Galaxy Note 9

25 tips&tricks

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Samsung Galaxy Note 9 review: This is power user perfection

It's no secret that the Galaxy S9 hasn't been selling well. Samsung has admitted as much, and the smaller S9 was especially unattractive for many people, as it missed out on features like a dual camera and 6GB of RAM. Smartphones much cheaper than the Galaxy S9 have had those features for some time, and Samsung probably realized it had to do something special for its second 2018 flagship to get the ball rolling again.

And the company has done just that with the Galaxy Note 9. The Galaxy Note 9 has everything the Galaxy Note 8 and Galaxy S9+ offer, and instead of features that may come off as gimmicks, Samsung has focused on the essentials. There's finally a big battery on a mainstream Galaxy flagship, the storage on the base model is a whopping 128GB (along with official support for up to 512GB microSD cards), and the S Pen has become smarter and more useful thanks to the addition of Bluetooth connectivity.

Ideally, a big battery and plenty of onboard storage are features flagship phones should always have for the prices they usually command, but it's only Samsung that has finally risen to the occasion. However, the Korean giant is also demanding quite the premium for it. The Galaxy Note 9 starts at $1,000 in most markets for the base model and $1,250 or thereabouts for the 512GB variant. Samsung's latest flagship has a spec sheet no other smartphone can match, but is all of it enough to justify that thousand dollar price tag?

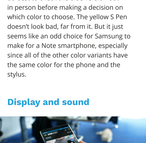
Design

The Galaxy Note 9 looks exactly like the Galaxy Note 8 from the front at first glance. But Samsung has made a few changes, some of which debuted on the Galaxy S9 and some specifically to fit in the bigger battery and the even-slightly bigger screen (6.4 inches). Like the Galaxy S9, the Galaxy Note 9's top bezel is darker and better hide the iris sensor and front-facing camera. The phone is also slightly wider. That isn't noticeable, however, unless you compare it side-by-side with an S9+ or Note 8, as Samsung has used a process called dia-cutting for the phone's edges to make it look slimmer than it is. Not that the Note 9 isn't a big phone, but it's not necessarily less convenient to use than a Galaxy Note 8 or even a Galaxy S9+.

The back is where the most noticeable change has taken place. The fingerprint sensor now resides below the dual camera setup. Sadly, the camera sensors are placed horizontally as they were on the Note 8, so the fingerprint sensor isn't as easy to access as the S9+. You don't exactly need to change your grip to access the fingerprint sensor to unlock the phone and start using it, but a not-so-ideal stretch of the index finger is required. Folks with large hands will also find themselves smudging the camera lenses too often, but that's just an unavoidable downside of Samsung's fingerprint sensor placement on all of its modern plus-sized flagships. Those in-display fingerprint sensors can't get here soon enough.

Overall, the Galaxy Note 9 feels as premium and well made as a $1000 smartphone should. I'm just not sure if that yellow S Pen that Samsung is bundling with the Ocean Blue variant of the phone looks classy enough. You'd do best to check the blue version out in person before making a decision on which color to choose. The yellow S Pen doesn't look bad, far from it. But it just seems like an odd choice for Samsung to make for a Note smartphone, especially since all of the other color variants have the same color for the phone and the stylus.

Display and sound



The 6.4-inch Super AMOLED Infinity display on the Galaxy Note 9 is awesome. Do I really need to say more? Samsung's been at the top of the game when it comes to phone displays, and the Note 9 even gets improvements in areas where the consumer can't really tell a difference. All you need to know is that it's vivid, extremely bright (and dim when you want it to be), and a joy to use. It's not the most accurate screen by default, but you can switch to the basic display mode in the phone's settings if you want it to be true-to-life.

As mentioned in the design section, the top bezel is darker this time around, so the screen flows into the all-black bezels more seamlessly. The bezels aren't totally dark and not too small, either, but Samsung's decision to stay away from notches makes the company's implementation of an all-screen display the most sensible. That's especially true for the specs and hardware Samsung is offering on its flagships, which trumps anything else on the market whether you count the Galaxy Note 9 or not.

The Galaxy Note 9's stunning display is accompanied by stereo speakers, a first for the Note lineup following the introduction of stereo speakers on the Galaxy S9 earlier this year. And the audio quality remains as good as ever, despite one of the speakers being embedded in the earpiece. There's plenty of bass, Dolby Atmos support makes for a noticeable change in audio separation between the two speakers, and distortion at the highest volume isn't a problem as long as the content being played has a high enough bitrate.

Last but not the least, there's a pair of AKG-tuned earphones in the box, which are also unchanged from what we had on the Galaxy S9; they are among the best bundled earphones you get with a phone. Yes, that also means there's a headphone jack on the Note 9, which further makes it stand out from the mainstream competition.

Camera

The Galaxy Note 9's cameras are pretty much the same as the Galaxy S9+, both in specs and the image quality. But, for the rear camera, Samsung has built in what it is calling Scene Optimizer. Scene Optimizer studies the scene and subject, matches them with 20 presets such as food, portraits, landscapes, and animals, then optimizes the shooting parameters to make the images look better than they normally would. Scene Optimizer doesn't really work in practice and is mostly a gimmick, though. Images don't seem to actually improve, but even if they did, Scene Optimizer takes just a second too long to actually detect the scene, which can result in you missing the moment.

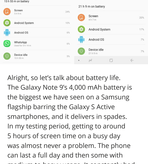
Thankfully, the other new feature Samsung has built in works better and is available for both the front and rear cameras. Any time you take a blurry photo, the Flaw Detection feature will inform you with a pop-up notification. We all know how frustrating it can be when we take a picture and go to the gallery to check it out only to see it came out blurred. But thanks to Flaw Detection, you can immediately take another picture of the same scene instead of going into the gallery to find out, making it quite useful. Flaw Detection can also tell the user if someone in the photo blinked or the backlighting is poor, but this is something I was unable to reproduce.

As far as general performance of the rear camera is concerned, well, it's as excellent as it was on the Galaxy S9. The Dual Aperture lens (which switches between apertures of F1.5 and F2.4) makes sure that photos come out with good exposure in both extreme light and extra dark conditions. Color reproduction is mostly faithful to the real thing, there's plenty of detail without the excessive oversharpening Samsung was once famous for, noise is well controlled, and the dynamic range is usually great.

Live Focus (which uses the second camera to take bokeh pictures) also works nicely. Detail in indoor shots can be lacking, but it does seem to work better in low light conditions compared to the Note 8 or S9+. The 2x zoom function remains limited in poor lighting, though, and the primary camera lens is still used for zoom shots in when it's too dark (as the telephoto lens has a fixed aperture of F2.4). Check out a couple of Live Focus samples below.

The Galaxy Note 9 also comes with Super Slow mo recording and AR Emoji, and you can check out our Galaxy S9 review to see how these features work since the results aren't different between the two devices.

Battery life



Alright, so let's talk about battery life. The Galaxy Note 9's 4,000 mAh battery is the biggest we have seen on a Samsung flagship barring the Galaxy S Active smartphones, and it delivers in spades. In my testing period, getting to around 5 hours of screen time on a busy day was almost never a problem. The phone can last a full day and then some with medium to heavy usage. It normally had around 20 percent battery left at the end of a day, with usage involving everything from calls through browsing to checking WhatsApp and Slack messages.

Battery life with extended bouts of mobile data usage isn't as great, but you can still get by without the fear of the phone dying out at the wrong moment. The battery also fast charges from 0 to 100 in just a little more than the time the Galaxy S9+' 3,500 mAh battery takes (90-100 minutes). In terms of battery's size, quick 10 or 15-minute top-ups aren't as useful as they are on phones with smaller batteries, but that's mainly due to be an issue for most given the phone's generally impressive endurance.

Samsung's usual power saving modes are available on the Note 9, but I never felt the need to use them. The 4,000 mAh battery on the Galaxy Note 9 is a gamechanger, both for the competition and for Samsung itself. The company has addressed one of the key concerns power users have had about recent Note flagships, also giving proponents of a removable battery less reason to complain. If battery life is important to you, the Galaxy Note 9 has what it takes to keep up.

S Pen

The S Pen is the heart and soul of the Note lineup, as fans would agree, and Samsung has finally brought along a major upgrade. The stylus now has Bluetooth built in and can be used as a remote control for various features. It has a supercapacitor inside that is charged in just 40 seconds when it's residing in the slot and is good for up to 200 clicks before needing a charge again. Now, first things first: A long press of the S Pen button can be assigned to launch any S Pen feature or installed app. Then, depending on the app, you can perform actions with a single or double press of the button.

In the camera app, a short press takes a picture and a double press changes between the front and rear camera. In media apps such as YouTube or the music player, a single press can pause or resume playback. In Chrome, you can press the button once to go back and double press it to go forward. And for all these apps, you can assign a number of different actions if needed. For example, in Chrome, you can scroll up or down with a single or double press. Samsung is also offering an SDK for developers so third-party apps could also take advantage in the near future.

The ability to take pictures with the stylus acting as a remote is perhaps the most useful feature, though. No more will you need to twist your fingers around uncomfortably to reach the shutter button or the volume keys, which also means reduced chances of blurry photos. As someone who never used the S Pen before, I'm doing so quite often thanks to the camera control on the Note 9, and many others who usually ignore the stylus may start using it for the same reason.

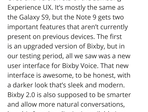
There is one caveat. I found the double press action of the S Pen to be rather wonky. The phone can't seem to properly differentiate between a single and a double click. A double click would often have the phone carrying out the single click function before realizing what I wanted to do and then suddenly performing the right action. Hopefully, software updates will improve things on this front.

Before you ask: The S Pen's Bluetooth capabilities can be ignored if you want to. The stylus continues to work passively as earlier S Pens, so you can draw, take down notes, and browse around on the phone in general even when it isn't charged. The screen's edges are still a pitfall and can be an obstacle to your drawing or writing efforts, but it doesn't look like Samsung is ever returning to flat displays, so it's a problem that will continue to exist.

