

# How to set Google Search History to auto-delete on Android

[techrepublic.com/article/how-to-set-google-search-history-to-auto-delete-on-android](https://techrepublic.com/article/how-to-set-google-search-history-to-auto-delete-on-android)

Jack Wallen

If you don't like the idea of your Android search history being saved, Jack Wallen wants to show you how to set it to auto-delete.

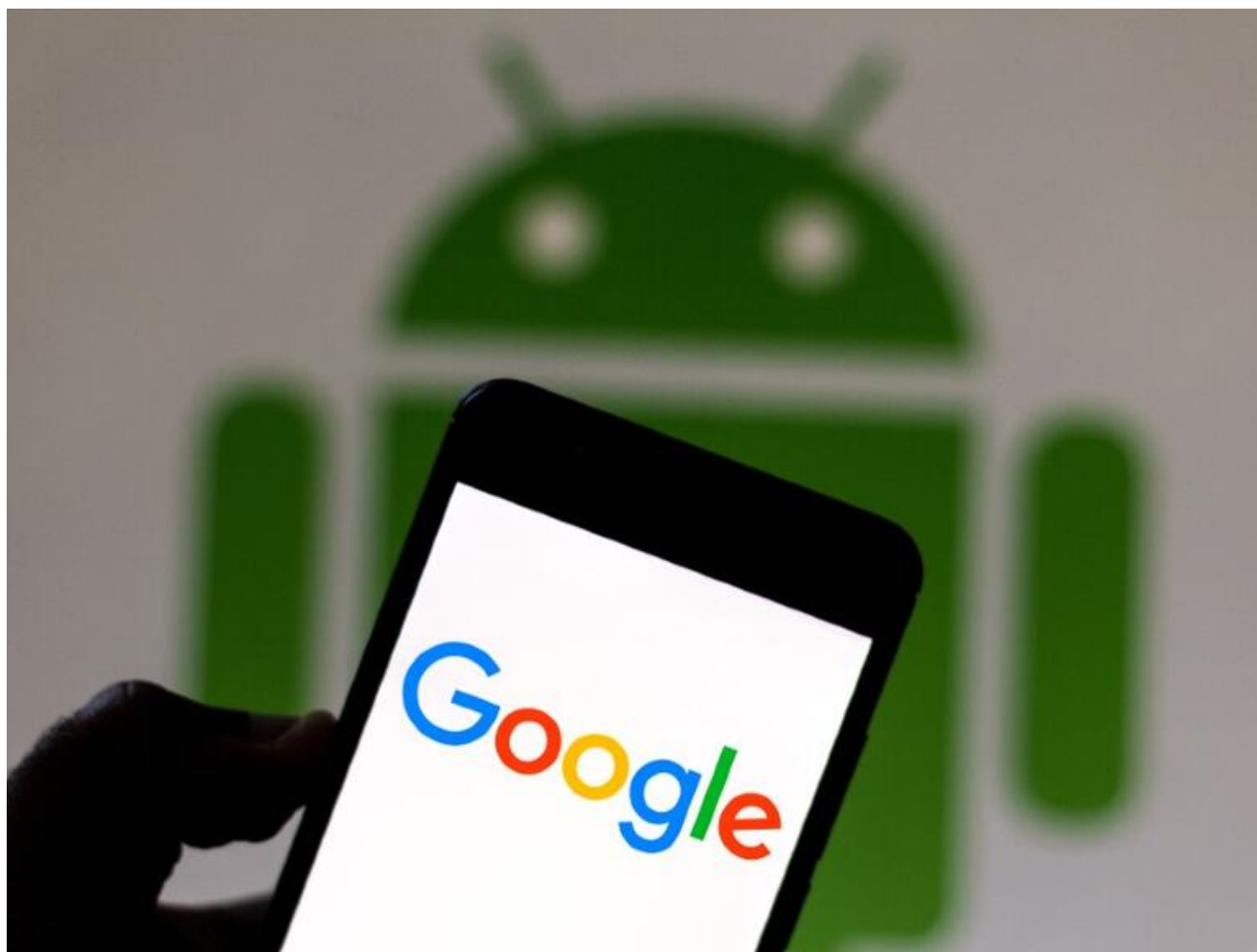


Image: rafapress/Shutterstock

You might not know this, but out of the box, Android retains your search history, which means anyone who gains access to your phone can view what you've searched for. This might not be an issue for you, but for some it is. Google uses this search history to better personalize your experience across the platform. For certain user types, this is a deal-breaker.

