurately reflect your organization, and be kept up to date. Learn more

Your payments profile

D-U-N-S number	123456789
Organization name	Pocket Pixels
Organization address	2501 Orinda Dr, San Jose, California - 95121 United States (US)

Change payments profile

Back   Next

This shows the experience for an organization account

Provide your contact information and verify your email address

This information will only be used to contact you if we need to, and isn't shown to users anywhere on Android.

Pay special attention to the email address and phone number you provide, as both will need to be verified using a one-time password. You verify your email address during this sign-up flow, and verify your phone number after you've finished creating your account.

Android Developer Console

How Google should contact you
These details will only be used to contact you if we need to, and aren't shown publicly

Contact name

If we need to speak to someone, this is who we'll ask for

Contact email address

This email address:
- should be different to the email address associated with your Google Account
- should match the domain of your organization's website
- must represent your organization
- can be a group mailing list

Verify email address

Preferred language

Select your organization's preferred language for email communications

Select preferred language ▼

Contact phone number

Include the + symbol, country code, and area code

Back   Next

Provide additional information about you, or your organization

You'll be asked about your previous experience developing and publishing for Android.

If you're creating an organization account, you'll also be asked to provide additional information about your organization to help us to verify your details and better understand your organization.

After this, you'll need to accept the Android Developer Console terms, and pay a $25 USD fee to finish creating your account. Students and hobbyists will be able to create a limited distribution account with fewer verification requirements, that doesn't require the $25 USD fee.
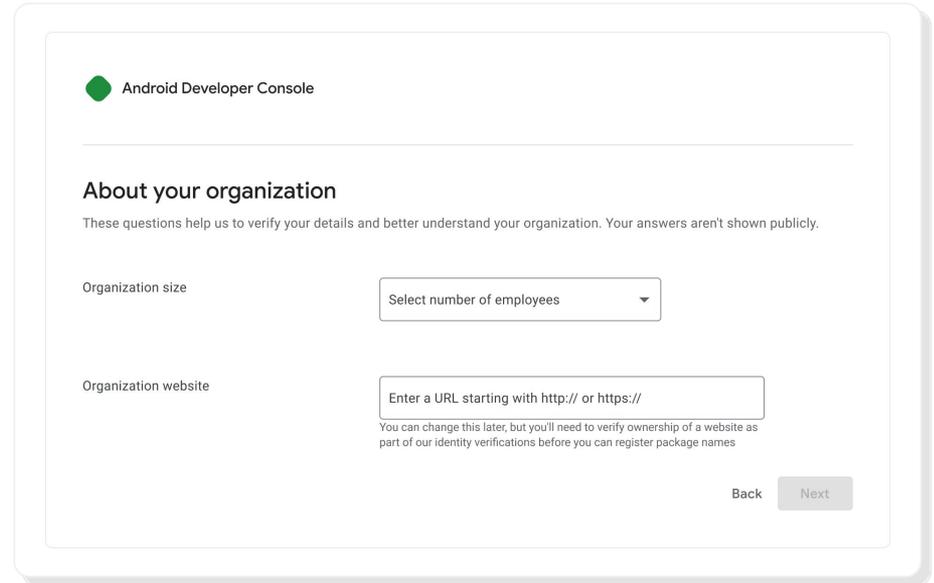
● Android Developer Console

About your organization

These questions help us to verify your details and better understand your organization. Your answers aren't shown publicly.

Organization size

Select number of employees ▼

Organization website

Enter a URL starting with http:// or https://

You can change this later, but you'll need to verify ownership of a website as part of our identity verifications before you can register package names

Back   Next

Step 2/3:
Verifying your identity information

Once your account has been created, you must then complete any remaining required verifications

Personal accounts	Organization accounts
Upload a government-issued identity document	Upload an official organization document
Verify your contact phone number using a one-time password	Upload a government-issued identity document
	Verify your organization's website in Google Search Console
	Verify your contact phone number using a one-time password

Android Developer Console will guide you to provide and verify the required information

The Android Developer Console home page will list the verifications that you need to complete.