Software

The Galaxy Note 9 runs Android 8.1 Oreo and version 9.5 of the Samsung Experience UX. It's mostly the same as the Galaxy S9, but the Note 9 gets two important features that aren't currently present on previous devices. The first is an upgraded version of Bixby, but in our testing period, all we saw was a new user interface for Bixby Voice. That new interface is awesome, to be honest, with a darker look that's sleek and modern. Bixby 2.0 is also supposed to be smarter and allow more natural conversations, but this functionality isn't available just yet.

Bixby continues to be great when it comes to controlling various aspects and settings of the device, but we will only be able to give full judgement when we have tested it extensively. As for the Bixby button, you can still press it accidentally at times, especially when you access the volume down button for screenshots or for adjusting volume, but this should only be a problem in the first few days. Oh, and the button can't be remapped (not that we expect Samsung to ever allow that), and support for languages is still quite limited.


Hi Johnson,
What would you like to do?
Find an app
Find a setting
Find a contact
Find a place
Find a photo
Find a file
Find a song
Find a video
Find a document
Find a recipe
Find a movie
Find a TV show
Find a book
Find a product
Find a place to eat
Find a place to stay
Find a place to shop
Find a place to visit
Find a place to go
Find a place to see
Find a place to do
Find a place to learn
Find a place to work
Find a place to play
Find a place to live
Find a place to be
Find a place to have
Find a place to make
Find a place to take
Find a place to give
Find a place to get
Find a place to find

Software

The second major feature is DeX Mode. The Galaxy Note 9 can turn into a desktop PC with just a USB Type-C to HDMI cable. It still works with the DeX Station or DeX Pad so you can take advantage of wired keyboards and mice, but neither is a necessity anymore. We didn't get to try it with a Type-C to HDMI cable, but should you have one, you will be able to quickly get started on an external monitor, with the Note 9's display acting as a touchpad. DeX Mode is incredibly useful and is another feature that puts the Note 9 in a different league as far as productivity is concerned. We just don't think it's coming to the Galaxy S9 or other devices, as they don't have the same cooling capabilities as the Note 9.

When it comes to S Pen features, there's nothing new here other than the remote functionality discussed earlier. You can translate on-screen text by hovering over it with the stylus, create animated GIF messages through Live Message to send to friends and family, snip any portion of the screen and save it as a screenshot, and write memos even when the phone's display is off. Other Samsung features such as theme support, Secure Folder, Edge screen, Always On Display, and Samsung Pay remain unchanged as well.

Of course, the biggest question is when the Android 9.0 Pie update will arrive on the Galaxy Note 9. Samsung didn't mention anything at the launch event, which is normal, and we can expect to be waiting until early next year for the update to start rolling out. And that's for the Galaxy S9, which will get first preference, so the Note 9 may have to wait until the end of the first quarter of 2019. Well, unless Project Treble helps Samsung get it ready sooner, but it's best not to be too hopeful.

Performance

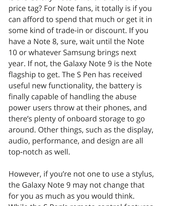
The Galaxy Note 9 comes with the Exynos 9810 SoC in most countries and the Snapdragon 845 in others, with 6GB of RAM on the base model. Performance on the phone is great, and it's more consistent than the S9+ as well, thanks to Samsung's tendency to better optimize software on its Note devices. Gaming performance is excellent, too, but I'm not sure if there is a difference in how warm the phone can get despite the upgraded water cooling system inside.

That shouldn't be surprising, though. With everything that's packed inside smartphones these days, some degree of rise in temperature is to be expected when performing heavy tasks. But Samsung does seem to have a lot of trust in the cooling system, which might be the reason why the Note 9 can be used with a monitor for a desktop experience without the need for a DeX station.

When it comes to biometrics, the Galaxy Note 9 is similar in performance to the Galaxy S9+. Iris and facial recognition aren't the fastest way to unlock the phone, but the convenience they offer make up for the delay that can sometimes occur. The best part is that you can now use Intelligent Scan, which combines both iris and facial scanning, without much of an effect on battery life. The fingerprint sensor is also quick and lets you register your fingerprint with just one to three swipes. Again, it could have been easier to reach and its surface area could be larger, but its accuracy and speed aren't something you can complain about.

Before I forget: The 128GB of internal storage is great to have. Around 109GB is available for use out of the box, and thanks to the microSD slot, most users will never find themselves lacking for space to store their photos, videos, music, and other data. However, it would have been nice to have a 256GB model as an option, especially for those who use two SIM cards and have the need to store more than a hundred gigs of data on their phone. Such folks will probably be in the minority, but it's still a problem as the 512GB model's premium over the base model is just too high to be palatable.

Conclusion



Is the Galaxy Note 9 worth the $1000 price tag? For Note fans, it totally is if you can afford to spend that much or get it in some kind of trade-in or discount. If you have a Note 8, sure, wait until the Note 10 or whatever Samsung brings next year. If not, the Galaxy Note 9 is the Note flagship to get. The S Pen has received useful new functionality, the battery is finally capable of handling the abuse power users throw at their phones, and there's plenty of onboard storage to go around. Other things, such as the display, audio, performance, and design are all top-notch as well.

However, if you're not one to use a stylus, the Galaxy Note 9 may not change that for you as much as you would think. While the S Pen's remote control features are quite handy, you need to remove the stylus from its slot first. If you never found the reason to do that before, it's possible you might not have a reason now. Indeed, while I was happy to use the S Pen for taking pictures during the review period, I'm not sure if the same will be the case after a couple of weeks or a month or two down the line.

So unless you must buy a new phone now, it's best to wait for the Galaxy S10 if you aren't a regular Note user. There will always be something newer around the corner, but while that can be a good reason to wait for the next device, it's even more so now because the Galaxy S10 might be quite special being the tenth-anniversary device in Samsung's mainstream flagship lineup. Again, that's if you aren't generally a fan of the Note smartphones and would be happy with a Galaxy S phone as well, in which case you can also save some money and buy the Galaxy S9+.

But for power users and Note aficionados alike, the Galaxy Note 9 is well worth that $1000 price tag. After the Galaxy Note 4, this is the first Galaxy Note flagship to pretty much have it all, and if you own any of the pre-Note 8 devices, it's time to cave in and make the upgrade.

Pros

- Stunning design that feels slimmer than it is
- Awesome AMOLED display
- Excellent cameras like the Galaxy S9+
- Top-notch performance
- 128GB of storage on base model, microSD support up to 512GB
- IP68 water resistance
- Stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos

Cons

- Quite expensive
- Fingerprint sensor needs to be positioned lower
- Scene Optimizer camera feature is just a gimmick
- 256GB model would be nice given 512GB model's crazy price
- Yellow S Pen on blue variant might not be appreciated by everyone

9 things to set up first on your new Galaxy Note 9

Many of you may have already received your Galaxy Note 9 handsets while others will be picking one up in the next few days. Before you take it out of the box and run through the Galaxy Note 9 setup procedure, here are 9 things that you should set up first on your new Samsung flagship.

Setup

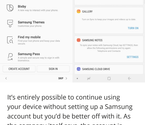
When you power up your Galaxy Note 9 for the first time you will be taken to the setup wizard which will walk you through the steps. Connecting to Wi-Fi is one of the first steps followed by either logging in with or creating a new Google Account. Accept the user agreements and policies to keep the process moving.

1. Set up Intelligent Scan

Configuring access control to the device should definitely not be skipped during the Galaxy Note 9 setup. There are five different options that can be used for this purpose. The Galaxy Note 9 supports conventional Android methods such as PIN, pattern or password in addition to fingerprint scanning, iris scanning and facial recognition.

It requires you to register your irises and face both. When you try to unlock the device it scans both and just uses what it can detect first. It thus speeds up the unlocking process. Simply follow the on-screen instructions offered by the Galaxy Note 9 setup wizard to configure Intelligent Scan.

2. Sign in or create a new Samsung account Scan



It's entirely possible to continue using your device without setting up a Samsung account but you'd be better off with it. As the company itself says, the service adds your gateway to the world of Samsung. You need it to access the wide variety of services that Samsung offers to device owners.

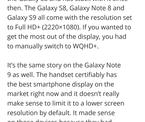
The Samsung account is your ticket to services like Bixby, Samsung Themes, Find my mobile, Samsung Pass, Galaxy Apps, Secure Folder and Private Sharing. You also can't access the 15GB of free Samsung Cloud storage unless you have an account. So this step certainly shouldn't be skipped during the Galaxy Note 9 setup.

3. Increase display resolution to WQHD+

Samsung opted for a lower default screen resolution on its flagships with the Galaxy S8 and has stuck with it since then. The Galaxy S8, Galaxy Note 8 and Galaxy S9 all come with the resolution set to Full HD+ (2220×1080). If you wanted to get the most out of the display, you had to manually switch to WQHD+.

It's the same story on the Galaxy Note 9 as well. The handset certifiably has the best smartphone display on the market right now and it doesn't really make sense to limit it to a lower screen resolution by default. It made sense on those devices because they had smaller batteries. The Galaxy Note 9 has an impressive 4,000mAh battery so do yourself a favor and learn how to switch to WQHD+ (2960×1440) display resolution on the Galaxy Note 9.

4. Configure Always On Display



The Always On Display was introduced with the Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge. It displays time, date, battery status, app notifications and more when the display is turned off. This eliminates the need to turn on the display every time you want to check these details at a glance.

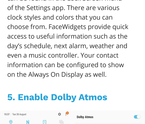
It's highly recommended to configure the Always On Display. The relevant options can be found in the Lock Screen menu of the Settings app. There are various clock styles and colors that you can choose from. FaceWidgets provide quick access to useful information such as the day's schedule, next alarm, weather and even a music controller. Your contact information can be configured to show on the Always On Display as well.

5. Enable Dolby Atmos

The Galaxy Note 9 comes with stereo speakers that provide a powerful audio experience. Dolby Atmos is a useful feature to have on a device that has stereo speakers so it's no surprise that the Galaxy Note 9 has it. The feature also enhances the audio experience on the AKG-tuned earphones that ship with the new flagship.

Dolby Atmos is disabled by default on the Galaxy Note 9. It works on the Auto setting which will detect the type of media being played and adapt the audio accordingly. You can also play around with the different mode to see which one fits your use case best. We already have a tutorial up on how to enable Dolby Atmos on the Galaxy Note 9.