You might not also know, but you can configure Android to auto-delete your search history, so it doesn't remain and Google is less able to use it to enhance your Android experience. For those serious about their privacy, not having to worry about search histories can be a big relief.

I want to show you how to configure Android to automatically delete your search history. It's a very simple task that could gain you a certain peace of mind that your mobile search results cannot be used by Google or a third party.

## What you'll need

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The only thing you'll need to take care of this is an updated Android device connected to your Google account. That's it. Let's configure.

## How to set search history to auto-delete on Android

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The tricky part of this is knowing where to start because it's not located where you might think.

From your Android home screen, tap the G in the search bar. In the resulting window (**Figure A**), tap the G in the upper left corner.

### Figure A



Search...



[Blurred search history text]



[Blurred search history text]



[Blurred search history text]



[Blurred search history text]



TRENDING SEARCHES YOU MIGHT LIKE



watch the boss baby family business



Play Store



YouTube



Phone



Messages



Clock



GIF



1

2

3

4

5

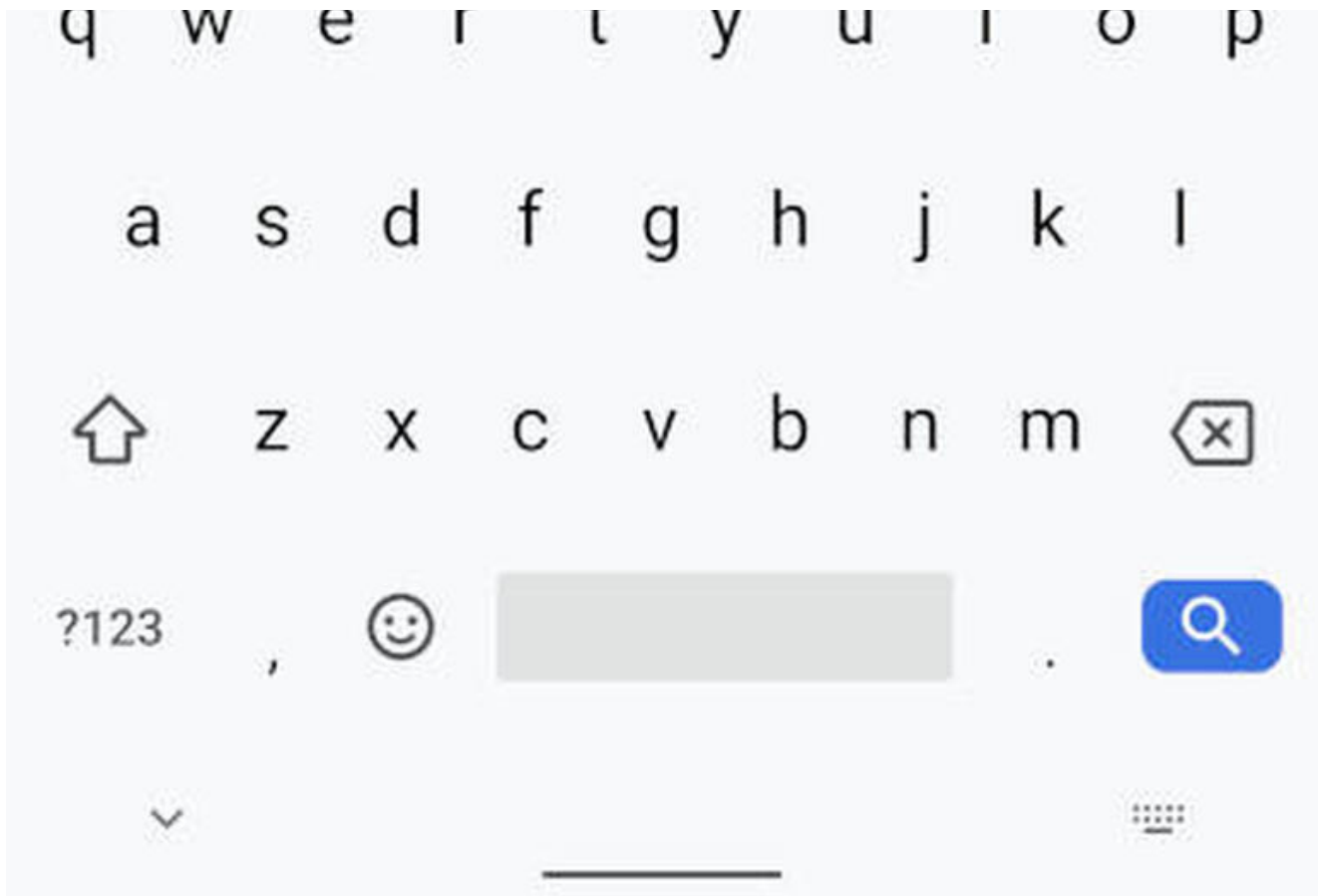
6

7

8

9

0



Getting to the configuration option might seem like a snipe hunt without knowing where to look.

Here's another hurdle. Tapping that first G might open Google Assistant (depending on how you have your device configured). If that's the case, then open the App Drawer and tap on the Google launcher. Either way, in the resulting screen, tap your profile image in the upper right corner and, when prompted, tap Search history (**Figure B**).

**Figure B**

8:33

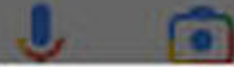


74° F



# Google

Search...