Each verification stage will provide more details, and walk you through the steps required to complete it.
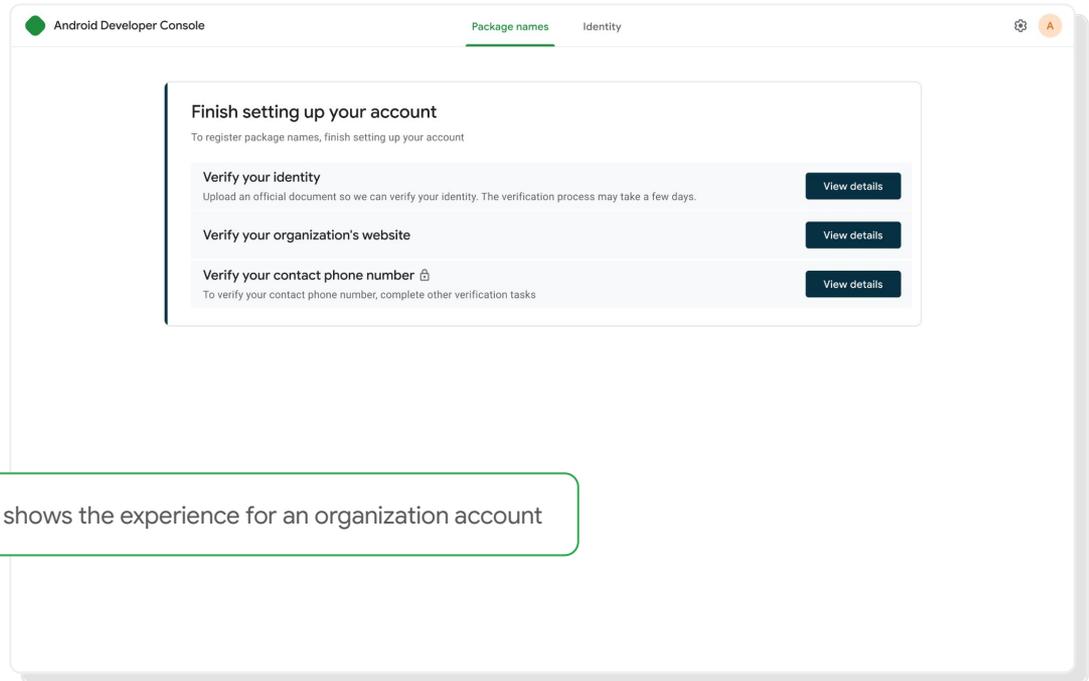
This shows the experience for an organization account

Organization accounts must verify their organization by uploading business registration documents

You'll need to verify your organization by uploading registration documents, such as your certificate of incorporation, or VAT registration certificate.

All business documents must be issued by a trustworthy authority such as a state, municipal government, business registry, or similar.

In most organizations, the registration documents can be obtained from your finance or legal departments.

If you are a government organization, you may submit a document with your government's letterhead as a proof if you don't have any of the other recommended business documents.

← Verify your organization

① **Confirm the organization's name**

ⓘ Make sure your registration document shows your organization's name as **ABC Org**.

Upload your organization's registration document

Make sure your document is clear and easy to read. See more tips in the Help Center.

DOCUMENTS WE ACCEPT:

- Certificate of incorporation
- VAT registration certificate
- Certificate of registration of charity

⬆ Upload

Next

② Provide your name and ID

③ Enter your address

Both organization and personal accounts must verify the legal name and address of an individual

For individual accounts, this must be the owner of your Android Developer Console account. If you're an organization, any authorized representative of your organization may provide their personal identity documents to complete verifications.

Supported documents vary by country, and include things like a driving license, passport, or national identity card. As part of completing this step in Android Developer Console, you'll be able to see a list of accepted documents to understand which you can provide.

← Verify your identity

① **Personal identity**

ⓘ Enter the **exact same name** from the document. Include your given name and family name, if applicable. To make sure we have it right, we may update the name to match.

Legal name

Your date of birth must match your ID

Month
December ▾

Day
28

Year
1986

Upload your ID

Make sure the document image you upload is readable by following the document upload guidelines.

Select ID type ▾

Next

② Enter your address

Verify your contact phone number using a one-time password

This information will only be used by Google to contact you if we need to, and isn't shown to users anywhere else.

Organizations must also verify their website using Google Search Console

Organizations must also provide and verify their official website.

First, make sure that you've registered ownership of your organization's website in Google Search Console.

Once you've done this, you can then provide the URL of your organization's website in Android Developer Console, and initiate a verification request.