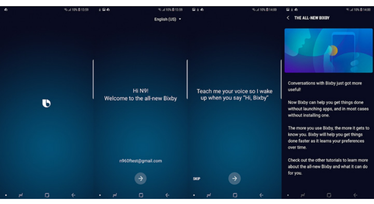
6. Configure S Pen Remote



The S Pen has received a major update for the Galaxy Note 9. It's the first stylus in this series with Bluetooth support. This means that the S Pen can offer features never seen before on a Galaxy Note series device. It can double as a remote control for the camera and media player or even as a controller for presentations.

You're informed of this new capability when you pull out the S Pen for the first time after the Galaxy Note 9 setup. If you tap on More, you will be taken to the S Pen Remote menu where you can configure what app opens when the S Pen button is held down and what a single or double press of the button does in various apps.

7. Setup Bixby



Bixby's polarizing presence continues on the Galaxy Note 9 as well and there's no escaping it because you can't completely disable Bixby on the device. Might as well set it up and see if the new improvements made to the assistant make it any more useful. Bixby will update when you launch it for the first time by pressing and holding the dedicated key.

You will then be prompted to teach it your voice so that it can wake up when you say "Hi, Bixby." You can access tutorials within the new Bixby interface to find out more about what it can do. The updated assistant has better natural language processing capabilities and get a lot more done for you without needing additional app installs.

8. Create an AR Emoji

Samsung launched the AR Emoji feature with the Galaxy S9 earlier this year. It lets users create an animated digital likeness of their face which can then be used to record their facial expressions. Samsung also offers a variety of customization options for these digital avatars including hair, clothes, skin tone and more. Samsung also has a deal with Disney which has brought a variety of its popular characters to AR Emoji.

This feature wasn't present on the Galaxy Note 8 so it's one that you should take for a spin once you're done with the Galaxy Note 9 setup. To create an AR Emoji, launch the camera app and select the AR Emoji mode. You'll need to take a selfie of yourself before the feature can create your digital likeness. It will then present you with the customization options to finetune the appearance of your AR Emoji.

9. Configure Samsung Pay

Samsung's mobile payments service is available in 24 markets across the globe. If you're based in one of those markets, you should configure Samsung Pay to make payments on the go. With its MST technology, Samsung Pay lets you pay anywhere that you can already pay using a conventional credit and debit card.

The Galaxy Note 9 obviously has support for Samsung Pay and will allow for one-tap payments on the go. Samsung Pay can also be used for online payments in some markets. Refer to our comprehensive Samsung Pay guide to find out more about how you can set up and use the payments service on your new flagship.

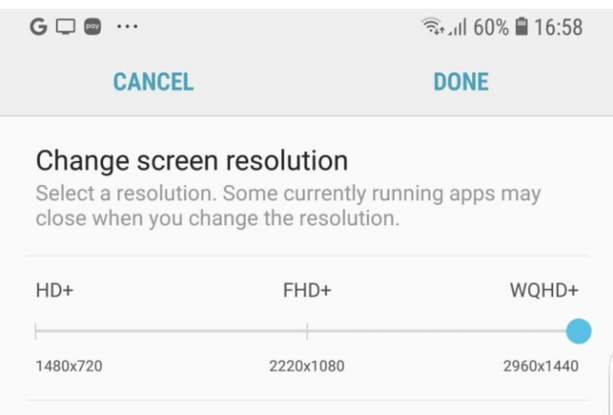
PSA: Don’t forget to switch to WQHD+ display resolution on your Galaxy Note 9

It was with the Galaxy S8 that Samsung started using a lower screen resolution on its flagships by default. The Galaxy S8, Galaxy Note 8, and the Galaxy S9 come with the resolution set to Full HD+ (2220×1080) out of the box, and you have to take a trip into the display settings to increase it back to WQHD+ (2960×1440) to get the full experience. While the not-so-big batteries on those phones were a good reason for using a lower screen resolution, it’s something the Galaxy Note 9 does not need thanks to the 4,000 mAh battery that powers it.

Don’t settle for anything but the best

Most of you probably know that the lower screen resolution doesn’t really result in any noticeable improvement in battery life. And, well, most folks are unlikely to be able to tell the difference between FHD+ and WQHD+. There is a difference if you look hard enough, but even it if wasn’t, we see no reason why the Galaxy Note 9’s 6.4-inch AMOLED screen shouldn’t be enjoyed at its maximum resolution. Again, the Note 9’s battery has the grunt to keep up, so if you are one of those who want the best experience from their phone, switching the display resolution to WQHD+ is one of the first things you should do once you fire up your Galaxy Note 9.

The screen resolution can be adjusted in the Display section of the phone’s settings.



Tip: Don't forget to enable Dolby Atmos on your Galaxy Note 9

If you think that title looks familiar, it's because we had the same story up when the Galaxy S9 was released. Dolby Atmos is quite a useful feature to have on the stereo speakers and the AKG-tuned earphones on Samsung's latest flagships, but it comes disabled by default. That might be deliberate since Dolby Atmos doesn't always make a positive difference. But it can also mean that some users might not discover it as quickly as they should. So, well, if you have a Galaxy Note 9 or are looking forward to picking one up, don't forget to enable Dolby Atmos as soon as you get the chance!

Dolby Atmos is great, but you have to first enable it

Dolby Atmos usually works on the Auto setting, which tries to detect the kind of media being played and adapts accordingly. But the detection is rather wonky at times, like using the Movie mode when you're playing music tracks, so it's best to play around with the different modes (movie, music, and voice) to see which one works best for your current use case. Or, well, just leave it on Auto so you can reap the benefits without having to worry about it too much. As you would expect, it's more useful over the earphones, but the difference is noticeable even on the stereo loudspeakers.

In any case, you first have to enable Dolby Atmos. You can do that by using the toggle in the quick settings menu accessible by swiping down the notification shade twice. You can also enable Dolby Atmos from the Sound and vibration » Sound quality and effects menu in the phone's Settings app. You can then access the toggle in the notification shade when you're watching or listening to something on the phone to change the mode on-the-fly.

Galaxy Note 9 touch sensitivity setting adjustment makes a huge difference

You may be looking to adjust the Galaxy Note 9 touch sensitivity setting if you feel that it could be a bit better on Samsung's latest flagship smartphone. You'd be better off enabling it anyway if you're using a screen protector with your device. You may find yourself having to press down harder than usual on the display to register touch input when the screen protector is installed.

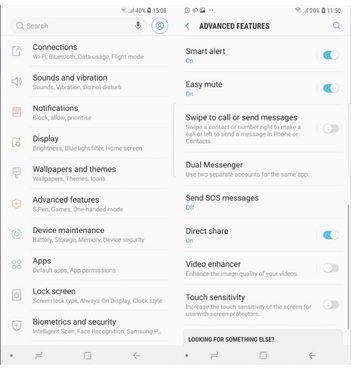
This isn't something that the Galaxy Note 9 touch sensitivity setting adjustment can't fix. It only takes turning on a toggle to improve the touch sensitivity of the flagship's display. The improvement is noticeable and makes life easier when you're using a screen protector to safeguard that gorgeous Infinity Display of the Galaxy Note 9.

Galaxy Note 9 touch sensitivity setting adjustment

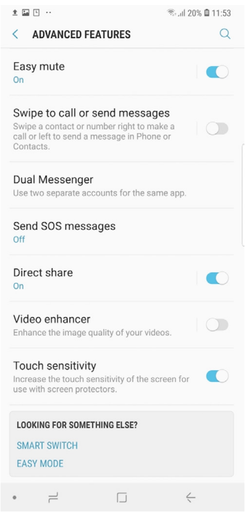
This isn't a new feature by any stretch of the imagination. Manufacturers have allowed users to do this on smartphones for a very long time. It was previously known as the "Glove mode," as it was meant to ensure that the display responded accurately even when users had gloves on.

The advancements in display technology have eliminated the need for a special mode for when you have gloves on. The Galaxy Note 9 touch sensitivity setting is more for improving the sensitivity so that there's no lag in the input when the user has a screen protector on the device.

Step 1: Launch Settings and enter the Advanced features menu



Step 2: Scroll down to find the Touch sensitivity option at the bottom of the list. Tap on it to turn the toggle ON.



All the ways you can take pictures on the Samsung Galaxy Note 9

Like any Samsung Galaxy flagship, the Galaxy Note 9 offers a top-notch camera experience. You can take great photos from the dual rear camera and the front camera, but did you know that you don't just have to use the shutter button in the camera app or press the volume buttons to take photos on the Galaxy Note 9? Samsung's camera app offers various options to make it convenient to snap pictures on the device, so that you can avoid twisting your fingers to reach the shutter or volume buttons, which can often result in camera shake.

So what are the various ways you can take pictures on the Galaxy Note 9? Let's take a look.

Using the button on the S Pen stylus

The Galaxy Note 9's S Pen is Bluetooth-enabled and can work as a remote in various apps. In the camera, you can press the button on the S Pen stylus to click pictures just like you would press the button on a selfie stick. You can't attach the Note 9 to the S Pen, sure, but using the stylus is a neat way to free up the hand holding the phone. If you have your Galaxy Note 9 in a case with a kickstand, you can prop it up in front of you and use the S Pen from faraway, which can be handy for taking selfies of a large group of people.

Floating camera button

The Galaxy Note 9's S Pen is Bluetooth-enabled and can work as a remote in various apps. In the camera, you can press the button on the S Pen stylus to click pictures just like you would press the button on a selfie stick. You can't attach the Note 9 to the S Pen, sure, but using the stylus is a neat way to free up the hand holding the phone. If you have your Galaxy Note 9 in a case with a kickstand, you can prop it up in front of you and use the S Pen from faraway, which can be handy for taking selfies of a large group of people.

The floating camera button, as the name suggests, is a shutter button that you can move around on the screen. The default shutter button in the camera app isn't always easy to reach, so the floating button allows you to have a separate shutter button that's less troublesome. You can even place the floating button next to the default shutter button if you wish, so that you have a larger surface area to tap on when you're trying to take a picture.

To enable the floating camera button, open the Camera app, tap the gear icon at the bottom left to go into the camera settings, then scroll down to find **the Floating camera button** option. You can then move this button to any spot in the main camera app by dragging it around. Easy peasy, right?