jack wallen

Manage your Google Account



Add another account



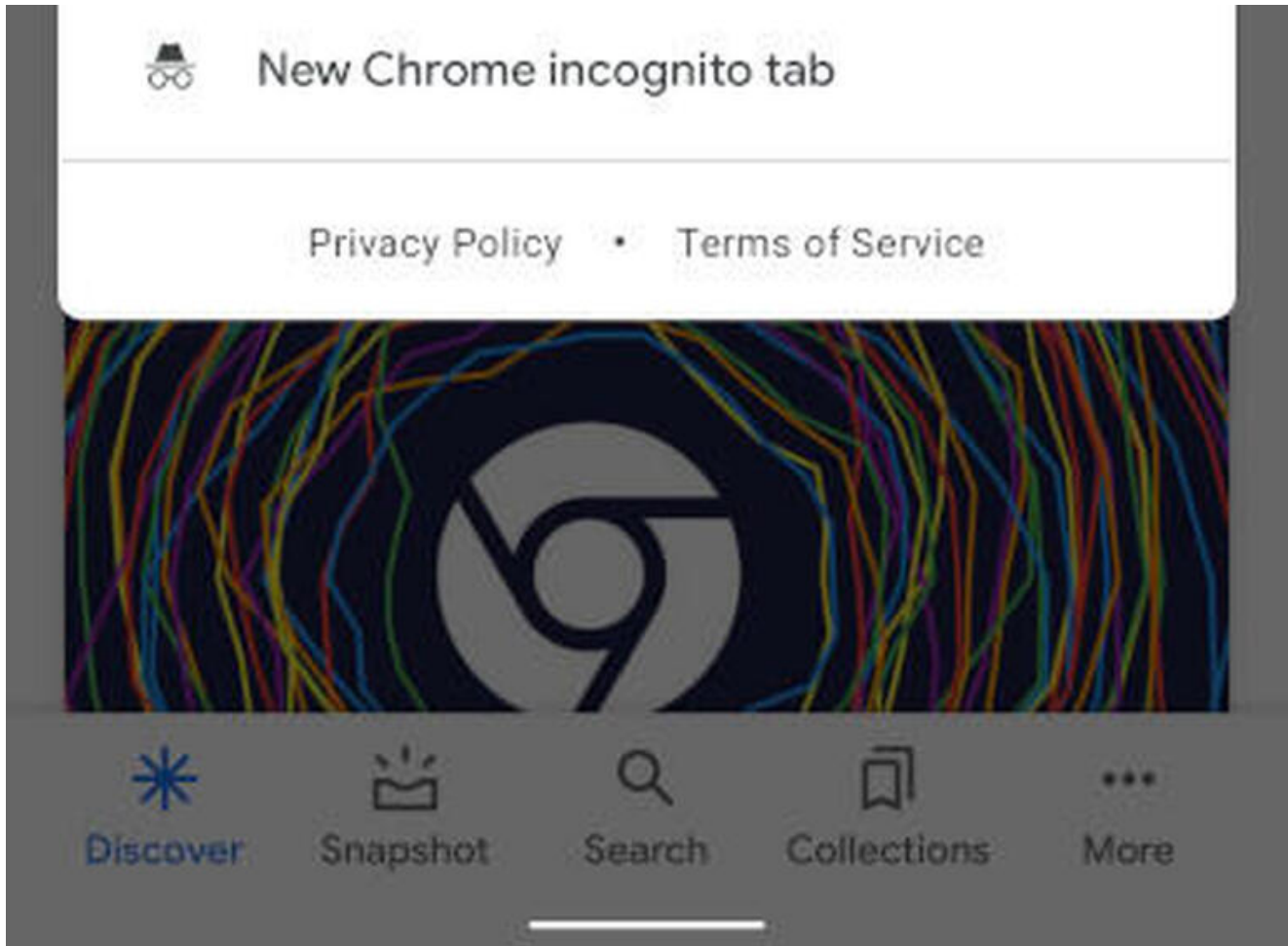
Manage accounts on this device



Use without an account



Search history



We've almost located the Search History configuration options.

Tap Auto-delete (**Figure C**).

**Figure C**



# Search history

History

Controls

More



How Search history works

[See FAQs](#) ▼



Saving to Web & App Activity



Auto-delete (Off)



Google protects your privacy and security.  
[Manage My Activity verification](#)



Delete ▼



To see your full history, verify it's you



The infamous Auto-delete option has been found.

In the resulting screen (**Figure D**), tap to enable Auto-delete activity older than and then, from the drop-down, select between 3, 18, or 36 months.