Your website will be verified once the registered owner approves your request in Search Console.
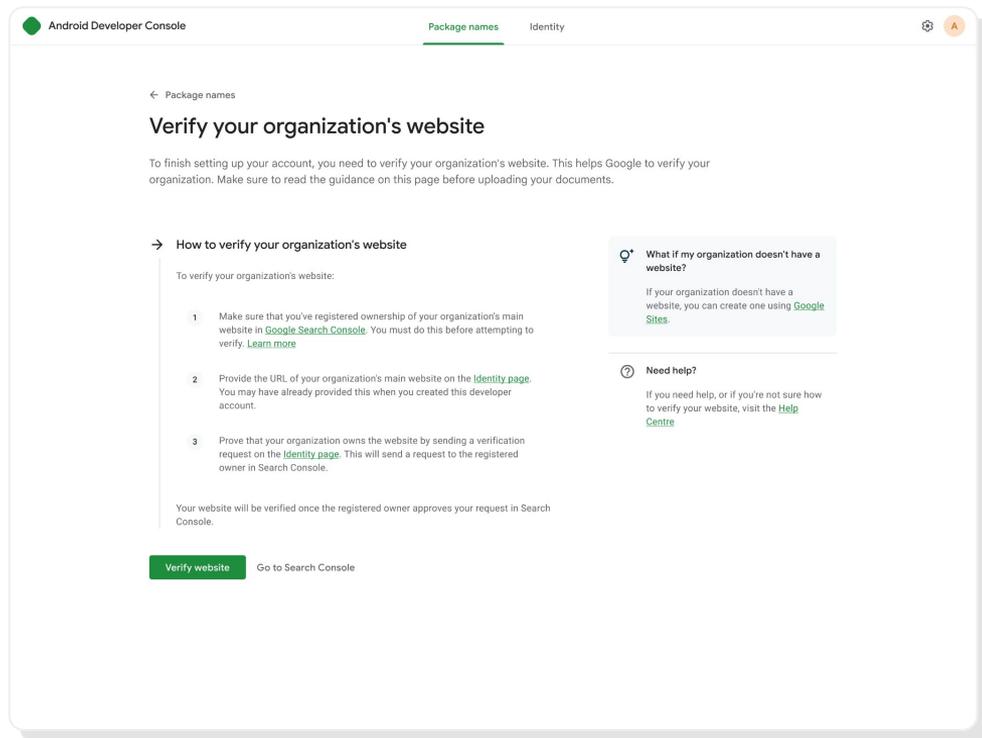
Step 3/3:

Register your package names

Starting September 2026, Android apps must be registered to a developer with a verified identity in order to be installed by users on certified Android devices. This will first be enforced for apps being installed in Singapore, Thailand, Brazil and Indonesia, before rolling out globally.

Once you've completed identity verifications, you can start registering your app package names

You start the package name registration flow by selecting 'Register package name' on the *Package names* page.