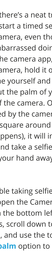
Tell Bixby to take a picture

If you have Bixby Voice enabled on your Galaxy Note 9, you can tell Bixby to take a picture for you. The best part is that you don't even need to have the camera app open for this. Just press and hold the Bixby key on the left side of the phone, say something like "Take a picture", then let go of the Bixby key. The camera app will then open and take a picture after a two-second timer countdown. For even higher convenience, you can just wake up Bixby by saying "Hi Bixby" instead of pressing the Bixby key, then give it the command to take a picture.

By default, the picture will be taken by whatever camera (front or rear) was used the last time. But you can get around this by saying "Take a picture with the rear camera" or "Take a selfie". The camera app will then switch to the front or rear camera before taking a picture. Just make sure you have the phone pointed at the subject you're trying to take a photo of before you ask Bixby to do it.

Traditional voice control

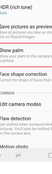
If you have the option to wake up Bixby by saying "Hi Bixby" disabled, you can fall back on a more traditional voice control feature that Samsung's camera app has had for years. Basically, you can simply say "smile", cheese", "capture", or "shoot" when the camera app is open to make it take a picture instead of pressing the shutter button or volume buttons yourself. To record videos, you can say "record video". Naturally, you will have to end the video recording yourself, but that isn't too much to ask, right?



Show your palm to take a selfie

Lastly, there's a neat trick that you can use to start a timed selfie capture in the front camera, even though you might feel embarrassed doing it out in public. Open the camera app, switch to the front camera, hold it out in front of you to frame yourself and your friends, then hold out the palm of your other hand in front of the camera. Once the palm is detected by the camera (you will see a yellow square around your palm once that happens), it will initiate a two-second timer and take a selfie. Just make sure to put your hand away once the timer starts.

To enable taking selfies by showing your palm, open the Camera app, tap the gear icon on the bottom left to go into camera settings, scroll down to the **Front camera** section, and use the toggle next to the **Show palm** option to turn it on.



Quick launch camera on the Galaxy Note 9 in India with Always On Display

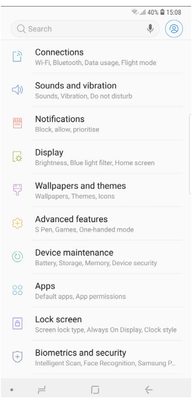
Like any Samsung Galaxy flagship, the Galaxy Note 9 offers a top-notch camera experience. You can take great photos from the dual rear camera and the front camera, but did you know that you don't just have to use the shutter button in the camera app or press the volume buttons to take photos on the Galaxy Note 9? Samsung's camera app offers various options to make it convenient to snap pictures on the device, so that you can avoid twisting your fingers to reach the shutter or volume buttons, which can often result in camera shake.

So what are the various ways you can take pictures on the Galaxy Note 9? Let's take a look.

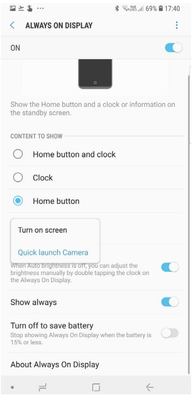
Quick launch camera on the Galaxy Note 9

If you have set the Always On Display to show the home button then the home button can be tapped twice to quickly launch the camera. That's the same shortcut you would have used if the device had a physical home button like the Galaxy Notes of days gone by. Follow these steps to enable the shortcut

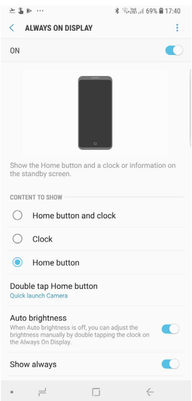
Step 1: Open the Settings app and then go into the Lock screen menu.



Step 2: Access the Always On Display menu and scroll down to the Content to Show section. Select either Home button and clock or Home button. Naturally, you cannot select the Clock option as that will not show the home button on Always On Display, which is needed for accessing the camera app.



Step 3: Then, tap Double tap Home button and then select the Quick launch camera option.



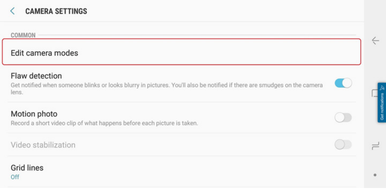
Your Galaxy Note 9 can also take regular slow-motion videos

Super slow-mo video recording is one of the highlights of the Galaxy Note 9 camera, just like it was on the Galaxy S9 and Galaxy S9+. Super slow-mo videos are great, but they aren't suitable in scenes with poor lighting. They are also recorded at a resolution of 1280×720 pixels, meaning they aren't as sharp as one would like on that beautiful Super AMOLED screen. That's why regular slow motion videos, which are shot at Full HD resolution (1920×1080) and are less finicky in low-light conditions, are still irreplaceable.

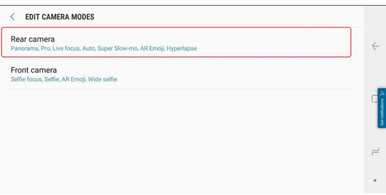
Samsung, however, hides the regular slow motion mode in the camera app by default. That means you have to manually enable it, and we're here to tell you exactly how you can do that on your Galaxy Note 9.

Step 1: Open the camera app, then go into the camera settings by tapping the gear icon at the bottom left.

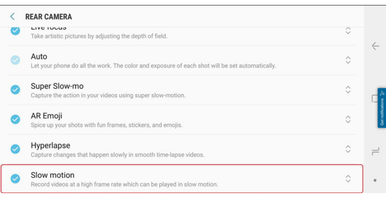
Step 2: Scroll down to the Common section, and tap the Edit camera modes option.



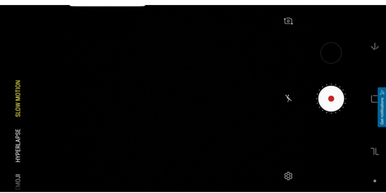
Step 3: Tap Rear camera.



Step 4: You will now see a list of all available camera modes for the rear camera. Scroll down to the bottom to find the Slow motion option, then tap it to enable it. You can also reposition the different modes to change how they show up in the camera app. Just tap and hold the arrow icon next to a mode and drag it to the desired position.



You can now access the standard slow motion mode in the camera app, in addition to Super slow-mo. In step 4 above, you can also disable some modes that you may not use (such as AR Emoji) to declutter the camera app.

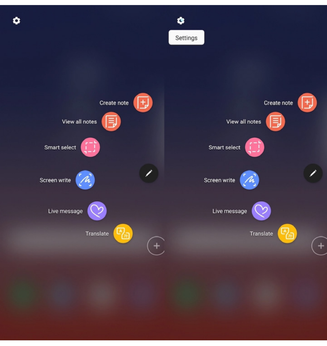


Customize Galaxy Note 9 Air command menu for easier access

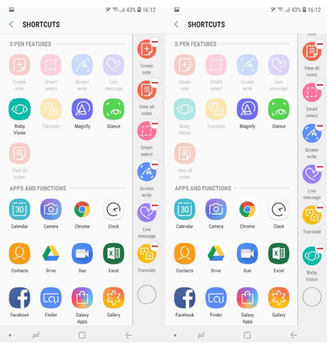
If this is your first Galaxy Note handset, you'd be interested in finding out whether it's possible to customize Galaxy Note 9 Air command menu. Air command has been a permanent fixture on Samsung's Galaxy Note handsets. It's a handy menu that provides quick access to the S Pen's signature features such as screen write and notes.

By default, the Air command menu will open automatically whenever the S Pen is taken out. It can also be activated by hovering the stylus over the screen and pressing the S Pen button. This menu can be customized for quick access to the apps and features you use the most.

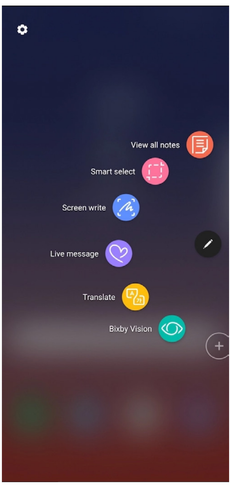
Step 1: Launch Air command menu by taking out the S Pen. Tap on the Settings icon in the top left corner followed by Shortcuts



Step 2: Select the required app or feature from the list. Tapping on it will automatically add it to the list. Tap on the "-" to remove any existing item from the Air command menu



Step 3: Exit Settings once you have added the features and apps you require to the menu



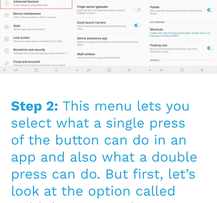
That's all there is to it. As you can see, it's very easy to customize Air command menu on Galaxy Note 9. Once you have done the process, you will only see the apps and features you selected in Air command the next time you launch this menu. This is all a matter of routine for those who have been using Galaxy Note handsets in the past.

Galaxy Note 9 S Pen button can be customized for various remote functions

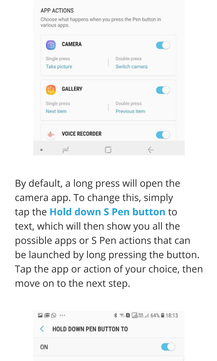
The Galaxy Note 9 brought with it one of the biggest upgrades ever for the S Pen. The S Pen now has Bluetooth built in, so you can use the button on the stylus to perform remote actions, like taking a picture in the camera app, browsing through images in the gallery, or going back to the previous website in Google Chrome or Samsung's Internet app. What is more, the button can perform one action on a single press and another action with a double press, making it quite handy for quickly accessing various functionality. Oh, and a long press of the S Pen button can also be used to launch an app of your choice.

Out of the box, the S Pen can be used as a remote in mostly preloaded apps, but developers of third-party apps can also enable support for the S Pen, so the possibilities are endless. So how exactly do you customize the S Pen button for various actions? That's what we're here to tell you, so let's get started.

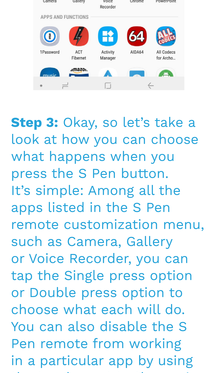
Step 1: Open the Settings app on your Note 9, tap Advanced features, then tap S Pen. Here, select the S Pen remote option to go into the S Pen remote customization menu.