**Figure D**





## Choose an auto-delete option for your Web & App Activity

Search history is a type of Web & App Activity

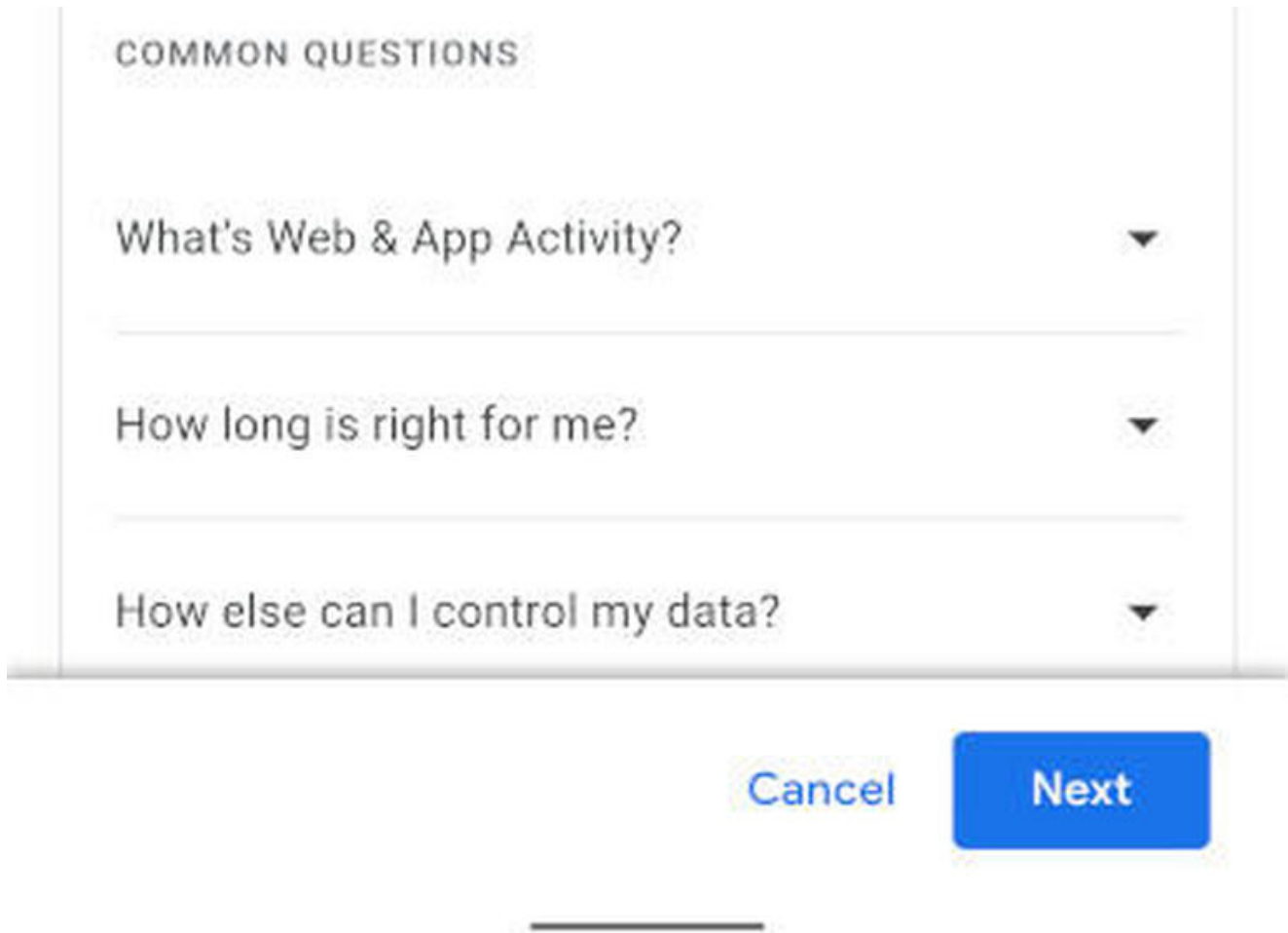
Auto-delete activity older than

18 months 

Don't auto-delete activity



Regardless of your choice, you can always manually delete any time



Configuring Google Search Auto-delete.

Tap Next and review the new settings. If you're OK with what you see, tap Confirm (**Figure E**).

**Figure E**



## Confirm your preference to auto-delete activity older than 3 months

Once activity is older than 3 months, it will be deleted automatically. Google may delete some types of activity sooner.

### Deleting now

Activity older than 3 months will be deleted now, for example

#### 1 notification

Including topics:

Mostly sunny - dismissed

April 2, 2021 • 8:29 AM

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Used [Parrot Teleprompter](#)

April 2, 2021 • 8:28 AM

Used [Google Docs](#)

April 2, 2021 • 8:28 AM

[Preview more](#)

Cancel

Confirm

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Confirming your search delete options.

Remember this one caveat: Once you've deleted search entries, you cannot get them back. Because of this, you should consider your options wisely. If you depend on those search entries, you might not want to delete them. If, however, you want that history cleared, regardless, then this option is a great route to take.