First, you will be asked to enter the package name that you want to register

You'll also provide a friendly name for your own reference, so you can easily identify the package name.
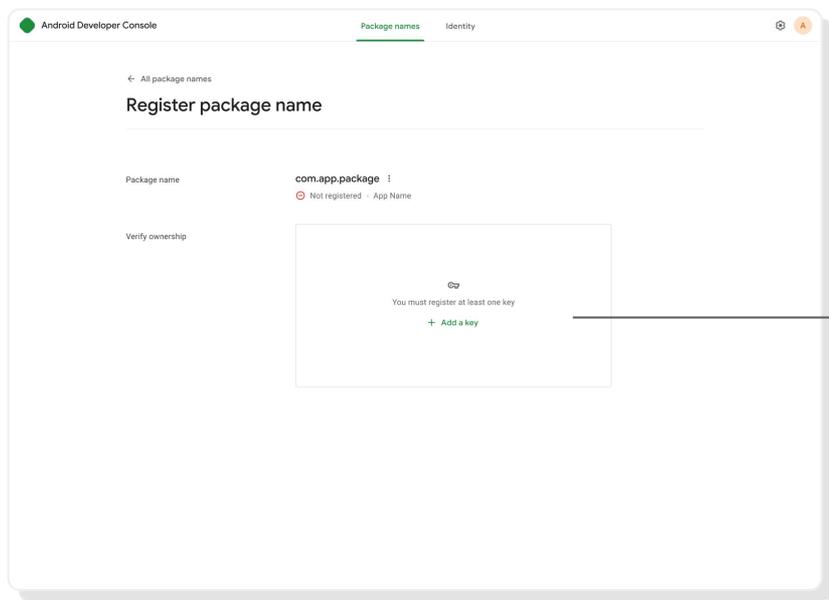
Clicking **Next** will draft your package name registration.
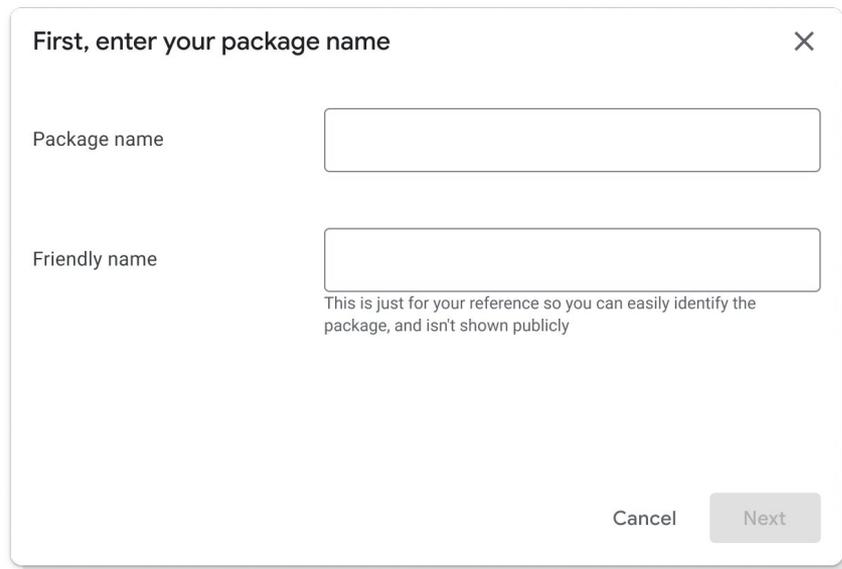
First, enter your package name   ✕

Package name

Friendly name

This is just for your reference so you can easily identify the
package, and isn't shown publicly

Cancel   Next

The process for registering a package name is different depending on whether you're registering a brand new package name that is not previously known to Android, or an existing package name

To register a new package name, provide the public key certificate from your app's signing key pair


Android Developer Console — Package names | Identity

← All package names

Register package name

Package name — **com.app.package**
⊘ Not registered · App Name

Verify ownership

🔑
You must register at least one key
+ Add a key

Android Developer Console — Package names | Identity

Add key ✕

SHA-256 certificate fingerprint — F1:69:D3:AC:B5:6F:11:AE:40:49:E7:47:33:59:A7:12:51:57:83:BA:FC:60:D0:B3:39:72:46:B9:96:24:B6:25

Need help?
Get detailed guidance on the package registration process and timeline
View guidance ⧉

> You provide the public key by entering its SHA-256 certificate fingerprint

↻ Validating your key...   Discard   Add key

Your app signing key is what Android uses to verify that app updates are really from you

Android will then register your app's package name, formally linking it to your Android developer identity

In most cases, this will take a few minutes.

You'll receive an email once your package name has been successfully registered, and Android Developer Console will communicate the registration status of your package name and keys.

If you use more than one key, you'll be able to add more at this point.
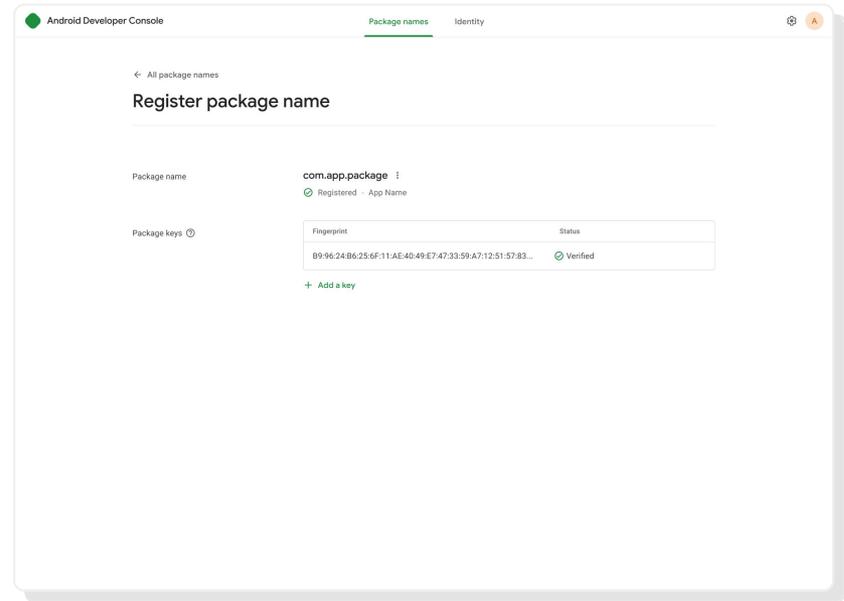
# To register an existing package name, you will need to prove ownership of a known private signing key