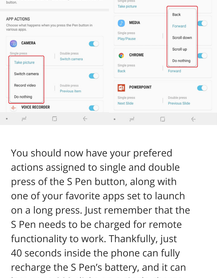
Step 2: This menu lets you select what a single press of the button can do in an app and also what a double press can do. But first, let's look at the option called Hold down S Pen button to. By long-pressing the S Pen button, you can launch any app installed on the phone and also various S Pen functions, such as creating notes, magnifying on-screen content, or creating live messages.



By default, a long press will open the Galaxy Apps store. To change this, simply tap the **Hold down S Pen button** to text, which will then show you all the possible apps or S Pen actions that can be launched by long pressing the button. Tap the app or action of your choice, then move on to the next step.



Step 3: Okay, so let's take a look at how you can choose what happens when you press the S Pen button. It's simple: Among all the apps listed in the S Pen remote customization menu, such as Camera, Gallery or Voice Recorder, you can tap the Single press option or Double press option to choose what each will do. You can also disable the S Pen remote from working in a particular app by using the toggle next to the app's name.



You should now have your preferred actions assigned to single and double press of the S Pen button, along with one of your favorite apps set to launch on a long press. Just remember that the S Pen needs to be charged for remote functionality to work. Thankfully, just 40 seconds inside the phone can fully recharge the S Pen's battery, and it can last up to 200 clicks on a single charge.

3 simple ways to take a screenshot on the Galaxy Note 9

We often need to take a screenshot of something on our phones and if you've just picked up Samsung's latest flagship, you'd be interested in learning how to take a screenshot on Galaxy Note 9. There are multiple ways you can do that. Here are three simple ways to take a screenshot on the Galaxy Note 9.

The power + volume down button method

There are two simple ways to take a regular screen on the Galaxy Note 9. The first involves pressing and holding the power button and the volume down button at the same time for two seconds. The screen will flash to confirm that the screenshot has been captured. It will be available instantly for sharing and will also be accessible through the notifications. All screenshots are automatically saved in the Gallery.

The palm swipe method

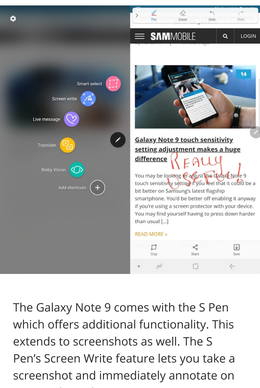
Another cool and simple way to take a screenshot on Galaxy Note 9 is to do a palm swipe. When you want to take a screenshot, just position your hand vertically along the right or left edge of the Galaxy Note 9 and then swipe to the other end. Make sure that your hand is touching the screen.

This method is enabled by default and you do have the option to turn it off. Head over to the Advanced features menu in the Settings app and scroll down. You'll find the Palm swipe to capture toggle there.

Tip: Use scroll capture to take multiple screenshots

If you want to screenshot an entire webpage but don't want multiple images, make use of the scroll capture feature. The button will appear briefly at the bottom whenever you take a screenshot. If you tap on it, the screen will be scrolled down automatically to capture additional content. This can be done multiple times and all of the screenshots are automatically stitched together into a long image.

How to take a screenshot using the Galaxy Note 9's S Pen



The Galaxy Note 9 comes with the S Pen which offers additional functionality. This extends to screenshots as well. The S Pen's Screen Write feature lets you take a screenshot and immediately annotate on it using the stylus.

Just open the Air command menu when you want to take a screenshot of something and select Screen Write. The screen will flash and you'll be taken into the editing pane where the S Pen can be used to write on the screenshot. The editing pane even lets you change the color and style of the pen or use an eraser to correct any mistakes.

These are the 3 simple ways that you can take a screenshot on Galaxy Note 9. The last one is particularly my favorite since it lets me write on the image itself. It really comes in handy when you want to make a point or highlight something of importance in the screenshot.

Don’t forget to enable swipe-down notifications on the Galaxy Note 9

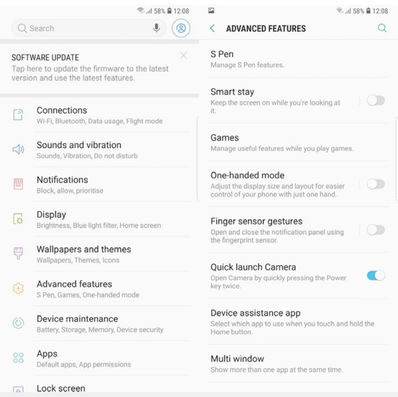
Having difficulty accessing notifications on Galaxy Note 9? The gorgeous 6.4-inch 18.5:9 aspect ratio Infinity Display can present that problem to users with small hands. If this worries you then fret not as there’s an easier way, you just need to enable swipe-down notifications on Galaxy Note 9.

Samsung’s love affair with extra-tall aspect ratio displays started with the Galaxy S8 – the device that introduced its Infinity Display. It has stuck with this design change since then for all of its flagship devices. The Infinity Display has even trickled down to some affordable devices as well. No complaints, since the increased usable screen space is much appreciated and the device itself looks gorgeous.

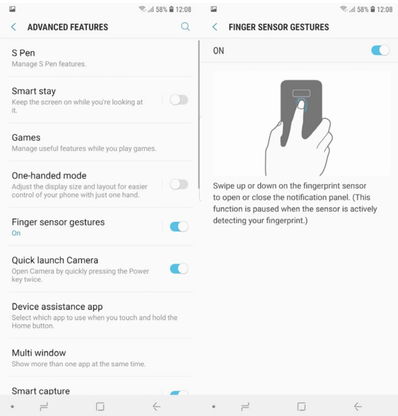
How to enable swipe-down notifications on Galaxy Note 9

The Swipe-down notifications feature lets you use the fingerprint sensor at the back to pull down the notifications shade. You don’t have to reach all the way to the top of the device. Just swipe down on the fingerprint sensor and it opens notifications. This feature is not enabled by default so you have to go into the Settings app to enable it.

Step 1: Open Settings app and go to the Advanced features menu



Step 2: Enable the Finger sensor gestures feature by tapping on the toggle

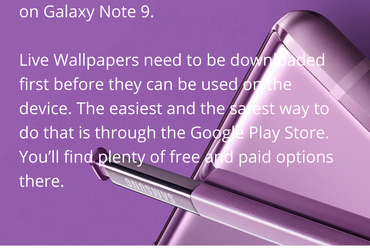


Once this feature is enabled, it will let you swipe down on the fingerprint sensor to open the notification shade. Bear in mind that this functionality is paused with the sensor is actively detecting the fingerprint. In simple words, it won’t pull down notifications when you’re using it to scan your fingerprint.

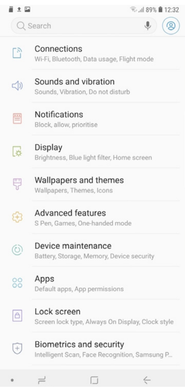
Set a Live Wallpaper on your Galaxy Note 9 for added visual flair

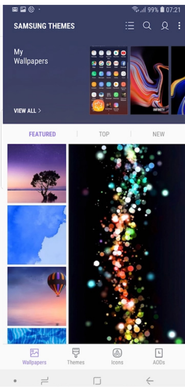
It has been possible to set Live Wallpapers on an Android device for the better part of a decade. Samsung smartphones are no exception but the company doesn't put the option to use them front and center. You actually have to dig into a couple of menus to get to the point where you can set up a Live Wallpaper on your device. If you're not sure about the steps involved, this guide will teach you how to set a Live Wallpaper on Galaxy Note 9.

Live Wallpapers need to be downloaded first before they can be used on the device. The easiest and the safest way to do that is through the Google Play Store. You'll find plenty of free and paid options there.



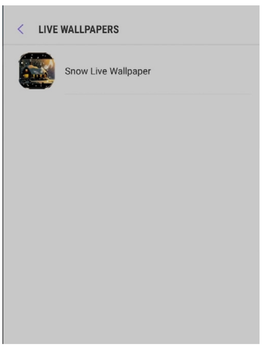
Step 1: Open Settings after a Live Wallpaper is downloaded and go to the Wallpapers and Themes menu.





Step 2: Tap on View All under the Wallpapers heading. Access the overflow menu from the top right corner and then tap on Live Wallpapers.

Step 3: Select the Live Wallpaper that you installed. You will then be given the option to either set it as the wallpaper for the Home Screen or both Home and Lock Screen.



How to enable Galaxy Note 9 landscape home screen mode

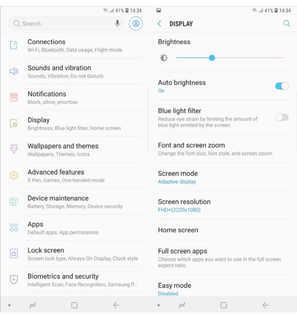
It was previously only possible to use Galaxy Note devices in landscape mode with apps that supported the orientation. The home screen would remain in portrait but that changed with the Galaxy S9. It's also possible on Samsung's latest flagship but you will need to learn how to enable Galaxy Note 9 landscape home screen mode.

Samsung made it possible to use the Galaxy S9 entirely in landscape orientation. It later made it possible for the Galaxy S8 and the Galaxy Note 8 to do this as well. The Galaxy Note 9 ships with this functionality out of the box, unsurprisingly.

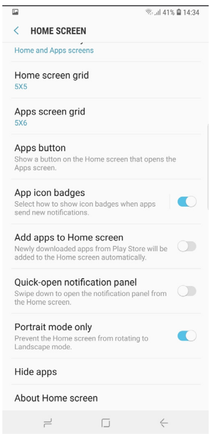
Samsung didn't originally allow this on the Galaxy Note 8. You could only lock the screen orientation to landscape so that it would automatically switch orientation in apps and menus that supported it. The home screen would only work in the portrait orientation. You can follow the same steps to lock screen orientation on the Galaxy Note 9 as well.

The new device doesn't have that constraint, though. Samsung allows users to switch the home screen to landscape as well. However, this functionality is disabled by default and you have to enable it manually from the Settings app.

