

# How to avoid bill shock on your Android Device

Smartphones now possess almost as much processor and memory power as entry level PCs. Screen resolution and audio enhancements make them a perfect personal media player. A 500MB UK data bundle used to be more than enough for a month's usage, but many users now regularly exceed this allowance.


Why am I using so much data?

Android OS devices are configured by default to automatically synchronise data in the background, which can cause your data usage to be larger than you might imagine. In addition a number of applications are designed to regularly update themselves during the day.

Arrow recommends keeping your device up to date as much as possible. However, be aware that application updates can range from 5Mb to 30Mb in size. Our technical team recently updated 12 applications on an iPhone and it used in excess of 200MB. Avoid updating applications over the 3G/GPRS network and use Wi-Fi instead.

To check which version of Android you are running, click on Settings > About Phone > Android (or Firmware version). You can check for updates by going to Settings > System Update.

## How to manage your data

1. **Turn off background data synchronisation** — Menu > Settings > Accounts & Sync > Un-tick Background data (Android 2.3 or later devices) or on version 2.2 or earlier devices go to Settings > Data Manager > enable Data Saver.
2. **Use Wi-Fi wherever you can** — The Android Wi-Fi symbol on the device will look  like this when active.
3. **Get a Wi-Fi Toggle Widget** — If you don't have one on your home screen then Arrow recommend installing "Wi-Fi Toggle Widget" by Droidmania, which allows you to simply turn on and off Wi-Fi from your home screen. Remember to activate and use Wi-Fi where possible to avoid unnecessary data charges especially when roaming.
4. **Consider turning off cellular data** - Menu > Settings > Wireless & Networks > Mobile Networks > Un-tick Data Enabled (for Android 2.3 or later). You will still be able to receive calls.



4. **Turn off data roaming** - Setting > Wireless & Networks > Mobile Networks > turn off Data Roaming. You will still be able to receive calls.
5. **Switch off running applications** - For the latest version of Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) or 3.0 (Honeycomb) click on Menu > Settings > Applications > Running Services > Running > Click on the Running Application > Click STOP. For earlier versions of Android, Arrow recommends "Advanced Task Killer" (ATK) by Re-Active which monitors running applications and allows you to stop them. Some of the manufacturer-supplied applications may show an application as not running even though it may be downloading data in the background.
6. **Check your data usage** - install "Traffic Info" by CurveFish (requires Android 2.2 and upwards). Traffic Info provides a breakdown of data usage by application, giving you an idea of which individual apps are using up the data bundle. Judicious usage of Traffic Info combined with ATK enables you to identify applications which are using data and kill them when no longer needed. Please note that the current version of 'TrafficInfo' (v1.1) doesn't discriminate between Wi-Fi and 3G usage and therefore you should only use the data to identify which applications are using the largest amount of data.

If you would like to learn more about data usage, please contact us on

t: 0330 440 4444

e: [enquiries@arrowcommunications.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@arrowcommunications.co.uk)

w: [arrowcommunications.co.uk](http://arrowcommunications.co.uk)