This is a relatively straightforward process for most developers, as most apps use a single key and a unique package name. As a result, you will typically see only one eligible key when registering an existing package name.
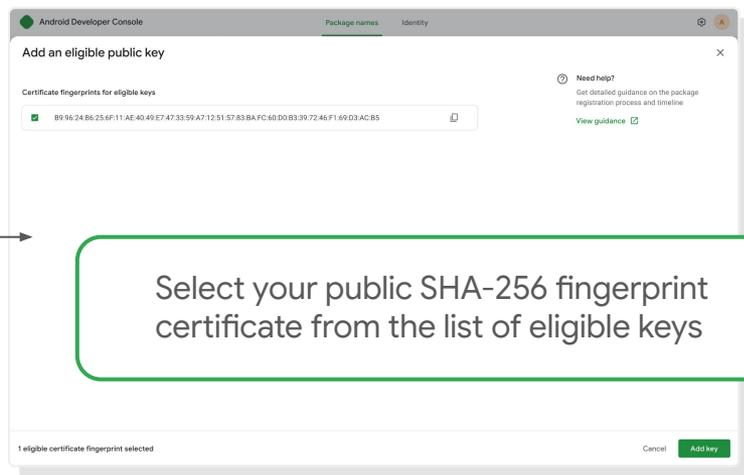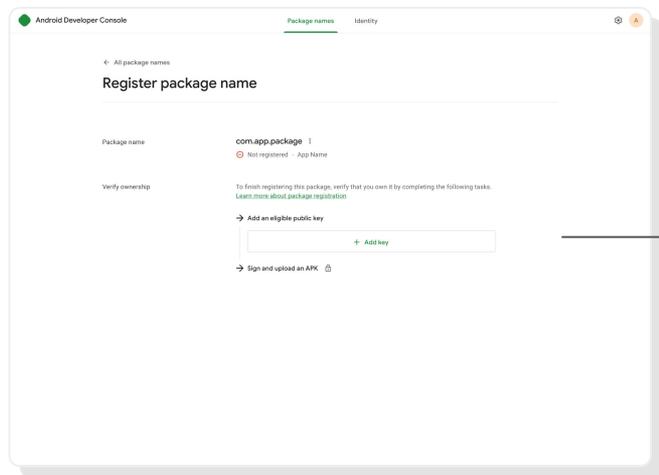
Select your public SHA-256 fingerprint certificate from the list of eligible keys