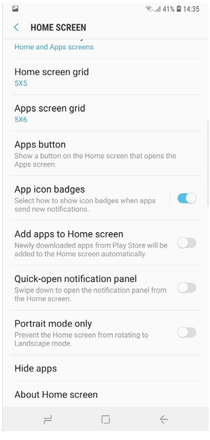
Step 1: Launch the Settings app and navigate to the Home screen section in the Display menu.



Step 2: Locate the Portrait mode only toggle at the bottom of the menu. It's enabled by default.



Step 3: Tap on this toggle to disable Portrait mode only

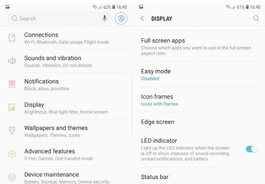


Once disabled, the home screen will no longer be prevented from rotating to landscape orientation. Even the app drawer will then be accessible in this orientation in addition to any apps and menus that support it.

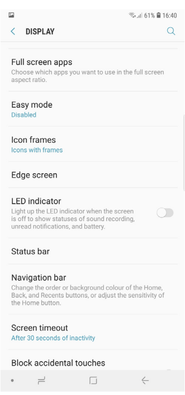
Galaxy Note 9 LED notification light can easily be disabled

Is the Galaxy Note 9 LED notification light bothering you? It's actually very easy to permanently disable the handset's LED notification light. It illuminates when a notification needs your attention or when the battery is running low. Some might feel it's redundant now that the company is shipping its flagship handsets with the Always On Display. If you're in that camp, follow the instructions given below to disable Galaxy Note 9 LED notification light.

Step 1: Launch Settings and enter the Display menu. Scroll down and locate the LED indicator option



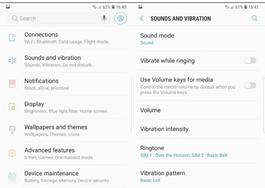
Step 2: It's enabled by default. Disable it by flicking the toggle to off. This will permanently disable the notification light.



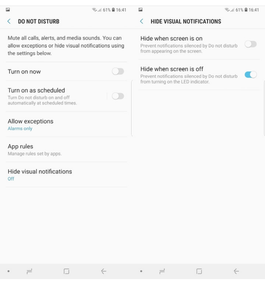
Disable Galaxy Note 9 LED notification light only at night

If you don't want to permanently disable the LED and would like it to be turned off when you go to bed and be available when you get up then go through the following steps.

Step 1: Launch Settings and enter the Sounds and vibration menu.



Step 2: Tap on Do not disturb followed by Hide visual notifications. Slide the toggle next to Hide When Screen is Off to On.



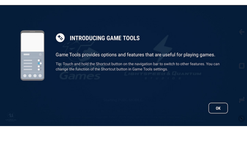
These are the simple steps that you need to follow to configure the LED to your preferences. You can either choose to completely disable Galaxy Note 9 LED notification light or have it turn off at night when you don't need it.

Your Galaxy Note 9 has a full-fledged gameplay recorder built-in

It's possible to record gameplay on Galaxy Note 9 without having to install a third-party app on the device. Samsung has positioned its new flagship not just as a powerful device for professionals who want to work on the go but also as a bonafide mobile gaming device. It certainly has the specs to live up to that claim and even comes with a water carbon cooling system to keep temperatures in check during gaming sessions.

So if you are going to be gaming a lot on the new device then you may be interested in learning how to record gameplay on Galaxy Note 9. Samsung has made it simple with the addition of Game Tools, a set of features that the device ships with.

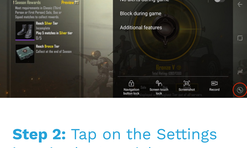
How to record gameplay on Galaxy Note 9



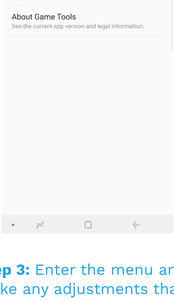
When you launch a game for the first time on the Galaxy Note 9 after setting it up, the device itself will inform you about Game Tools. It will point you to the shortcut button on the navigation bar which can be used to quickly access some core features.

You can configure the button to either lock the screen touch and navigation button or to take a screenshot and a video of the gameplay. Then it's only a matter of swiping to bring up the navigation bar and tapping on the shortcut button to achieve the required objective.

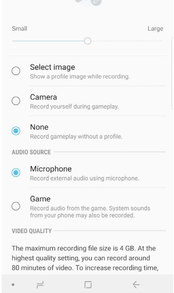
Step 1: Bring up the navigation bar and tap on the Game Tools button in the bottom. This will open the relevant menu with easy access to features. From here you can select if you want to block certain things while you're playing the game such as alerts. It will also bring up a floating bar of your recently used apps



Step 2: Tap on the Settings icon in the top right corner to tweak the many options. It's here that you will find the Record videos menu



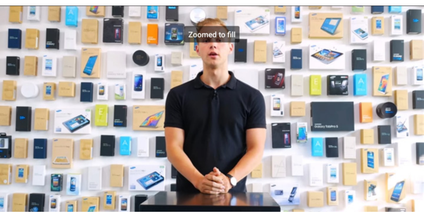
Step 3: Enter the menu and make any adjustments that you deem fit



The built-in gameplay recorder lets you select a profile image to display in the recording or even record yourself during gameplay. It also allows you to either record the game's internal audio or external audio through the microphone if you want to talk over the gameplay.

The gameplay recording resolution is set to 720p by default and it can be bumped up to 1080p. The maximum recording file size is 4GB and at the highest quality setting, up to 80 minutes of video can be recorded. The recording time can be increased by lowering the resolution and the bit rate.

How to make YouTube full-screen on the Galaxy Note 9



Wondering how to make YouTube full-screen on Galaxy Note 9? You may not know what to do if you have just moved to a Samsung device with its latest Galaxy Note flagship. This wasn't a problem before Samsung launched the tall and narrow Infinity Display with the Galaxy S8. The YouTube app initially had a dedicated button that would make the video fit the entire width of the screen and remove the black bars on the sides.

That button was removed in a subsequent update. You'll be more than aware of how to make YouTube full-screen on Galaxy Note 9 if you have been using an existing flagship. This guide is for those who are new to the Samsung device experience.

Don't worry if you can't find the dedicated button to make videos fit the entire screen in YouTube. You are still able to fully leverage the gorgeous Galaxy Note 9 display to watch YouTube videos. Speaking of YouTube videos, the Galaxy Note 9 is a YouTube-recommended device for the optimal viewing experience.

Pinch-to-zoom gestures are now used to make the video full-screen on devices with the Infinity Display. The video will fill the entire screen when it's playing in landscape orientation after you pinch-to-zoom just like you would on an image in the gallery. Just place two fingers on the screen and move them away from each other. You'll see "Zoomed to fill" appear up top to let you know that YouTube is now full-screen on the device. Zooming out is simple as well, just repeat the process in the opposite direction.

Do keep in mind that after you make a YouTube video full-screen on Galaxy Note 9 a small part of the top and bottom will get cut as most videos are not for the 18.5:9 aspect ratio of the device. If this irks you then your best bet is to watch the video without having it fill the entire screen.

How to use Samsung Secure Folder on the Galaxy Note 9

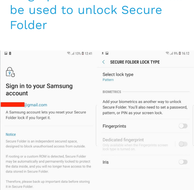
Samsung introduced the Secure Folder a couple of years ago on the then-latest Galaxy Note flagship. It has since been rolled out to a wide variety of devices while the Galaxy Note 9 comes with it out of the box. If this is your first device from the Korean giant then this guide will teach you how to use Samsung Secure Folder on Galaxy Note 9.

How to use Samsung Secure Folder

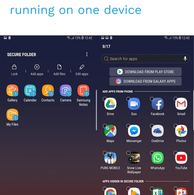
Secure Folder refers to a private and encrypted space on your smartphone that's created by the device based on the defense-grade Samsung Knox security platform. This secure space and be used to store and encrypt all private data and apps. You can have private files, images, videos, contacts and more in Secure Folder.

The data on commonly used native apps can be moved to the Secure Folder as well. All apps and data in Secure Folder are sandboxed separately on the device so they remain completely isolated from other data on the device. They can't be accessed unless entry is authorized by the user through the personalized lock type.

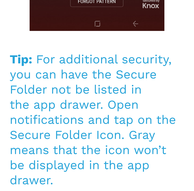
Step 1: Open the app drawer and open the Secure Folder app. The splash screen will tell you about the benefits of this feature



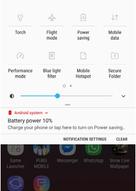
Step 2: Sign in to your Samsung account. You need one for Secure Folder as it lets you reset the lock if you forget it. Then configure your lock type from the options presented which include pattern, pin and password. Fingerprints and iris can also be used to unlock Secure Folder



Step 3: You will then be taken into the Secure Folder once it's created. Use the Add apps option to have a fresh copy of an app running in Secure Folder independent of the one already being used. This is one way to have multiple social media accounts running on one device



Step 4: Lock the Secure Folder once you're done. You will be prompted to use the configured lock type once you want to access it again.



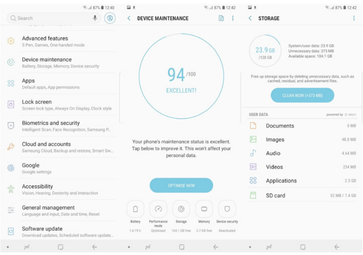
Tip: For additional security, you can have the Secure Folder not be listed in the app drawer. Open notifications and tap on the Secure Folder Icon. Gray means that the icon won't be displayed in the app drawer.

How to format Samsung Galaxy Note 9 SD card

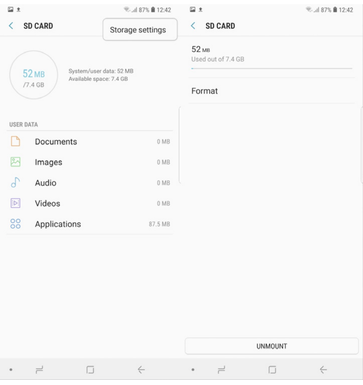
The Galaxy Note 9 supports microSD cards of up to 512GB. This means that with the 512GB internal storage variant you can have up to 1TB of storage in your pocket. It can be a bit of a handful to manually make space on a microSD card with that much storage. That's where the format option comes in handy.

With just a few taps you can have all of the data erased. If there's something that you do want to hold on just remember to make a backup before you go ahead and format the SD card. Don't know how to format Samsung Galaxy Note 9 SD card? The process is simple enough and doesn't take more than a few minutes.

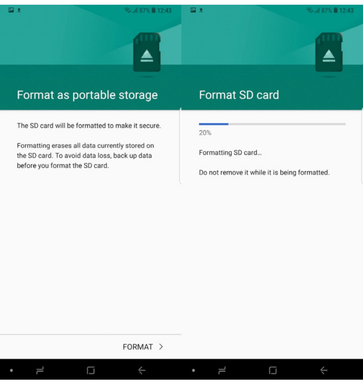
Step 1: Open the Settings app followed by Device Maintenance. Tap on Storage to bring up details of both internal and external storage



Step 2: Tap on SD card and open Storage settings from the overflow menu in the top right corner. Tap on Format to begin the process

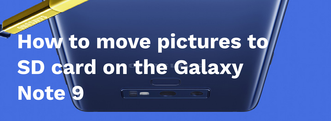


Step 3: You will be prompted that formatting will erase all data on the microSD card and that you should do a backup if you want to avoid data loss. Tap on Format to go ahead.



The device will then run through the process automatically and prompt you when the card has been formatted successfully.

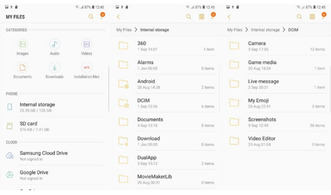
How to move pictures to SD card on the Galaxy Note 9



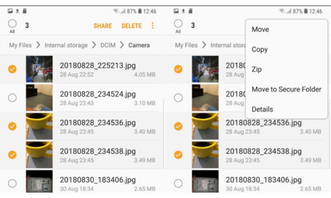
There's ample internal storage on the Galaxy Note 9 that the need for this may never arise. The base model of the Galaxy Note 9 ships with 128GB of storage after all and you can even get one with 512GB of storage. That being said, if you're still curious about how to move pictures to SD card on Galaxy Note 9 then check out the detailed guide below.

There are many reasons why you may want to move pictures to SD card on Galaxy Note 9. Whether it's just freeing up internal storage or easily sharing a bunch of pictures with someone else. This is a useful trick to have up your sleeve.

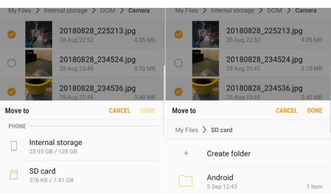
Step 1: Launch the My Files app. You can find it in the folder titled Samsung in the app drawer



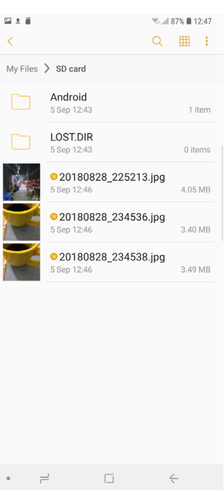
Step 2: Tap on Internal Storage followed by DCIM and Camera



Step 3: Select the photos you want to move and open the overflow menu to select the Move option



Step 4: Select the location in the SD card where you want to move these pictures to. You can also create a new folder in the card from there



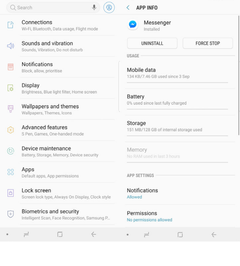
That's how simple it is to move pictures to SD card on Galaxy Note 9. Bear in mind that moving pictures will not leave behind a copy in the internal storage. If you want to retain a copy onboard as well then select the Copy option instead of Move in Step 3.

How to move apps to SD card on the Galaxy Note 9

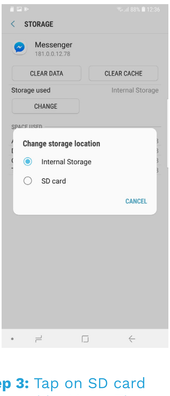
It's simple enough to move apps to SD card on Galaxy Note 9. Some of you may still want to do that even though the base model of the handset comes with 128GB of onboard storage. If you splurge a bit you can also get the Galaxy Note 9 with 512GB of internal storage. This particular variant can put 1TB of storage in your pocket as the Galaxy Note 9 can support microSD cards of up to 512GB.

This easy guide is going to teach you how to move apps to SD card on Galaxy Note 9. Remember that not all apps can be exported to the SD card. Individual apps have to support being moved to the SD card so the apps that don't enable this option can't be moved.

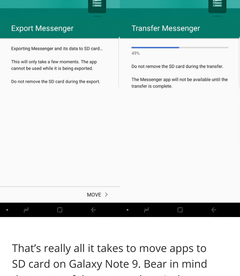
Step 1: Launch the Settings app and open the Apps menu. Tap on the app you want to move



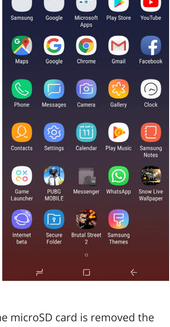
Step 2: Tap on Storage followed by Change. A popup will ask if you want to move it to the SD card



Step 3: Tap on SD card followed by Move. Then wait for a bit as the device does its thing.



That's really all it takes to move apps to SD card on Galaxy Note 9. Bear in mind that some of the exported app's data will continue to take up space in internal storage. There's nothing that can be done about it because it's an Android thing. The icon of an app will be changed once it's moved to the SD. It will let users know at a glance which apps they have shifted to external storage.



If the microSD card is removed the apps exported to it might stop working. Apps have to be moved back to internal storage when swapping microSD cards. Follow the same procedure and select Device memory in Step 3 if you want to move an app back to internal storage from the SD card.

Note: It was pointed out to us (Thanks, Wesley!), that apps once moved to the SD card are ported back to the internal storage once they receive an update. We have tested this out ourselves and that is indeed the case. This is most likely an Android issue so if you don't want apps moving back to the internal storage, don't update them, but that's never recommended.

Is it a good idea to encrypt SD card on the Samsung Galaxy Note 9?

If you have been using a Samsung smartphone for quite some time then you will already be aware of how to encrypt SD card on Samsung devices. The procedure aside, is it really a good idea to encrypt the SD card on your device? You should certainly give it more thought if you are using an SD card.

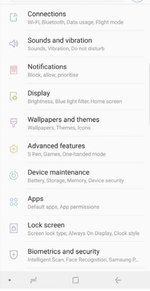
The real benefit of encrypting an SD card is that no one else can access what's on it unless the card is in the device that was used to encrypt it. Not only that, the SD card won't reveal its contents until that device is unlocked. Nobody will be able to access the files on the card unless it's decrypted or accessed using the device it was encrypted on.

This guarantees data security if you ever lose the card, someone steals it or it gets stolen with your phone. Nobody can simply take it out and put it inside another device to access its contents. They would have to format it first before they can copy something else on it.

Herein lies the problem with encrypted SD cards. If your phone gets damaged beyond repair then there's no way to recover the data on the card. It would only be usable again once it's formatted which would erase all data.

Thus the responsibility falls on your shoulders to make backups elsewhere or you run the risk of losing all data on the encrypted SD card should something happen to your phone. Remember, the card can only be decrypted on the device that it was encrypted on.

Step 1: Open the Settings app and enter the Biometric and Security menu



Step 2: Scroll down and select the Encrypt SD card option. Tap on Encrypt SD card and the process will begin once you have entered your password or PIN, if you have one configured

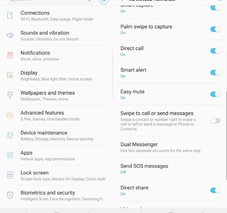
The process can take up an hour or more depending on how much content you have on the card. The microSD card can not be used during the encryption process. Bear in mind that the device will be unable to read the encrypted microSD card if it's reset to factory default settings. The same procedure can be used to decrypt the SD card as well.

Galaxy Note 9 Dual Messenger feature will make your life easier

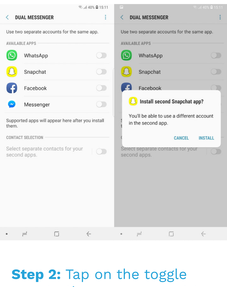
The Galaxy Note 9 Dual Messenger feature is great if you want to run two different social media accounts on one device. Samsung's Dual Messenger feature is available on a wide range of its devices. The company developed this solution to enable users to have multiple accounts of social media networks running on one device. This feature isn't useful for apps like Instagram which already let users configure multiple accounts in the app. It's very useful for the likes of WhatsApp and Snapchat that strictly limit users to one account on the device.

What the Dual Messenger feature essentially does is clone messaging applications. The cloned apps run in a sandboxed environment, a virtual walled garden separate from the main device so to speak. All that's left to do then is to have one account on one app and the other on the cloned app. The same can also be done inside Samsung's Secure Folder but it requires a password or biometric authentication. Dual Messenger is a simpler way of achieving the same objective.

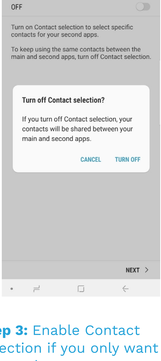
Bear in mind that only the installed apps that don't natively support more than one account will be listed in the configuration panel for Dual Messenger. The apps that do allow you to run multiple accounts on the same device won't show up here. Dual Messenger has to be enabled separately for each of the supported apps.



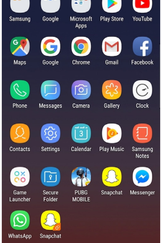
Step 1: Launch Settings. You'll find Dual Messenger in the Advanced features menu



Step 2: Tap on the toggle next to the app you want to run two accounts on. You will be prompted to install a copy of that app



Step 3: Enable Contact selection if you only want selected contacts to appear in the second app. If this isn't enabled, all of your contacts will be shared between the first and second apps. Use this feature if you want to limit the contacts between both accounts

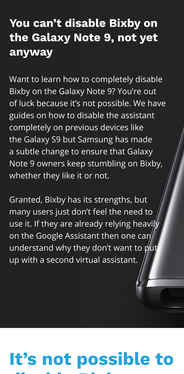


That's all you need to do to enable the Galaxy Note 9 Dual Messenger feature. The second app will be accessible from the app drawer and will have a small chain icon in the bottom-right corner. As both are technically different applications, switching between them is a breeze. Supported apps will also be able to be used in Multi-Window. Do remember that if you delete the first app, it's clone create by Dual Messenger will be deleted automatically as well.