Once you've added a public key, it's added to your draft package name

To finish verifying ownership of your package name, you now need to sign and upload an APK
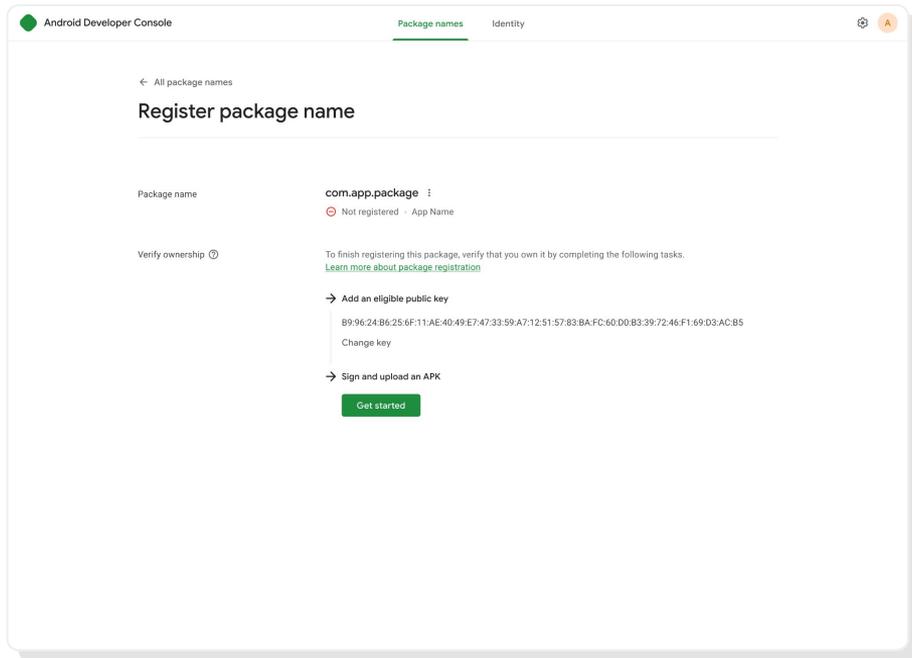
To finish verifying ownership of your package name, sign an APK with your private key, and upload it

Android Developer Console will provide you with a snippet which you need to copy and add to an APK's asset folder. You'll then need to sign the APK, and upload it in Android Developer Console. We'll provide a sample project so you can see the required file structure.

This APK is used only for the purpose of verifying ownership, and you won't need to upload the actual APK that you distribute.

Android Developer Console | Package names | Identity

← All package names

Sign and upload an APK ✕

Package and key

com.app.package

B9:96:24:B6:25:6F:11:AE:40:49:E7:47:33:59:A7:12:51:57:83:BA:FC:60:D0:B3:39:72:46:F1:69:D3:AC:B5

How to sign an APK

Copy the snippet below and add it to a file inside your APK's asset folder. Once you've signed the APK, come back here to upload it. You can download a sample project to view the required file structure.

The APK you upload is used only for the purpose of verifying your private key. You do not need to upload the actual APK that you distribute. Learn more APK signing

gk3sy3498yesg3sodghgwd8g2hsgasg3gh9wh8gk

Upload signed APK

Drop **APK** here to upload

⬆ Upload

Cancel | Submit

Android will check and register your ownership of the package name

You'll receive an email once your package name has been successfully registered, and Android Developer Console will communicate the registration status of your package name and keys.

If you have have more than one key for your package name, you'll be able to add more at this point.
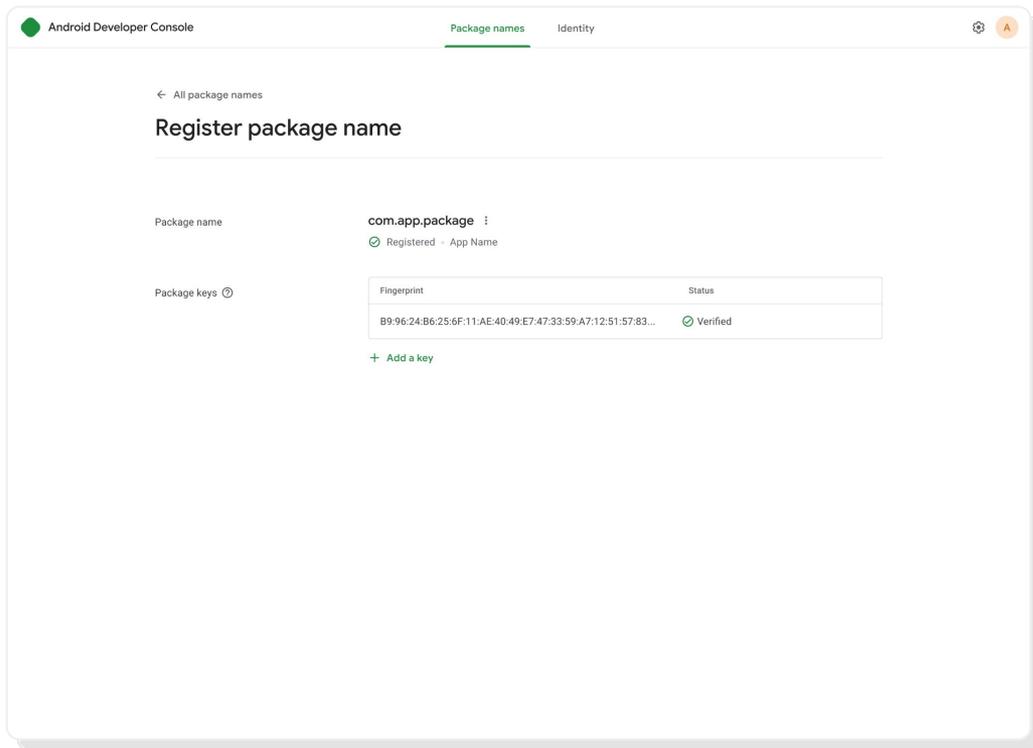
A note about eligible keys

In more complex scenarios, an app may use multiple keys, or a package name may be used by multiple developers. In these cases, the keys that can be used for registration are determined by a set of rules designed to minimize package name duplication.

Priority for majority key holder: The developer whose signing key accounts for over 50% of total known installs has priority for registration. All other developers will be required to submit a request to use the package name.

Eligibility for keys with 50+ installs: If no single key has over 50% of installs, then all keys with 50 or more installs can be used to register the package name. Developers with keys with fewer than 50 installs will be required to submit a request to use the package name.

Eligibility for keys under 50 installs: If no keys meet the 50-install threshold, all known keys can be used for registration on a first-come, first-served basis. As soon as one developer registers the package name, other developers would need to submit a request to use the package name.

For example, in this scenario, there is no majority key holder - no single key has over 50% of installs (1/2)

In this scenario, there is no majority key holder, therefore all keys with 50 or more installs become eligible to register the package name.

These can be selected by developers from the list of keys to register the package name.

Developers who only have keys with fewer than 50 installs will be required to submit a request to use the package name.
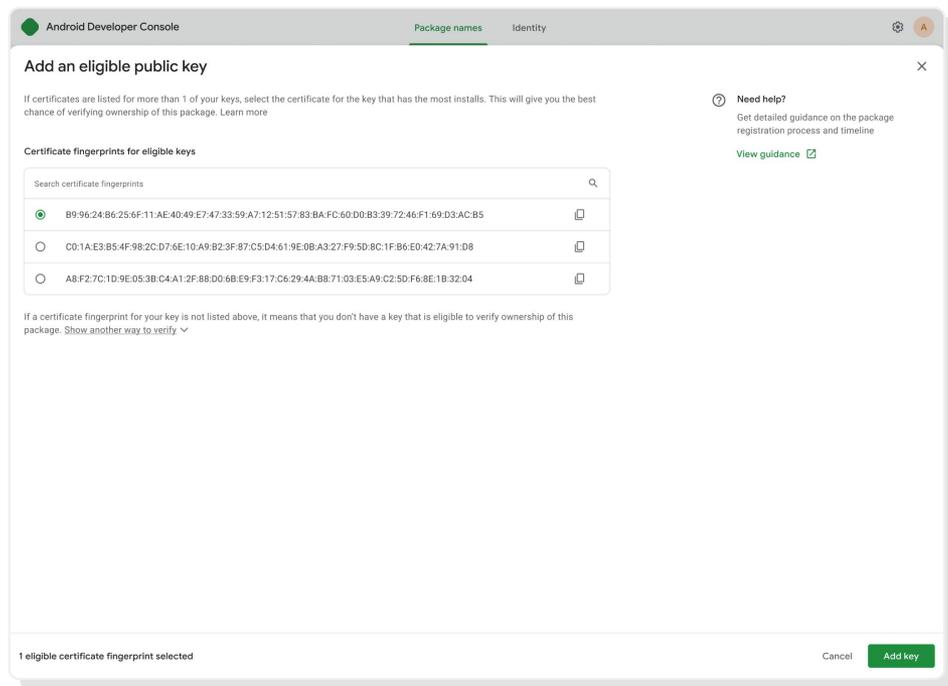
Developers who only have keys with fewer than 50 installs must submit a request to use the package name (2/2)

Developers who only have keys with fewer than 50 installs won't initially see their key listed, but can expand a list of other keys that can be used to submit a request to use the package name.

Developers who submit a request to use a package name will need to provide rationale, to help Google review ownership claims.

Thank you for taking the time to walk through this guide. We hope it was helpful in giving you an introduction to the Android Developer Console.

Thank you for your continued efforts to make the Android ecosystem safer for all.