You can't disable Bixby on the Galaxy Note 9, not yet anyway

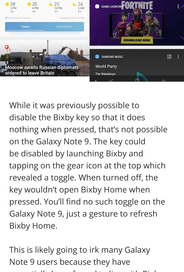
Want to learn how to completely disable Bixby on the Galaxy Note 9? You're out of luck because it's not possible. We have guides on how to disable the assistant completely on previous devices like the Galaxy S9 but Samsung has made a subtle change to ensure that Galaxy Note 9 owners keep stumbling on Bixby, whether they like it or not.

Granted, Bixby has its strengths, but many users just don't feel the need to use it. If they are already relying heavily on the Google Assistant then one can understand why they don't want to put up with a second virtual assistant.



It's not possible to disable Bixby on Galaxy Note 9

Samsung launched Bixby with the Galaxy S8 and the device had a dedicated button for the assistant. That button has since been a permanent fixture on all of the company's flagship smartphones. Samsung doesn't let users remap the button so it can't be used for anything else.



While it was previously possible to disable the Bixby key so that it does nothing when pressed, that's not possible on the Galaxy Note 9. The key could be disabled by launching Bixby and tapping on the gear icon at the top which revealed a toggle. When turned off, the key wouldn't open Bixby Home when pressed. You'll find no such toggle on the Galaxy Note 9, just a gesture to refresh Bixby Home.

This is likely going to irk many Galaxy Note 9 users because they have essentially been forced to live with Bixby. The placement of the buttons might see them accidentally pressing it often unintentionally. We also feel that the buttons are more sensitive so it will be difficult to avoid Bixby.

We were surprised when we didn't see the option on the Galaxy Note 9 and thought that perhaps it may arrive by way of an update once the handset is released. That hasn't happend as yet but the possibility exists that Samsung could add this option once again in a future update. If you just can't stand it, you can always pull out the Bixby button.

Disable voice wakeup

While it was previously possible to disable the Bixby key so that it does nothing when pressed, that's not possible on the Galaxy Note 9. The key could be disabled by launching Bixby and tapping on the gear icon at the top which revealed a toggle. When turned off, the key wouldn't open Bixby Home when pressed. You'll find no such toggle on the Galaxy Note 9, just a gesture to refresh Bixby Home.

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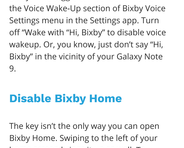
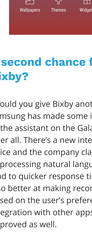


While you can't fully disable Bixby on Galaxy Note 9, it's possible to prevent it from waking up whenever you say "Hi, Bixby." The toggle can be found inside the Voice Wake-Up section of Bixby Voice Settings menu in the Settings app. Turn off "Wake with "Hi, Bixby" to disable voice wakeup. Or, you know, just don't say "Hi, Bixby" in the vicinity of your Galaxy Note 9.

Disable Bixby Home

The key isn't the only way you can open Bixby Home. Swiping to the left of your home screen brings it up as well. To prevent it from being launched after an accidental swipe, just tap and hold on any empty section of the home screen. Keep swiping to the right and you'll find the relevant toggle in the last panel.



A second chance for Bixby?

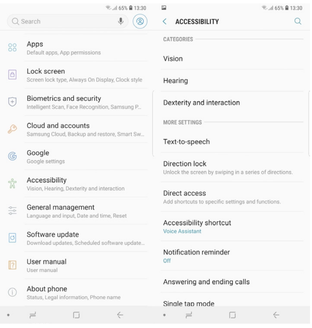
Should you give Bixby another chance? Samsung has made some improvements to the assistant on the Galaxy Note 9 after all. There's a new interface for Bixby Voice and the company claims it's better at processing natural language. This will lead to quicker response times. Bixby is also better at making recommendations based on the user's preferences and its integration with other apps has been improved as well.

Before you set on your quest to disable Bixby on Galaxy Note 9 as soon as you take your new phone out of the box, perhaps give the assistant a few days and see whether the new changes make you want to use it more. If not, tough luck, it's not like you can completely disable Bixby on Galaxy Note 9 anyway.

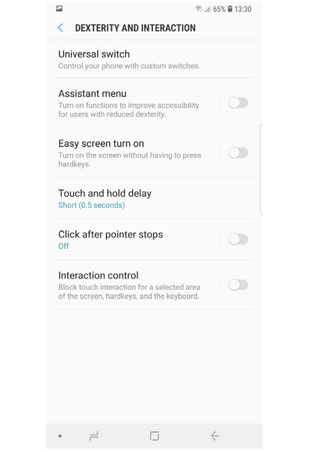
You can turn the Galaxy Note 9's screen on without touching it

It often happens that we want to quickly check notifications on our phone but can't touch it because our hands are dirty. Whether you're going to town on a bucket of chicken wings or kneading fresh pasta, it's possible to turn on the Galaxy Note 9's screen without having to touch it.

This is a derivative of the old Quick Glance feature that Samsung launched with the Galaxy Note 2. The feature is just as useful and definitely comes in handy if you keep the Always On Display disabled.



Step 1: Open the Settings app and enter the Accessibility menu



Step 2: Tap on Dexterity and interaction followed by Easy screen turn on

Step 3: Turn the toggle ON. An animation will show how this feature works

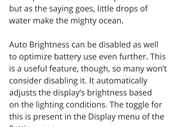
When the feature is enabled, you can move your hand above the sensor as long as the phone is on a stable surface with the screen facing up. Moving your hand above the sensor will not only turn on the screen without you having to touch it but will also positively make you feel like a Jedi.

The display will automatically switch on whenever this gesture is repeated allowing you to quickly check notifications without having to touch it. This feature isn't just limited to the Galaxy Note 9. It's also available on the Galaxy Note 8 and Galaxy S series going as far back as the Galaxy S6.

Tips to improve battery life on the Samsung Galaxy Note 9

The Galaxy Note 9 is a bonafide Android powerhouse. Not only do you get the latest tech but it's all backed up with a chunky 4,000mAh battery, the biggest ever on a Galaxy Note. You can easily get more than a day's worth of use and still have the device alive and kicking the following day.

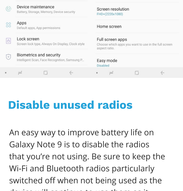
There may be times that you want to squeeze out extra mileage from the battery or you just want to optimize battery drain to get as much longevity out of it as possible. Here are some tips to improve battery life on the Galaxy Note 9.



Basic steps

A few basic steps that can help achieve this objective include not switching to WQHD+ display resolution on the Galaxy Note 9. The Always On Display can also be disabled from the Lock screen menu in the Settings app. This feature doesn't take up considerable battery resources but as the saying goes, little drops of water make the mighty ocean.

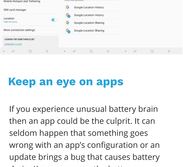
Auto Brightness can be disabled as well to optimize battery use even further. This is a useful feature, though, so many won't consider disabling it. It automatically adjusts the display's brightness based on the lighting conditions. The toggle for this is present in the Display menu of the Settings app.



Disable unused radios

An easy way to improve battery life on Galaxy Note 9 is to disable the radios that you're not using. Be sure to keep the Wi-Fi and Bluetooth radios particularly switched off when not being used as the device will continue to use them as it scans for devices to connect to, and that requires battery resources. Make sure to turn them off by tapping on their icons in the notifications shade.

Go the extra mile and disable Wi-Fi and Bluetooth scanning to improve location accuracy. This feature is enabled by default and will continue to allow apps and services to scan for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth even when they're turned off. You'll find the option in the Settings app's Connections menu. Tap on Location followed by Improve accuracy to access the toggles.



Keep an eye on apps

If you experience unusual battery drain then an app could be the culprit. It can seldom happen that something goes wrong with an app's configuration or an update brings a bug that causes battery drain. Keep an eye on the battery usage of apps in this scenario. It's a good idea to check this once in a while in any case even if you don't suspect an app of unnecessarily draining the battery.

The list can be accessed from the Battery option of Device maintenance in the Settings app. It will show a list of all apps that are consuming the most power. Apps normally use up to 3 percent of the battery daily (assuming ordinary usage). If an app is using up to 10 percent of the battery or more then it should be uninstalled or updated to prevent the drain.

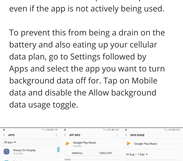
Delete apps that you no longer use

There's actually a lot that you can do with apps to improve battery life on Galaxy Note 9. Consider uninstalling the apps that you no longer use. Apps may not require a lot of power when they're not being actively used but if you have dozens of unused apps on your phone they will be a drain on the battery. Just look through the app drawer and delete the apps that you don't really need to have on your phone.

Disable background data use by apps

Apps don't quit just because you're out of the house and not connected to a Wi-Fi network. Background data use is enabled by default for all apps. They will use mobile data to keep content updated even if the app is not actively being used.

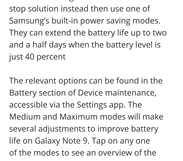
To prevent this from being a drain on the battery and also eating up your cellular data plan, go to Settings followed by Apps and select the app you want to turn background data off for. Tap on Mobile data and disable the Allow background data usage toggle.



Extend battery life with Samsung's power saving modes

If you don't want to tinker with a lot of individual settings and would like a one-stop solution instead then use one of Samsung's built-in power saving modes. They can extend the battery life up to two and a half days when the battery level is just 40 percent

The relevant options can be found in the Battery section of Device maintenance, accessible via the Settings app. The Medium and Maximum modes will make several adjustments to improve battery life on Galaxy Note 9. Tap on any one of the modes to see an overview of the adjustments made to prolong battery life.



Thank you for reading

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